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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.

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Vice president Jewel Howard-Taylor

# Jewel snubs S/Court

*As NPP holds separate conventions amidst violent clashes*



UP Political leader Boakai

# Boakai continues Weah's onslaught



President Weah



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# Continental News

## Gambia cough syrup scandal: Police investigate deaths linked to Indian medicine

Police in The Gambia are investigating the deaths of 66 children, which have been linked to four brands of imported Indian cough syrup. Senior officials from the Medicine Control Agency and the importers have been called for questioning, the president's office said.

President Adama Barrow said that the authorities

August and September.

Bereaved parents have told the BBC how their children stopped being able to pass urine after being given the syrups. As their condition worsened, efforts to save their lives were fruitless.

The products - Promethazine Oral Solution, Kofexmalin Baby Cough Syrup, Makoff Baby Cough Syrup and Magrip N Cold Syrup - were manufactured by an Indian

and was co-operating with an investigation.

Gambian health officials and Red Cross workers are now going door to door, as well as to pharmacies and markets, searching for the syrups as well as other medicines.

More than 16,000 products have been located so far and have been taken away for destruction, a Red Cross official told the BBC.

On Friday, President Barrow addressed the nation, expressing his regret for the loss of life saying that "the source of the contaminated drugs" would be investigated.

He announced plans to open a laboratory capable of testing whether medicines are safe and a review of relevant laws and guidelines for imported drugs.

He also said that "the child mortality figure of 66 is not at much variance with the recorded data for similar periods in the past", which left some wondering whether the authorities thought that these deaths were unusual.

The president followed this up on Saturday evening with a more robust statement, suspending the licence of the suspected importer and announcing the police investigation.

Some of the parents who lost their children have told the BBC that they are considering taking legal action of their own against the authorities.



Musa Kuyateh was one of the 66 children who died after taken the cough syrup

would "leave no stone unturned" in the investigation.

Gambians, angry about what happened, are wondering who is to blame.

On Wednesday, the World Health Organization (WHO) issued a global alert over the four cough syrups - warning they could be linked to acute kidney injuries and the children's deaths in July,

company, Maiden Pharmaceuticals, which had failed to provide guarantees about their safety, the WHO said.

The Indian government is also investigating the situation. The firm has not responded to a BBC request for comment.

But in a comment to the ANI news agency Maiden said it was shocked and saddened over the incident. The company said it followed Indian health protocols

## Diamond magnate on course for Lesotho poll win

Partial results from Friday's parliamentary election in Lesotho show that a recently founded party led by millionaire diamond magnate Sam Matekane is on course to get the largest number of seats.

The southern African country's politics have been marred by coup plots, infighting within parties and floor-crossing which has often led to unstable coalition governments.

With the results in from more than half the 80 constituencies, the political landscape is set for major change.

The Revolution For

Prosperity party, which was formed in March by Mr Matekane, has 41 seats.

The current governing party - the All Basotho Convention - has so far not won a single seat.

Lesotho's National Assembly is made up of 120 seats. Eighty MPs are elected from single-seat constituencies on a first-past-the-post basis and the other 40 using a proportional representation system.



Sam Matekane founded the Revolution For Prosperity party in March

## Somalia Warns Media Not to Publish Al-Shabab Propaganda

Somalia's government announced Saturday a crackdown on media outlets that publish what it deems propaganda for the Islamist militant group al-Shabab and warned that offenders would be punished.

The move comes as Somalia's armed forces, backed by local militias and international allies, wage an aggressive counteroffensive against the al-Qaida affiliate.

"I want to inform the Somali media and all Somali people in general that we will regard all al-Shabab related propaganda coverage including their terrorist acts and their ideology as punishable crimes," Deputy Information Minister Abdirahman Yusuf said.

"The Somali government is totally banning all kinds of coverage relating to the terrorist ideology and acts of intimidation by (al Shabab)," he told reporters at a news conference in the capital Mogadishu.

"Their audio clips, video clips, photos, and messages

cannot be disseminated."

Yusuf said the government has also launched cyber operations against "terrorist accounts" on social media and had disabled more than 40 on platforms such as Facebook and Twitter in the past 48 hours.

"Other online sources like applications and websites which terrorists use to spread their messages will also be traced and suspended accordingly," he added.

Yusuf insisted it was not a question of clamping down on free speech and later told AFP the measures would not affect normal news coverage about al-Shabab by journalists in Somalia.

Somalia's recently elected President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud has vowed an all-out war on the jihadis after a string of deadly attacks, including a 30-hour hotel siege in the capital Mogadishu in August that killed 21 people.

Fighters from the group were ousted from Mogadishu in 2011 but they continue to strike military, government and civilian targets, often with deadly consequences.



Armed al-Shabab fighters ride on pickup trucks as they prepare to travel into the city, just outside the capital of Mogadishu, Somalia, Dec. 8, 2008.

## French PM in major visit to Algeria to mend ties

French Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne has arrived in Algeria on a two-day visit aimed at improving ties with the former French colony - a major gas exporter.

Ms Borne's delegation includes 16 ministers - more than a third of her government.

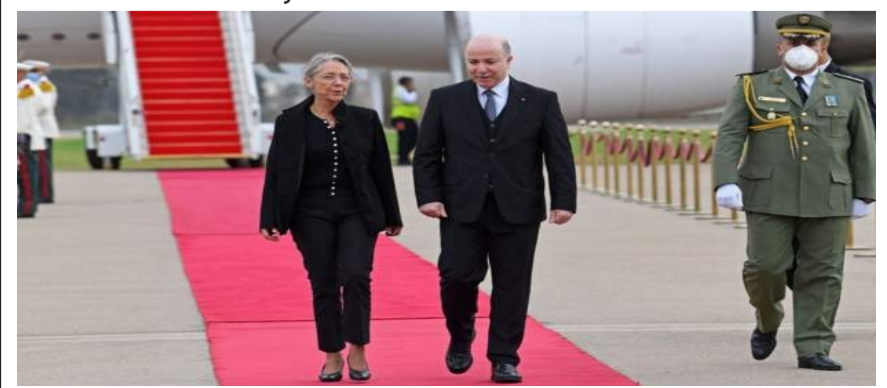
She is expected to sign deals on economic cooperation.

Ties between the two nations soured last year after

French President Emmanuel Macron questioned Algeria's existence as a nation before the French occupation.

Relations were restored when Mr Macron visited the country in August. nds of coverage relating to the terrorist ideology and acts of intimidation by (al Shabab)," he told reporters at a news conference in the capital Mogadishu.

"Their audio clips, video clips, photos, and messages



# EDITORIAL

## Ending impunity in Liberia is for the general good

The Government of Liberia is glaringly reluctant to implement recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, mainly calls for prosecution of key actors who committed heinous crimes and crimes against humanity during the Liberian Civil War.

The Weah administration will do everything, including bending over to protect former rebel Field Marshall Gen. Prince Yormie Johnson, who is Senator of Nimba county.

However, the Ambassador-at-Large for Global Criminal Justice from the Office of Global Criminal Justice in Washington, DC, Beth Van Schaack says she is in the country to hear from the Government of Liberia what are the hitches preventing implementation of the TRC report.

The TRC recommended establishment of a war and economic crimes court for Liberia to prosecute those who bear highest responsibility for atrocities committed during the 14-year civil war in Liberia.

But President George Manneh Weah and his ruling Congress for Democratic Change that campaigned for war crimes court, toting caskets in the streets, are today silent because one of the key actors from the civil war Senator Prince Johnson, is a political bedfellow of the ruling establishment. Another former rebel leader, Dr. George S. Boley of the erstwhile Liberia Peace Council (LPC), who was deported from the United States for arming child soldiers in Liberia, is a member of the 54th Liberian Legislature.

Others are the ailing leader of the defunct Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) and Thomas Yaya Nimely of the Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL), among others.

Liberia is at the junction of decision-making, whether to stamp out impunity and embrace accountability or to maintain the status code and wallop in a vicious cycle of terror, misrule and bloodshed in a jungle justice style.

International partners, particularly the United States is willing to assist Liberians deliver themselves from a few hands of blood-thirsty people, who only means of survival is the muzzles of the gun at the expense of the youths.

We must end impunity now or never. It is important that we welcome the establishment of the war crimes court like neighboring Sierra Leone did to discourage anybody from jumping in the bush again with selfish motives under the disguise of coming to liberate the people only to subject them to mental slavery.

The war crimes court will help to keep this country stable for the good of the majority and attract investors wanting to do business in an environment that is safe and reliable under the rule of law with accountability as hallmark.

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+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief:

# COMMENTARY

By Daron Acemoglu

## Why Businesses Misbehave

**B**OSTON - Are successful businesspeople more like heroes or villains? In fictional accounts, one can find plenty of examples of each, from Charles Dickens's miserly Ebenezer Scrooge to Ayn Rand's rugged individualist entrepreneur John Galt. In F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, Tom Buchanan represents privileged old money, with its ruthlessness and incapacity for empathy, whereas Jay Gatsby is a self-made millionaire with no shortage of sentimentality and idealism.

One finds the same distinctions in social-science depictions of entrepreneurs. Joseph Schumpeter and his followers viewed entrepreneurs as the engines of growth, the heroic figures who delivered "gales of creative destruction." By contrast, Frederick Engels's *The Condition of the Working Class in England* heaped scorn on British industrialists who pushed their workers not just into poverty but into inhumane working and living conditions. But later, he and Karl Marx made the two roles an essential part of their theory of capitalism: ruthless businesspeople exploit workers but also unleash innovation and growth, ultimately transforming society.

These conflicting depictions reflect society's complex views of business. Obviously, it would be naive to expect all businesspeople to be either heroes or villains. Like most of us, they are often both.

Many names that we now associate with philanthropy or higher education originally belonged to the robber barons of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Industrial magnates like John D. Rockefeller, Andrew Carnegie, and Cornelius Vanderbilt showed no compunction about intimidating and acquiring rivals in order to monopolize their respective markets and increase prices. They were also downright brutal - and sometimes murderous - toward any workers who had the temerity to ask for higher pay or better conditions.

Leland Stanford, the founder of Stanford University, was probably even worse. Not only did he and his associates corner the railway construction industry on the Pacific coast; they also concocted a scheme to get American taxpayers to pay for it. Stanford also savagely exploited migrant workers, especially Chinese, who labored under conditions so harsh, and for pay so low, that very few Americans would work for him.

Stanford then jumped into politics to solidify his gains and benefit further at taxpayers' expense. He strong-armed California's state legislature and municipal governments into issuing bonds that provided more public money for his railroads. And as governor of the state, he organized murderous raids against Native Americans and whipped up hatred against the very Chinese who had been so crucial to his success.

Nowadays, the myth of heroic business no longer has much purchase. Johnson & Johnson, once praised for its proactive product recalls to protect customers, is using a dubious legal maneuver (the "Texas two-step" or "divisional merger") to avoid paying damages for its marketing and sales of contaminated talcum powder. The big oil companies, after decades of denying and sowing disinformation about climate change, are now pretending to be committed to environmental activism. But no one is buying the ruse.

And then, of course, there is the tech industry, where many entrepreneurs started as idealistic outsiders promising to make the world a better

place. Google's motto was "Don't be evil." But now "Big Tech" is synonymous with market domination, consumer manipulation, tax avoidance, and other abuses. (In 2018, Google removed its motto from the preface of its Code of Conduct.)

For years, the sector's biggest players have been acquiring or simply copying new entrants' products to reinforce their own dominance. A telltale example is Facebook's purchase of Instagram, in 2012, and WhatsApp, in 2014. Internal documents have since shown that these acquisitions were motivated by top executives' desire to neutralize potential competitors.

Even more questionable are "killer acquisitions": a company purchases a new technology under the pretense of integrating it into its own ecosystem, only to decommission it entirely. These monopolistic methods come on top of other tried-and-true tactics, such as bundling products to stop users from switching to rival services, as Microsoft did to kill off Netscape, and as Apple has done with its iOS ecosystem.

Last but not least, Big Tech has benefited massively from unbridled data collection, which allows a dominant player to know much more about consumers than potential rivals do, and to mount formidable barriers to market entry. The result is not just market concentration but also the mass manipulation of users, sometimes through misleading product offerings and even more often through digital ads.

Fortunately, businesses do not have some incorrigible tendency to misbehave. From the fin de siècle industrialists to corporate bad actors today, the common denominator has been a system that lacks proper checks against abuse. If we want better behavior and better innovation from companies, we need to provide the right institutional environment and the right type of regulation.

James A. Robinson and I tried to emphasize this point in *Why Nations Fail*, when we compared Bill Gates and the Mexican telecommunications tycoon Carlos Slim. Both men, we argued, had an interest in making as much money with whatever means they could; but Slim could get away with much worse behavior than Gates, owing to the differences between the Mexican and US legal and regulatory regimes.

Looking back, I now think we were too generous to the United States. Though US businesses had a stronger incentive than their Mexican counterparts to innovate, there were plenty of ways that they, too, could get away with misbehavior. Opportunities for exploiting the system were already multiplying by the time Microsoft had become a leading company, and they have since become much more endemic, with colossal costs for the US economy.

The tragedy of villainous business behavior is that it is largely preventable. To create the proper balance of guardrails and incentives, we must both disabuse ourselves of the myth of the heroic entrepreneur and recognize that the gales of creative destruction do not blow automatically. Only with better regulations and stronger institutions can we achieve prosperity and hold the most powerful people in society accountable for their behavior.

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).

# O-PED

By Raghuram G. Rajan  
and Viral Acharya

## Where Has All the Liquidity Gone?

**C**HICAGO/NEW YORK - The malfunctioning of the government bond market in a developed economy is an early warning of potential financial instability. In the United Kingdom, the new government's proposed "mini-budget" raised the specter of unsustainable sovereign debt and led to a dramatic widening in long-term gilt yields. Recognizing the systemic importance of the government bond market, the Bank of England correctly stepped in, both pausing its plan to unload gilts from its balance sheet and announcing that it will buy gilts over a fortnight at a scale near that of its planned sales for the next 12 months.

Markets have since calmed down. But as commendable as the BOE's prompt response has been, we must ask what blame central banks bear for financial markets' current fragility. After all, while long-term gilt yields have stabilized, gilt market liquidity (judging by bid-ask spreads) has not improved. And across the Atlantic, the market for US Treasuries is also raising liquidity concerns. Many metrics are flashing red, just like at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and in the aftermath of Lehman Brothers' failure in 2008.

After two years of quantitative easing (QE) - when central banks buy long-term bonds from the private sector and issue liquid reserves in return - central banks around the world have begun to shrink their balance sheets, and liquidity seems to have vanished in the space of just a few months. Why has quantitative tightening (QT) produced that result? In a recent paper co-authored with Rahul Chauhan and Sascha Steffen (which we presented at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City's Jackson Hole conference in August), we show that QE may be quite difficult to reverse, because the financial sector has become dependent on easy liquidity.

This dependency arises in multiple ways. Commercial banks, which typically hold the reserves supplied by central banks during QE, finance their own asset purchases with short-term demand deposits that represent potent claims on their liquidity in tough times. Moreover, although advanced-economy central-bank reserves are the safest assets on the planet, they offer low returns, so commercial banks have created additional revenue streams by offering reserve-backed liquidity insurance to others. This generally takes the form of higher credit card limits for households, contingent credit lines to asset managers and non-financial corporations, and broker-dealer relationships that promise to help speculators meet margin calls (demands for additional cash collateral).

The speculators are not limited to hedge funds, as we recently learned in the UK. Rather, they also include normally staid pension funds that have engaged in so-called liability-driven investment: To compensate for the QE-induced low return on long-term gilts, they increased the risk profile of their other assets, taking on more leverage, and hedging any interest risk with derivatives. While their hedged position ensured that an interest-rate increase would have an equal impact on their asset and liability values, it also generated margin calls on their derivative positions. Lacking the cash to meet these calls, they were reliant on bankers with spare liquidity for support.

In sum, during periods of QE, the financial sector generates substantial potential claims on liquidity, effectively eating up much of the issued reserves. The quantity of spare liquidity is thus much smaller than that of issued reserves, which can become a big problem in the event of a shock, such as a government-induced scare.

Our study also finds that, in the case of the United States, QT makes conditions even tighter still, because the financial sector does not quickly shrink the claims that it has issued on liquidity, even as the central bank takes back reserves. This, too, makes the system vulnerable to shocks - an accident waiting to happen. During the last episode of QT in the US, even relatively small, unexpected increases in liquidity demand - such as a surge in the Treasury's account at the Fed - caused massive dislocation in Treasury repo markets. That is exactly what happened in September 2019, prompting the Fed to resume its liquidity injections.

The onset of the pandemic in March 2020 was an even larger liquidity shock, with corporations drawing down credit lines from banks and speculators seeking help in meeting margin calls. Central banks duly flooded the system with reserves. One can only imagine the scale of the intervention that would have been needed if the shock had been as bad as the one in 2008. An even deeper crisis would have prompted some depositors to dash for cash, causing some banks to hoard spare liquidity to meet unexpected claims on the deposits they had amassed during the boom times.

Put differently, the larger the scale and the longer the duration of QE, the greater the liquidity that financial markets become accustomed to, and the longer it will take for central banks to normalize their balance sheets. But since financial, real, and fiscal shocks do not respect central banks' timetables, they often will force fresh central-bank interventions, as we saw in the UK.

Monetary policymakers thus find themselves in a very difficult position. A central bank may need to raise rates to reduce inflation. But if it also must simultaneously supply liquidity to stabilize government bond markets, it risks sending a mixed message about its policy stance - not to mention raising concerns that it has become a direct financier of the government. Not only does this complicate policy communication; it also could prolong the fight against inflation.

While central banks have always had a duty to provide emergency liquidity, doing so on a sustained, large-scale basis is an entirely different kettle of fish. Our findings suggest that QE will be quite difficult to reverse, not least because QT itself increases the system's vulnerability to shocks. While the BOE deserves praise for riding to the rescue, central banks more generally need to reflect on their own role in making the system so vulnerable.

*Raghuram G. Rajan, former governor of the Reserve Bank of India, is Professor of Finance at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and the author, most recently, of *The Third Pillar: How Markets and the State Leave the Community Behind* (Penguin, 2020). Viral Acharya is Professor of Economics at New York University's Stern School of Business.*

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## ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

## How Liberian officials are killing Liberian owned businesses

Just the other day while sitting in my office, one of my staffs walked in with a fellow from the Monrovia City Corporation (MCC). He said he had come from the advertising department of the MCC to measure the length and breadth of our entrance.

When we asked why, he stated that once we imprinted the services we provide on our glass door, that is equivalent to an outdoor advertisement and therefore we should pay certain fees to the Government of Liberia in taxes.

When told that this is not an outdoor billboard but rather the entrance of the very business for which we paid Municipal taxes to MCC, he said that was different.

We then asked if he had seen any commercial printing ongoing in our office, he said no. I told him this is what we endure day in and day out, but yet, men and women from different government agencies march in and out of here every day demanding this or that and it's killing the Liberian businesses-many are folding up because of harassment from government agents.

We further informed him that rather than finding means to improve the viability of local businesses, the government is always finding ways to shut them down.

The reality here is that most Liberian owned businesses are being drained by the government on multiple fronts with various kinds of taxes. They don't care if those institutions are making money or not-every day is another group of young men and women dressed in weird looking jackets requesting ridiculous taxes.

Funny enough, the government will collect these different taxes from local businesses but when it comes to spending the very money, they go and transact outside of the country.

Members of the Legislative, Executive and Judiciary branches of government would rather spend the money collected from local businesses through their laundry taxes in other countries-say Ghana or China rather than patronize those who are feeding them with their taxes.

The case is worst for Liberians in the printing industry. Just few weeks ago, the Judiciary spent thousands of United States Dollars of local taxpayers' money in Ghana to print souvenir programs for retiring Chief Justice Francis Korkpor, when there are hundreds of local printing presses here that could do that. The Ghanaian printer who did that job does not pay a dime in terms of taxes to the Liberian Government-it's the local printers who do.

The Judiciary is not alone in this. It goes up to the Legislative and Executive Branches as well. The general and presidential elections is just next year. Government officials vying for elective posts will take money taxpayers are feeding and supporting their extravagant lifestyles with to spend it on printing of t-shirts and flyers in Ghana and China; while the local printing businesses here struggle to pay the taxes that feed them when the money is being spent in foreign countries to businesses that pay no taxes here.

The question then is how the government expects the local printing industry and other local businesses to survive, when they keep squeezing money out of them to spend in foreign countries. No wonder, the country's economy is experiencing a stagnated growth.

There is nowhere a Ghanaian or Nigerian will take contracts meant to empower Ghanaians or Nigerians to a foreign country-only Liberian Government officials do that.

The biggest argument is that of the quality of work. How do they think the Ghanaians and Nigerians businesses got to where they are today if their own governments which they feed with their hard-earned monies through taxes had refused to inject those monies into their own economies by patronizing local businesses.

It was sometimes in April, this year, when President Weah frowned at Liberians for not patronizing Liberian businesses.

The President during a meeting of the National Steering Committee Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) asserted at the time that Liberians were rather going to foreign businesses to buy instead of promoting Liberian owned businesses. "Our people have goods but no customers, I think we should start promoting our own businesses," President Weah noted.

However, what the President failed to have added to his statement at that meeting was, how do we expect our people to pay their taxes if we are taking everything to Ghana, China America, and the likes?



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**I. GENERAL INFORMATION**

1. **SOLICITATION NO:** VA-669-22-000019
2. **ISSUANCE DATE:** October 6, 2022
3. **CLOSING DATE AND TIME FOR RECEIPT OF OFFERS:** October 28, 2022, 11:59pm Local Time, Monrovia, Liberia
4. **POINT OF CONTACT:** Executive Officer, email at [LiberiaHR@usaid.gov](mailto:LiberiaHR@usaid.gov)
5. **POSITION TITLE:** Project Management Specialist (Natural Resources)
6. **MARKET VALUE:** USD \$40,344 – \$65,550 FSN- 11  
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 Natural Resource Management (NRM) Specialist will be based in the USAID/Liberia's Economic Growth Office (EGO). S/he will participate in the planning, design, and management of new and existing NRM programs and activities as a senior-level advisor and technical expert. S/he will exercise significant independent judgment on matters of policy and technical direction and will make decisions to ensure successful program implementation. The Natural Resource Management Specialist will also represent USAID, as requested and appropriate, at meetings with senior Liberian officials and technical counterparts, donors, non-governmental organizations, and implementing partners.

The Natural Resource Management Specialist must be a proactive, forward-leaning, results-oriented professional. S/he will provide technical expertise and project oversight; engage in project performance monitoring and documentation of program success; and serve as the point of contact on local NRM issues and policies. The NRM Specialist must be able to rapidly assimilate, analyze and respond to rapidly changing circumstances and help guide the implementation of Agency and Mission strategies to achieve optimal results. Cross-cultural communications, cultural sensitivities, and outstanding communication and interpersonal skills are essential for success. The NRM Specialist will work under the supervision of the NRM Team Lead, or as designated by the EGO Director.

**Major Duties and Responsibilities**

**Project Management: 50%**

The Natural Resource Management Specialist position serves as a project management specialist on key biodiversity and conservation activities, performing the following functions:

- a. Undertake duties of Contracting or Agreement Officer's Representative (COR/AOR) or Activity Manager as needed. Provide input/advice regarding all matters pertaining to proposed, planned, and ongoing activities. Provide technical direction to the Implementing Partner (IP) and technical review and concurrence of IP deliverables to the Contracting or Agreement Officer (CO/AO) and keep administrative files and records of these activities.
- b. Conduct regular site visits to monitor the progress and implementation of natural resource management activities. Provide field trip reports, both written and photographic, as required to monitor progress and to ensure work is progressing in accordance with established agreement requirements and work plans. Monitor the Implementing Partners' adherence to USAID regulations and requirements, including environmental considerations, as well as branding and marking requirements.
- c. Prepare performance reports, briefing papers, concept papers, and other periodic documentation for the Mission, USAID/Washington, the interagency as required, and coordinate site visits for high-level visits.
- d. Serve as the primary contact for GoL institutions and organizations, including the Forest Development Authority (FDA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other stakeholders implicated in the implementation of USAID biodiversity and conservation programs, updating stakeholders on the implementation and progress of USAID/Liberia activities and soliciting stakeholder feedback and buy-in as appropriate.
- e. Review and approve all activity reports, invoices, and payment requests related to activities, noting discrepancies in documentation, and reporting such discrepancies to the Economic Growth Office supervisor and/or Mission authorities.
- f. Attend required meetings, scheduled events, and conferences related to assigned program and project activities. This may involve interacting with national, county, and district community officials regarding project implementation or completion and modification issues, including inspection, security, maintenance, operations, and logistical support requirements. Frequent interactions with high-level government officials may be required.
- g. Ensure compliance with USAID 118/119 Tropical Forest and Biodiversity Analysis requirements and work closely with the Mission Environmental Officer to ensure that Mission-supported activities are in compliance with Regulation 216 requirements.
- h. Prepare technical documentation including Request for Applications (RFAs), Request for Proposals (RFPs), Statements of Work, Independent Government Cost Estimates (IGCEs), approval memos, and other project design and procurement documents as required to develop and approve biodiversity and conservation projects and activities, obligate funds, and award grants and contracts in accordance with USAID procurement regulations.
- i. Serve as the chair or member of various Technical Evaluation Committees (TECs) or Selection Committees to evaluate partner applications and proposals or evaluate potential candidates for employment.

**Program Management: 25%**

The Natural Resource Management Specialist position serves as an expert on biodiversity and conservation development for the Mission and will incorporate natural resource management considerations into Mission strategy documents and plans, performing the following functions:

- a. Lead in developing a comprehensive strategy for USAID interventions in biodiversity and conservation.
- b. Incorporate natural resource management priorities into the Embassy's Integrated Country Strategy (ICS), the USAID Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS), and other UGS strategy documents and agendas to ensure that the Mission is able to accomplish programmatic objectives.
- c. Work with USAID/Liberia Technical Teams to identify environmental and natural resource management issues, and address these issues in project designs to achieve sector goals.
- d. Assist in the preparation of the relevant sections of the EGO Portfolio Reviews, Mission Performance Plan and Reports, and the Operational Plans, as well as, other relevant program documents and reports as needed.

**Knowledge Management and Relationship Development: 25%**

The Natural Resource Management Specialist will also serve as the primary point of contact (POC) for the Mission on biodiversity and conservation -related topics, building relationships with GOL, donor community, and private sector counterparts. As the Mission POC on

biodiversity and conservation sector issues, the Natural Resource Management Specialist will perform the following functions:

- a. Serve as the Mission's representative on the GOL Steering Committee meetings in the sector and other donor or national dialogues on natural resource management and present USAID activities, priorities, and accomplishments.
- b. Advise GOL counterparts in the development of Liberian regulatory institutions, as needed, and helps them to effectively carry out their mandate; also provides advice to the GOL on conservation efforts and policy reforms.
- c. Facilitate dialogues between GOL authorities, USG stakeholders, donors, and partners to reach a consensus on biodiversity and conservation -related activities; prepare and present reports pertinent to performance monitoring and evaluation, identifying, tracking, and monitoring milestones to evaluate progress.
- d. Manage outreach efforts with USAID's Development Outreach Coordinator and the State Department's Public Affairs Officer which may include public events, press releases, and close coordination with other USG partners.
- e. Liaisons with other donors and institutions on biodiversity and conservation sector issues, brief USAID and Embassy management on discussions, and prepare necessary documents, including USAID's position, briefers, and talking points for meetings.
- f. Develop and maintain close professional contacts and active dialogue with biodiversity and conservation sector peers in other country donor agencies, and various GOL offices which engage in the policy reform issues.
- g. Review policies of the GOL that affect the biodiversity and conservation sector development including planned or proposed protected areas, timber concession agreements, and climate financing agreements or strategies; provide information on the implications of these policies and agreements for Liberia and on the effective implementation of USAID biodiversity and conservation sector programs.

**Supervision Controls:** Supervision is not contemplated.

**Supervisory Relationship:** The Natural Resource Management Specialist is directly supervised by the Economic Growth Office Natural Resource Management Team Leader, as delegated by the Economic Growth Office Director.

**12. PHYSICAL DEMANDS**

The work requested does not involve undue physical demands.

**II. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR THIS POSITION**

1. **Education:** A minimum of Bachelor's degree from an accredited university in the field of environmental management, conservation, natural resource management, forestry, ecology, international development, or other related degree is required.
2. **Prior Work Experience:** A minimum of five (5) years prior project management experience and technical knowledge in the field of natural resource management, conservation, biodiversity, environmental management, or wildlife protection is required. Work experience should include project management positions in the field of natural resource management, environmental management, forestry, conservation, or wildlife protection. The incumbent should have a demonstrated broad understanding of issues related to Liberia's natural resource management sector, biodiversity, and conservation laws and policies is required.
3. **Work/Residency Permits:** Applicants must have valid work and/or residency permits allowing work in Liberia.
4. **Language Proficiency:** Professional written and oral proficiency in English is required (Level IV for speaking, reading, and writing). Given the nature of the position, effective written and oral communication are critical to performing successfully in this position. The incumbent must be able to communicate effectively and accurately with 1) all categories of Mission employees; 2) local government officials at the Minister level and lower; 3) numerous international and local economic development organizations and donors; 4) USG Agencies and the USAID Bureau for Development, Democracy, and Innovation (DDI), and the USAID Africa Bureau; and 5) the general public.

**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: Understanding the Natural Resources Sector**

Describe in 500 words or less, critical challenges in the Natural Resources and Environment sector of Liberia. How do you think these challenges can be addressed, when stakeholders' priorities and/or timelines are not synchronized.

**FACTOR #2: Impact of National Land Policy on the Natural Resources Sector**

Describe in 500 words or less, the types of disputes you foresee resulting in efforts to implement the new national land policy? Would you see these potential land and natural resource related disputes as concerning or impeding forest conservation and livelihood creation if the new national land policy is fully implemented, and why?

**FACTOR #3: Experience in the Natural Resources Sector**

Describe in 500 words or less your experience managing natural resources projects. This should include managing relationships and coordination with the Government of Liberia and other key donors, international financial institutions, non-government organizations and local stakeholders. Give specific examples of the results you achieved.

**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	15 points
Factor #2	15 points
Factor #3	10 points
<b>Written Interview</b>	<b>20 points</b>
<b>Interview Performance</b>	<b>40 points</b>

Interview questions will revolve around the candidate's fit for the position as described in the statement of duties.

**Total Possible Points 100 points**

**IV. SUBMITTING AN OFFER**

Applications must be submitted electronically by email with the subject line **VA-669-22-000019-Project Management Specialist (Natural Resources)** [LiberiaHR@usaid.gov](mailto:LiberiaHR@usaid.gov).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Public Works Minister meets with road contractors

By Lewis S. The

Ahead of the dry season, the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Public Works has held a roundtable with scores of

approaches.

The meeting held with various contractors was aimed at preparing them as per our calendar; we all know that beginning the fifteen of October our dry season begins, so we invited them to

was in fulfilment of President Weah's promise that Liberians will not be spectators in the economy.

"Our expectations are high on all of the major roads that most of them are working on; that's why we invited them to this meeting."

Also speaking, John Uboti, who operates MDNC Construction, said he was impressed with the ministry's decision to have invited them to know their plans and activities they are confronted with.

"The meeting was meant for us as contractors to give our plans, constraints and to get prepare for the work as we gear toward the dry season", Mr. Uboti explained.

According to him, the MDNC has a road contract with the ministry where it completed Pipeline Road in Paynesville and is currently paving Johnsonville-Mount Barclay route to be followed by work from Johnsonville to White Plains, respectively this dry season.

Meanwhile, the MDNC CEO disclosed readiness to commence the Freeport-St. Paul Bridge corridor on Bushrod Island, which he said has been on hold for some time. Editing by Jonathan Browne



Public Works Minister Ruth Coker Collins

contractors, aimed at reviewing performances on major roads across the country.

Speaking to reporters, Public Works Minister Ruth Coker Collins, the forum was to inform contractors about new plans, as the dry season

have a clear understanding about how we will robustly handle our next phase of work", says Minister Collins.

She said decision of the ministry to give every Liberian contractor an opportunity to bid and participate in the meeting

## House invites MOPP, CRC, Golden SIFCA

The House of Representatives has invited three companies operating in Southeast Liberia, Maryland Oil Palm Plantation, Cavalla Rubber Corporation, and Golden Sifca to appear before its leadership today, 10th October

to address welfare of workers, good healthcare,

education, good housing facilities, clinics, sanitation, and safety measures, among others.

The House's leadership is also interested in ascertaining from these companies' top management-percentage of Liberians in their employed, audited financial statement, and revenue generation since 2018 till now.

Maryland Oil Palm Plantation operates a plantation of oil palms granted under a concession agreement signed on 4th March 2011, while the Golden SIFCA INCORPORATED (GSI) is involved with the processing of Oil Palm, and Cavalla Rubber Corporation is one of Liberia's largest rubber plantations.



Liberia House of Representative

## LISGIS starts census enumeration training Wednesday

The Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) announces start of nationwide training for Census Enumerators on Wednesday, 12th October.

The training had been scheduled for today, Monday, 10th October, but was pushed to Wednesday to enable LISGIS to beef up logistics in 'difficult-to-reach areas' nationwide.

In a press release the Institute says 'Provisional List of Shortlisted Enumerators has been revised to reflect actual number of enumerators that are expected to report for training on Wednesday at 148 Training

successful trainees will be deployed nationwide to conduct the actual count of the 2022 Liberia National Population and Housing Census immediately.

"The 2022 Liberia National Population and Housing Census is among the first censuses in Africa to employ digital technology from start to finish. The country has been divided into 13,845 Enumeration Areas following the Census Cartography (mapping process) conducted from May 2021 to February 2022. Each Enumeration Area will be allocated to one enumerator to complete during the counting process from 24th October to 7th November 2022." The release details.

Meanwhile, LISGIS says it regrets any inconveniences these



LISGIS Boss

Centers across the country. It notes that selected applicants will be trained for ten days on how to conduct census enumeration, using digital maps and Computer Aided Personal Interview (CAPI) technology. After the training exercise,

changes may have caused the applicants, and adds that with the support of partners, it reaffirms readiness to deliver the 2022 Liberia National Population and Housing Census per the set timeline. Press Release

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# Français

## Au Liberia, « le riz est devenu comme de la poussière d'or »

**A**lors que des rumeurs circulent sur une possible pénurie de l'aliment de base national, les habitants se ruent chez les grossistes et les prix explosent.

Dans la banlieue de Clara Town, à Monrovia, Aminata Kanneh transpire sous la forte chaleur du soleil de midi. Comme des dizaines d'autres habitants de la capitale du

circulent sur une possible pénurie de riz.

Les perturbations de la chaîne d'approvisionnement et l'invasion de l'Ukraine par la Russie ont provoqué des pénuries de denrées alimentaires et une hausse des prix dans une grande partie du monde. Mais le Liberia, petit Etat de 5 millions d'habitants - Don't 27,6 % vivent sous le seuil international de pauvreté (2,15 dollars par jour et

parce que le riz est devenu comme de la poussière d'or, explique Angeline Sandy, une commerçante de 27 ans. J'ai acheté un sac pour 23 dollars, je le vends pour 30. »

Selon Djaounse de Madjiangar, un porte-parole du Programme alimentaire mondial (PAM) en Afrique de l'Ouest, la pénurie de riz est due à « des retards de livraisons ». « Le prix du riz est clairement influencé par la crise en Ukraine », explique-t-il, soulignant qu'environ 70 % des aliments de base du Liberia, y compris le riz, sont importés : « Comme pour de nombreux autres pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest, l'augmentation des prix alimentaires intérieurs reflète les tendances internationales, déterminées en grande partie par la crise énergétique mondiale résultant de la crise russe et ukrainienne. »

Un navire « attendu dans les prochains jours »

Cette semaine, le ministère du commerce a appelé les Libériens à « rester calmes » et à s'abstenir d'acheter dans la panique, assurant que d'autres approvisionnements étaient en cours. Il a également exhorté les commerçants à ne pas spéculer sur la marchandise en la stockant. « Nous voulons assurer au public que le stock actuel de riz dans le pays peut servir le marché jusqu'à l'arrivée du prochain

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Liberia, elle fait la queue sur une centaine de mètres pour acheter du riz. « Cela fait deux semaines que je viens tous les jours, mais jusqu'à présent je n'ai pas obtenu un seul grain de riz », confie à l'AFP cette femme de 34 ans. Dans tout le pays, depuis plusieurs jours, les Libériens se ruent chez les grossistes pour mettre la main sur l'aliment de base national, alors que des rumeurs

par personne), selon la Banque mondiale -, a été particulièrement touché à cause de retards dans les livraisons.

Les prix du riz ont régulièrement augmenté ces six derniers mois, pour atteindre l'équivalent d'environ 25 dollars américains le sac de 25 kg, alors que le prix du sac est théoriquement fixé par les autorités à 13 dollars. « Je ne peux pas vendre un sac ne serait-ce que 20 dollars en ce moment,

## La CBL commence à mettre de nouveaux billets de banque en circulation

**L**a Banque centrale du Libéria a commencé hier de mettre en circulation de nouveaux billets de banque de cinquante (50) et vingt (20) dollars libériens sur le marché à travers les banques commerciales. Il s'agit d'un total d'environ 2 milliards de

LRD.

Le gouverneur exécutif de la Banque centrale du Libéria, J. Aloysius Tarlue, a déclaré que les pièces de cinq et dix dollars libériens nouvellement confectionnées arriveront la semaine prochaine et seront mises en circulation en novembre.

La Banque centrale introduit pour la première fois des billets de 1 000 dollars libériens.

« À ce jour, la Banque a reçu près de 2 milliard de L\$ en coupures de 50 et 20 L\$. Ce lot est arrivé entre le 4 et le 19

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## L'ambassade des États-Unis donne une bouée de sauvetage aux fonctionnaires sanctionnés?

**L**es responsables de l'ambassade des États-Unis près de Monrovia semblent avoir donné une bouée de sauvetage aux responsables du gouvernement libérien sanctionnés avant les élections générales et présidentielle de 2023.

Selon certaines rumeurs, les responsables libériens sanctionnés ne devraient pas être autorisés à participer aux prochaines élections, car cela obligerait les États-Unis à retirer leur soutien à la Commission électorale nationale si l'une des personnes concernées apparaissait sur les bulletins de vote.

Mais les responsables de l'ambassade des États-Unis disent que la loi Global Magnitsky par laquelle 3 anciens responsables du gouvernement Weah et deux sénateurs ont été sanctionnés n'est pas au-dessus du pouvoir judiciaire du pays et ne peut donc saper

Cephus, ont été désignés en vertu de la loi Global Magnitsky.

Les trois ont du démissionner des semaines après. Selon des rumeurs, ces derniers auraient l'intention de se porter candidats aux prochaines élections législatives.

Les spéculations concernant leur intention de se présenter aux élections de 2023 dans leurs comtés respectifs ont déclenché des rumeurs selon lesquelles l'ambassade des États-Unis aurait averti le gouvernement libérien, comme quoi ils retireraient leur soutien si les personnes sanctionnées se présentaient aux élections.

Cependant, lors de l'émission de mardi, les responsables de l'ambassade ont dit : « Ainsi, le Global Magnitsky Act n'est pas une poursuite, ce n'est pas un tribunal et ce n'est pas un moyen pour les États-Unis d'Amérique d'essayer d'intervenir et d'usurper les droits de tout État souverain de sa propre procédure pénale. Et donc, dans des démocraties comme le Libéria, il existe divers mécanismes



aucune des lois ou du système judiciaire du Libéria.

M. Sean Boda et Kemper Wagner, respectivement responsable des affaires publiques et responsable des affaires politiques de l'ambassade des États-Unis, ont fait cette clarification lors d'une émission radio en direct le mardi 4 octobre 2022.

Les deux diplomates étrangers avaient été invités sur OK FM pour parler des questions concernant les sanctions et leurs implications sur les personnes concernées, et la loi Magnitsky dans le système judiciaire d'États souverains comme le Libéria.

Récemment, trois responsables de l'administration Weah, à savoir l'ancien ministre d'État chargé des Affaires présidentielles Nathaniel McGill, le directeur général du NPA Bill Tweahway et le solliciteur général Cyrenius

permettant aux citoyens de tenir les responsables gouvernementaux responsables, c'est important.

« En tant que nation souveraine, le Libéria a tous les droits de déterminer qui est éligible pour participer aux élections. Cela n'appartient pas aux États-Unis de décider. La loi Magnitsky n'a rien à voir avec vos élections », a déclaré Sean Boda, le responsable des affaires publiques des États-Unis.

Répondant à une question sur ce que le gouvernement américain recherche dans un pays avant d'imposer des sanctions aux responsables gouvernementaux, Wagner a déclaré que la corruption était un indicateur clé car elle fait partie de l'objectif principal du gouvernement américain, qui lutte notamment contre le détournement des deniers publics, le pillage des caisses de l'État, l'abus du pouvoir pour s'enrichir et l'enrichissement illicite.

"Outre la corruption, les violations flagrantes des droits



# Français

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Daron Acemoglu

### Au Liberia, « le riz est devenu

navire, qui est attendu dans les prochains jours », indique le communiqué.

Il a précisé que le gouvernement subventionnait les importateurs pour maintenir un plafond de prix sur ce produit de base et a attribué les « retards de livraisons » à une ordonnance de l'autorité portuaire nationale, en août, pour empêcher les navires jugés défectueux d'accoster dans le pays. Le ministère du commerce a assuré que quelque 150 000 tonnes arriveraient entre mi-octobre et début novembre, ce qui approvisionnerait le marché jusqu'au début de l'année prochaine, et que 22 000

tonnes supplémentaires sont attendues « dans les prochains jours ».

Le Liberia a également dû faire face à des pénuries de carburant en début d'année. Les prix avaient flambé et les automobilistes avaient été contraints de faire de longues files d'attente devant les stations-service. Frappée par la guerre civile entre 1989 et 2003, l'économie libérienne a ensuite été sinistrée par l'épidémie d'Ebola en Afrique de l'Ouest, qui a ravagé le pays de 2014 à 2016. Le Liberia souffre également d'une forte inflation et de pénuries régulières de liquidités. Selon l'ONU, c'est l'un des pays les moins développés au monde.

### La CBL commence à mettre de nouveaux

septembre 2022. La Banque a achevé le contrôle de qualité de ces billets conformément aux spécifications de la CBL. Les pièces sont attendues avant fin octobre 2022.

Nous prévoyons 34 533 500 000,00 L\$, dont les 8 000 000 000 L\$ qui ont été initialement introduits entre novembre 2021 et février 2022 et 462 900 000 L\$ en pièces qui seront mis en circulation d'ici fin 2022. Cela comprendra toutes les coupures existantes, dont la coupure de 1 000 L\$, qui sera mise en circulation pour la première fois. Le montant restant arrivera en 2024. Par souci de transparence, aucune somme d'argent ne sera mise en circulation en 2023. Cependant, l'exercice d'échange se poursuivra avec les billets et les pièces qui seront dans le pays », a expliqué le gouverneur Tarlue.

Lors d'un entretien avec un groupe de journalistes dans la salle de conférence de la CBL à Monrovia le mercredi 5 octobre, le gouverneur Tarlue a révélé que les billets de banque nouvellement imprimés ont été transférés vers les banques commerciales.

Il a demandé aux populations de se rendre dans les différentes banques commerciales pour commencer à échanger les billets anciens ou mutilés actuellement en circulation contre de nouveaux billets.

"Compte tenu des défis auxquels sont confrontées les banques commerciales et le réseau limité de succursales à travers le pays, la CBL travaille sur une stratégie visant à décentraliser l'exercice d'échange via son centre de trésorerie à Gbarnga, dans le comté de Bong et d'autres installations approuvées sous le contrôle et

la supervision directs de la Banque, de sorte que toutes les régions du pays soient couvertes.

En plus de leur volonté de procéder à la livraison en temps voulu de la nouvelle monnaie dans le pays, la CBL s'est également efforcée de mettre en place des moyens logistiques et opérationnels nécessaires pour assurer le bon déroulement de l'opération d'échange.

Le gouverneur Tarlue a exhorté les banques à trouver un moyen pour ceux qui n'ont qu'une petite somme d'argent afin de leur faciliter la tâche. Toutefois, il a également encouragé tout le monde à ouvrir des comptes auprès des banques commerciales.

L'opération d'échange en cours est un programme triennal qui a été lancé par le gouvernement pour remplacer les billets mutilés qui sont actuellement en circulation.

Le Gouverneur Exécutif a dit merci aux partenaires internationaux d'avoir travaillé avec la Banque pour réaliser l'impression de nouveaux billets.

« Nous sommes également reconnaissants envers nos partenaires extérieurs, notamment le Fonds monétaire international (FMI), l'Agence américaine pour le développement international (USAID) et l'ambassade des États-Unis, pour leurs soutiens financier, technique et moral. Nous sommes particulièrement reconnaissants envers Kroll & Associates du Royaume-Uni, qui a travaillé avec la Banque tout au long de cette opération, en fournissant une assistance technique à la Banque, avec un financement de l'USAID.

Pour les comtés où il n'y a pas de banques commerciales, le gouverneur Tarlue a déclaré que la CBL collaborera avec les institutions financières rurales pour servir les citoyens là-bas.

## Les manières peu recommandables d'agir des entreprises

BOSTON - Les hommes d'affaires sont-ils plutôt des héros ou des bandits ? Les exemples de chaque type abondent dans les récits de fiction, de l'avaricieux Ebenezer Scrooge, le protagoniste principal d'Un Chant de Noël de Charles Dickens à l'épique entrepreneur individualiste John Galt du roman La Grève d'Ayn Rand. Dans le roman Gatsby le Magnifique de F. Scott Fitzgerald, Tom Buchanan est le représentant cruel et sans empathie des élites fortunées, tandis que Jay Gatsby est un millionnaire qui a réussi par ses propres moyens et qui ne manque pas d'idéalisme et de sentimentalité.

Les sciences sociales font la même distinction dans les descriptions des entrepreneurs. Pour Joseph Schumpeter et ses disciples, les entrepreneurs sont la force motrice de la croissance économique, les figures héroïques qui donnent naissance à la « tempête perpétuelle de la destruction créatrice ». En revanche, dans son ouvrage La situation de la classe ouvrière en Angleterre, Friedrich Engels dresse un réquisitoire contre les industriels britanniques qui non seulement maintenaient leurs travailleurs dans une abjecte pauvreté, mais leur imposaient en plus des conditions de vie et de travail inhumaines. Ultimeusement, Engels et Karl Marx réunissent toutefois les deux rôles en tant qu'élément essentiel de leur théorie du capitalisme : les hommes d'affaires sans scrupules exploitent certes les travailleurs, mais ils suscitent également l'innovation et la croissance, transformant à terme la société.

Ces représentations antagonistes reflètent l'appréciation complexe qu'a la société du monde des affaires. De toute évidence, il serait naïf de s'attendre à ce que les entrepreneurs soient tous soit des héros, soit des bandits. Comme la plupart d'entre nous, ils sont souvent les deux à la fois.

De nombreux noms propres que nous associons aujourd'hui à la philanthropie ou à l'enseignement supérieur appartiennent à l'origine aux « barons voleurs » américains de la fin du XIXe et du début du XXe siècles. Ces capitaines d'industrie, dont John D. Rockefeller, Andrew Carnegie et Cornelius Vanderbilt, n'éprouvèrent aucun scrupule à intimider et à acquérir des entreprises concurrentes pour assoier leur monopole sur leurs marchés respectifs et pousser les prix à la hausse. Ils se montrèrent également d'une grande brutalité - et parfois meurtriers - à l'égard de la main d'œuvre qui avait la témérité d'exiger de meilleurs salaires ou conditions de travail.

Leland Stanford, le fondateur de l'université Stanford, était sans doute l'un des pires d'entre eux. Lui-même et ses associés n'ont seulement fait mainmise sur l'industrie de la construction des chemins de fer dans l'Ouest des États-Unis, ils mirent au point un stratagème qui obligea les contribuables américains à en assumer les coûts. Stanford exploita aussi sans merci les ouvriers migrants, les Chinois en particulier, qui travaillaient dans des conditions tellement dures, et pour un salaire si bas, que rares étaient les Américains prêts à travailler pour lui.

Stanford se lança ensuite en politique pour consolider ses gains et élargir sa fortune aux dépens des contribuables. Il obligea la législature d'État de la Californie et les autorités municipales à émettre des obligations qui octroyaient des fonds publics supplémentaires à son entreprise ferroviaire. Une fois devenu gouverneur de l'État, il organisa des expéditions meurtrières contre les Amérindiens et incita à la haine contre ces Chinois mêmes qui avaient joué un rôle déterminant dans son succès.

Aujourd'hui, le mythe de l'entrepreneur héroïque a largement perdu de son attrait. Le groupe pharmaceutique Johnson & Johnson, autrefois applaudi pour le rappel préventif de produits dans le but de protéger les consommateurs, envisage aujourd'hui de recourir à un stratagème juridique douteux (la cession d'une partie du groupe en une nouvelle entité dans laquelle elle transférerait toute responsabilité délictuelle) pour éviter d'avoir à verser les énormes dommages-intérêts liés à la commercialisation de talc pouvant contenir de l'amiante. Les grandes compagnies pétrolières, après des décennies de déni du changement climatique et de diffusion de fausses informations, prétendent aujourd'hui être acquiescées à la cause

environnementale, sans que quiconque soit dupe.

Et bien sûr, nous avons aujourd'hui les entreprises technologiques, qui ont souvent eu pour premiers dirigeants des entrepreneurs idéalistes promettant de rendre le monde meilleur. La devise de Google était Don't be evil (littéralement, « Ne soyez pas malveillants »). Mais à l'heure actuelle, les plus grandes sociétés de l'industrie numérique, essentiellement les « GAFAM » (Google, Apple, Facebook, Amazon et Microsoft) sont synonymes d'abus de position dominante, de manipulation des consommateurs, d'évasion fiscale et d'autres infractions. (En 2018, Google a supprimé sa devise de la préface de son code de bonne conduite).

Depuis des années, les plus grands acteurs du secteur acquièrent ou copient tout simplement les produits de start-up pour renforcer leur propre domination. Un exemple révélateur est le rachat par Facebook d'Instagram, en 2012, et de WhatsApp, en 2014. Des documents internes ont depuis montré que ces acquisitions étaient motivées par la volonté de la direction du groupe de neutraliser les concurrents potentiels.

Plus contestables encore sont les « acquisitions tueuses », qui consistent pour une entreprise dominante à acquérir une nouvelle technologie au prétexte de l'intégrer dans son propre écosystème, pour ensuite la faire disparaître entièrement. Ces méthodes monopolistiques s'ajoutent à d'autres tactiques qui ont fait leurs preuves, comme l'offre groupée pour empêcher les utilisateurs de se tourner vers des services concurrents, une tactique utilisée par Microsoft pour supplanter Netscape et comme l'a fait Apple avec son système d'exploitation iOS.

Dernier point, mais non des moindres, ces grandes entreprises du numérique ont massivement profité de la collecte effrénée de données, qui permet à un acteur dominant d'en savoir beaucoup plus sur les consommateurs que ses rivaux potentiels, et d'ériger de formidables barrières à l'entrée sur le marché. Il en résulte non seulement une concentration du marché, mais aussi une manipulation généralisée des utilisateurs, parfois par le biais d'offres de produits trompeuses et, plus souvent encore, de publicités numériques.

Fort heureusement, les entreprises n'ont pas une tendance incorrigible à mal se conduire. Des industriels de la fin du XIXe siècle aux mauvais joueurs du numérique actuels, le dénominateur commun a été un système économique qui n'inclut pas de contrôles adéquats pour prévenir les abus. Si nous voulons que les entreprises se comportent mieux et innovent davantage, nous devons créer l'environnement institutionnel et les réglementations appropriés.

James A. Robinson et moi-même avons essayé de souligner ce point dans notre ouvrage Prospérité, puissance et pauvreté, lorsque nous avons comparé Bill Gates et le magnat mexicain des télécommunications Carlos Slim. Les deux hommes, disions-nous, avaient intérêt à gagner le plus d'argent possible par tous les moyens à leur disposition, mais Slim pouvait s'en tirer avec un comportement bien pire que celui de Gates, en raison des différences entre les régimes juridiques et réglementaires mexicain et américain.

En rétrospective, je pense que nous avons un point de vue trop généreux sur les États-Unis. Bien que les entreprises américaines aient été davantage incitées à innover que leurs homologues mexicaines, il existait de nombreuses façons pour elles aussi d'échapper aux sanctions en cas de conduite répréhensible. Les possibilités d'exploiter le système se multipliaient déjà au moment où Microsoft était devenue une entreprise de premier plan, et elles sont depuis devenues beaucoup plus endémiques, avec des coûts colossaux pour l'économie américaine.

Le drame du comportement scélérat des entreprises est qu'il peut dans une large mesure être prévenu. Afin de créer un équilibre adéquat entre les garde-fous et les mesures incitatives, nous devons à la fois nous affranchir du mythe de l'entrepreneur héroïque et reconnaître que les vents de la destruction créatrice ne soufflent pas d'eux-mêmes. Ce n'est qu'en nous dotant de meilleures réglementations et d'institutions plus solides que nous parviendrons à la prospérité et que nous pourrions obliger les personnes les plus puissantes de la société à rendre compte de leur comportement.

Daron Acemoglu, professeur d'économie au MIT, est le co-auteur (avec James A. Robinson) de Prospérité, puissance et pauvreté: Pourquoi certains pays réussissent mieux que d'autres (Markus Haller éditions, 2015) et de The Narrow Corridor: States, Societies, and the Fate of Liberty (Penguin, 2020) (non traduit en français).

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# NICOL Insurance impressively Making

her entity's readiness to receiving staffers of NICOL at the GSA and noted that the management team of NICOL headed by Sam Mannah and his deputy, Princeton Miller have

and went further to caution them to exhibit a great deal of honesty and professionalism.

The GSA boss concluded by urging Liberians to do away with the old mentality of not

For his part, NICOL's Managing Director Sam Mannah during his remarks said that the 9 graduates are the second batch of insurance professionals to be incorporated within the NICOL system of Insurance professionals.

He went further to express how thrilled he was to see his dream of nurturing & empowering young Liberians in a professional and service-oriented environment come to fruition, and expressed the desire to incorporate more young Liberians into the NICOL system as more resources become available.

Mr. Mannah disclosed that NICOL has been able to employ 17 young Liberians within the last six months and intends to do more as they expand.



proven to be trusted and ready for the task at NICOL to serve the public's interest through good and quality insurance policies and services in Liberia.

Madame Broh used the occasion to challenge the graduates to be vigilant in the discharge of their duties

believing in obtaining insurance, as insurance is a safety net that provides security, protection & peace of mind in case they were to get involved in an accident or experienced damage to their property - noting that NICOL Insurance is an important service to Liberians and for Liberia's development.

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# ECOWAS delegation wants

this golden opportunity that has the propensity to give Liberia a positive image and help to protect the country's economy from waste and abuse.

Also speaking at the Ministry of Justice, Liberia's Justice Minister, Frank Musah Dean who is the chairperson of the Interministerial Steering Committee on Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorists, gave assurance that the Liberian government is prepared to support the country's admittance into Egmont Group.

According to him, Liberia has taken concrete steps to fight money laundering and other predicate crimes, like drug and human trafficking, tax invasion, smuggling of goods and precious stones (gold and

diamond), among other crimes.

He promised to engage President George Manneh Weah, Judiciary and Legislature about all actors' collective support to help Liberia join Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs).

For his part, the Officer In-Charge / Acting Director of the Financial Intelligence Agency (FIA), Emmanuel T. Gee, is appealing to the 54th Legislature to fast track the passage of two key acts/ legislations such as, Market Manipulation and Human Trafficking Acts because, those two laws are criteria that will help Liberia to obtain membership with Egmont Group of FIUs.

According to him, an increased budgetary support from the Liberian government and donor partners has the ability to

meaningfully help Liberia FIA to robustly implement it detailed programs, fight money laundering and other illicit financial practices. He said Nigeria has agreed to procure a modern software for Liberia that is one of key requirements that Egmont Group needs for any country that is a candidate for admittance.

" We appreciate our government continuous financial support, but increment this time cannot be overemphasized because, FIA' admittance could bring foreign direct investments to Liberia because, credible investors will have confidence in our financial system," he pointed out.

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# ECOWAS holds regional training

revealed that persons with disabilities in the region face social stigma, especially those with mental disabilities, or with hearing or visual disabilities.

As a result of this study, the governments of ECOWAS Member States are also committed to taking necessary measures for the inclusive development of persons with disabilities through policies and programmes

relevant to persons with disabilities who experience various levels of bias, verbal or physical abuse tied to communities.

certain traditional beliefs that remain widespread across several African communities.



## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# UP suspends Margibi Chapter scribe

By Ramsey Ngisibonye, J. Chapter Margibi

The Unity Party has with immediate effect suspended its acting secretary general indefinitely for what the party terms his alleged involvement in "double standard political game."

Mr. Ojay Morris Jr's suspension, which was announced on October 5, 2022, comes after he was caught on video dressed in T-shirt and cap of the People's Unification Party (PUP) at a program organized by the PUP Political Leader, Senator James Emmanuel Nuquay.

In the video recording that went viral in the county, Ojay mounted the podium and introduced and welcomed Senator Nuquay.

The white-collar T-shirt has on its front a picture of the PUP Leader Nuquay, with the party's emblem on the back.

According to the letter of suspension, the action by Mr. Morris, Jr., who is a custodian of classified information of the UP, contravenes policy of the former ruling party and compromises its interest in the 2023 elections.

He has been turned to the National Coordinating Committee of UP in Margibi for interrogation.

The UP Margibi Chapter also says the move by the acting secretary general at a critical time when the party is preparing for 2023 is embarrassing.

There is also another communication from the party, warning the public not to do business with Ojay, as anyone doing so will be at his or her own detriment.

Investigation revealed that prior to his

suspension, Mr. Morris donated 50,000 Liberian Dollars to the Wenneh's Town Community in Kakata on behalf of the PUP Political Leader, James Emmanuel Nuquay.

However, sources from the UP said he allegedly received funds from Senator Nuquay to organize a youth retreat in Electoral District One, Margibi to get young people of the party go against the UP Margibi Chapter Chairman, Sampson T. Murphy.

This paper has also learnt that the suspended-UP partisan has written his letter of resignation, while investigation is still pending. Editing by Jonathan Browne



UP Margibi Chapter suspended Acting Secretary General Ojay Morris, Jr.

Starts from back page

# SONIT Liberia Inc. clarifies

Hassan Hadi Saadé, signed a corporative rental agreement with TRH Trading Corporation represented its CEO, Mr. Bilal Ibrahim for the use of the former's cold storage facility in Topoe Village along the Japan Freeway.

Under the rental agreement, SONIA Liberia made available its infrastructure and equipment at Topoe Village to TRH Corporation, including a landscape covering an area of 5.5 acres with fence and electric cables for electricity, hanger containing three (3) cold rooms with storage capacity of 2,700 tons, and cold equipment, compressors and installations.

Other facilities put at the disposal of TRH Corporation include two generators - 550KVA and 33 KVA, including fuel storage tanks, and an apartment building that contains administrative offices fully furnished.

The agreement duration runs from 1st October 2021 to 30 September 2022 with a rental of US\$22,500 payable quarterly in advance.

Meanwhile, TRH Trading Corporation, which originates from Hungary, Europe, has its main offices at Jamaica Road, Bushrod Island in Monrovia, with several sub-branches across the country has been linked to the recent drugs syndicate.

Addressing a news conference last week in Monrovia, the President of the Customs Brokers Association of Liberia James Hinneh, accused TRH Trading Corporation of being behind importation of the consignment of drugs brought in the country, and blamed the Ministry of Commerce and Industry for allegedly aiding the process.

Mr. Hinneh explained that the bill of landing document validates the specific owner of a particular consignment or container, including the CTN certificate as well as invoice from APM Terminals, which all proved that the consignment was brought into the country by TRH.

He said the Association remains supportive of Government of Liberia's fight against illicit drugs and other unwholesome substances entering in the country.

According to him, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry allegedly provided undue privilege to TRH Trading Corporation, something that led to the huge consignment of cocaine sneaking in, bypassing Customs Brokers at the Freeport of Monrovia. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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# Jewel snubs S/Court

Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor Friday, October 7, snubbed a supreme court order that mandated National Patriotic Party (NPP) Chairman James Biney and Secretary General Andrew Peters to hold the party's convention dedicating to herself the responsibility leading to violent clashes. The violent clashes led to the party holding separate conventions at the Paynesville City Hall with Mrs. Taylor presiding over one group, while chairman Biney and Secretary Peters presided over the other. The NPP's 7th Biennial Convention was held in compliance with the mandate

Policy and Research and Dopoe Menkarzon- Vice Chairman/ Special Project. The rest of the elected executives are Thomas G. Goba- Vice/ Finance and Investment, Sylvia Z. Taylor- Vice/ Social Services, Allison Barco -Vice/ Governmental Affairs and Randolph C. J. Cooper - National Treasurer. Upon their elections, Mr. Biney in discharging his first major task appointed a 16-member coalition framework review committee to look at salient issues in the agreement that bounded the party to an agreement signed by the Congress for Democratic Congress (CDC), the Liberia People's

Lomax said Madam Jewel Howard-Taylor was elected NPP Standard Bearer; Cllr. Stanley McClain, NPP National Chairman; and Morris Paye, NPP Secretary General, among others. Early signs of the convention experiencing some hitches popped up during the preparatory stages of the event when the party could not raise money for the initial budget of USD100K meant to cater for 638 delegates from across the country which prompted the party to take a decision on September 4, 2022, at its national Headquarters to reduce the number of persons on the list to 301 persons, according to the Biney Faction. The party in a press statement



of the civil law court, which adjudicated the prolonged leadership conflict within the former ruling party of jailed former President Charles Taylor. Eyewitnesses say it all started when supporters of VP Taylor attempted to force their way into the convention hall after being denied to do so due to lack of convention passes. The Vice President in return was said to have ordered ERU officers to take siege of the gate to allow her "unaccredited" supporters into the convention hall. This was met with a stiff resistance from the Biney faction leading to a dog fight inside the convention hall. Following nearly an hour of intense dogfight among faction members, calm returned but that calm was short-lived as violence erupted again. This prompted the VP Taylor faction to conduct their convention outside the hall of the Paynesville Town Hall. When the VP Taylor group left the hall the Biney faction proceeded with their convention thereby retaining the Maryland County Senator Biney as National Chairman after his challenger Abraham Masseley withdrew from the race. However, partisans went ahead to elect George S. Mulbah- Vice Chairman /Administration, Daoda Metzger- Vice Chairman for Operations, Charlyne A. Taylor- Vice Chairman for Gender Affairs, John A. Siaway- Vice Chairman/ Planning,

Democratic Party (LPDP) and the NPP during the 2017 election. The 16-member committee is headed by Cllr. Abel Momodu Massaly and Dr. Agnes Reeves Taylor as Co-Chairperson while Atty Allison Barco is the Secretary General. Others on the committee are, Samson Wiah, Albert Quenah, Charlyne A. Taylor, Dopoe Menkazon and other eminent partisans. The convention conducted by the Biney faction also mandated the National Executive Committee of the Party to conduct conventions for the National Secretariat and other leaders with 6 years tenure across the country. Meanwhile, around 5 pm, VP Taylor's NPP faction moved outside of the hall and proceeded with activities of the convention with Emmanuel Lomax, chair of the elections commission. Lomax said votes were taken and a decision was made to render all positions in the party vacant, allowing each of the partisans to contest. "We the delegates attending the 7th Biennial Convention of the NPP do hereby declare the vote as a block to individual names attached for elective positions," he said. "We delegates have proffered this resolution and secured signatories of two-third majority votes of the 638 delegates ... to give legal effect to any decision at this Convention," he added. Naming the officials elected,

signed and approved by Andrew Peters and Senator James Biney, National Secretary General and National Chairman respectively said the message was properly communicated to the partisans and the necessary adjustments were made, adding that the delegates were still excited despite the setback. Now despite said understanding for a total compliance with the list for accreditation purpose, confusion broke up when on the instruction of the Secretary General, some persons said to not to be accredited were stopped from entering the hall. These affected persons contended that the decision to comply with the number of persons does not exist and the original list of 638 remains. Also speaking to journalists following the induction of the officials by the VP Taylor faction, VP Howard-Taylor said the NPP brought 638 delegates from across the country. She said when the delegates arrived, they were told that there was a fake list of 301 persons. "But we gathered and had some discussions with all the County chairpersons and delegates, and they have chosen. So we have 13 chairpersons from 13 counties and it is a new leadership of the NPP that has been inducted," Madam Howard-Taylor noted. She accused Andrew Peters of the fake list, saying he removed names of the actual people from the counties and replaced them with names of people who did not come from the counties.

# Boakai continues Weah's Onslaught

Former Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakai now Standard Bearer of the Unity Party has continued his onslaught on President Weah saying, nothing is working in Liberia under his leadership. Ambassador Boakai: "Nothing is working. What kind of country we in now?" He recalled that under the administration of slain President William R. Tolbert, Jr. Liberia did not have farm, but rice was exported, which created jobs and there was no need for rice to be taken to Lofa County, while a lot of people were willing to come and invest but today, everything is on the contrary. Mr. Boakai made the observation in Kakata, Margibi County over the weekend, while responding to an endorsement statement from the All-Liberian Party Margibi County Chapter that pledged support to his presidential bid in 2023. He wondered why are Liberians buying a cup of rice now for 200 Liberian Dollars

under a government that had promised a bag of 25kg rice in the country would be sold for LRD500. He called on Liberians to ensure that they go and register when the time comes to enable them to vote out President Weah. According to the former Vice President, who served the previous government for 12 years, Liberia was founded to serve its people, instead of widespread corruption under President Weah. He said it is good that Mr. Weah became President and is underperforming so that Liberians, who had high expectations would see for themselves, otherwise, if he (Boakai) had won the elections in 2017 and even put gold in the streets of Liberia, some citizens would have said he is not doing anything because of Weah. The aging Presidential hopeful called on young people of Liberia to do everything possible to vote President Weah out, reminding that it is about them, rather than him as a person. Editing by Jonathan Browne



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## SONIT Liberia Inc. clarifies drugs bust



By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

**S**ONIT LIBERIA INC. has issued a clarification here on the recent seizure and subsequent burning of 520kgs of cocaine valued \$100 million United States Dollars by the Liberia Drugs Enforcement Agency (LDEA) and the National Security Agency (NSA) in collaboration with the United States Government. The catch has been described as the biggest bust in Liberian history. The company said it has ceased operations in Liberia for the past two years and rented its facility to TRH Trading

Corporation. "This is to inform you that SONIA Liberia Inc, has ceased its operations for the past two years and no longer carries out any business activity in Monrovia / Liberia. Consequently, our offices in Monrovia have been closed since 2021 and our cold stores located in Monrovia have been rented out effectively from the 1st day of October 2021 to TRH TRADING CORPORATION", the release said. Take notice that the cold stores and the cargoes

related to it are solely under the Management of TRH TRADING CORPORATION, the release notes. Speaking to the NEW DAWN, the Chief Executive Officer of SONIT Liberia, Hassan Saadé, apologized that the integrity of his company is linked to such criminal saga. "We sincerely hope that this statement will put to rest the motivated, malicious and false propaganda being run against SONIA Liberia", Mr. Saadé said. Documents obtained by this paper indicate that SONIT

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