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**P11**

**GOV't fights back**

Information Min. Ledgerhood Rennie **-Replies US Amb. McCarthy** US. Ambassador Michael McCarthy

**APM TERMINALS**

**APM Terminals blames LRA**

**-In US\$100m drugs bust case**

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# Continental News

## Sudan crisis: War crimes suspect free amid chaos

A former Sudanese politician wanted for alleged crimes against humanity has said that he and other former officials are no longer in jail - following reports of a break-out.

Ahmed Haroun was among and a rival paramilitary group, the Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

Reports emerged this week of a prison break at Kober - where Ahmed Haroun was serving a sentence alongside Omar al-Bashir, Sudan's former president.

On Tuesday, Haroun confirmed

prisoners in Kober," Haroun told al-Sudani, a daily newspaper with ties to Bashir.

Haroun was a key player in the Sudanese government's brutal response to two long-running and still unresolved civil wars - in Darfur (from 2003) and South Kordofan (from 2011).

He was indicted by the ICC in 2007 for his alleged role in the atrocities in Darfur - described as the first genocide of the 21st Century - when he was the country's interior minister.

He faces 20 counts of crimes against humanity and 22 counts of war crimes, with charges including murder, rape, persecution and torture. He denies the charges.

Mukesh Kapila, a former UN coordinator for Sudan, described Haroun as "extremely dangerous" and "unreliable", adding he had "many followers who have been lurking for the last two decades".

"This, plus other armed groups now coming out of the woodwork, really changes the dynamics in ways that are difficult to predict at the moment - but it's really bad news," he told the BBC World Service's Newday programme.

Haroun was arrested in 2019, after veteran leader Bashir was ousted by the military amid mass protests. The country has experienced frequent unrest and several other coup attempts since then. BBC

## Buying banknotes to survive Zimbabwe's sky-high inflation

Zimbabwe's rate of inflation has been falling since August 2022 when it hit a staggering 285%. However, in March this year it was still running at 87.6%, forcing Zimbabweans to find creative ways to survive.

A recent International Labour Organization Harare report says 76% of employment in Zimbabwe is now in the informal sector, in other words, selling goods or services without registering with the authorities.

The informal economy, massive bank charges and distrust of the banking sector mean Zimbabweans prefer to deal in cash or mobile money.

Mr Ngwenya describes himself as an agent for middlemen who have contacts in the US, South Africa or local banks, where they exchange the torn or soiled cash for good notes. They provide him with

"We fill up potholes because we see them inconveniencing drivers. I'm broke and I wish I could get money but I don't want to beg like a blind man," Mr Khumalo explains.

"We have so many blind people in Bulawayo that motorists are no longer touched by their plight. I am an able-bodied person and no one is going to throw money at me.

"I believe by fixing the roads, those who see value in what I'm doing will give me something. On a good day, like today, I've made \$9 (£7) and 100 rand (\$6; £4) and hundreds of Zimbabwe dollars (ZWL\$).

"It means I won't go back home to my family empty-handed. My three children and wife are able to get by and tomorrow is another day."

Mr Khumalo has worked as a minibus driver and a tout and occasionally dabbles in music as a backing dancer for a popular musician who performs tjibilika - fast-paced music influenced by Congolese rumba, accompanying songs about social issues.



Haroun (left) in 2010 when he was governor of the South Kordofan region

those being held in Kober prison in the capital Khartoum who are facing charges by the International Criminal Court (ICC).

A ceasefire between fighting military factions largely appears to be holding.

But there are doubts about both sides' commitment to a lasting peace.

The conflict - which began on 15 April - arose from a bitter power struggle between the leaders of Sudan's regular army

in a statement aired on Sudan's Tayba TV that he and other Bashir loyalists who served under him had left the jail - but said he would be ready to appear before the judiciary whenever it was functioning.

In an audio message circulating on social media, Haroun claimed the group had been aided in their escape by prison guards and the armed forces.

"We made a decision to protect ourselves due to lack of security, water, food and treatment, as well as the death of many

## Ramaphosa Retreats From ICC Exit

JOHANNESBURG - South African President Cyril Ramaphosa rowed back on Wednesday from a pledge to quit the International Criminal Court, months before he is due to host Russia's Vladimir Putin who is wanted by the ICC for suspected war crimes.

"South Africa remains a signatory to the ICC in line with a resolution of the 55th National Conference of the ANC - held in December 2022 - to rescind an earlier decision to withdraw from the ICC," the presidency said in a statement.

"The December resolution was reaffirmed at a meeting of the National Executive Committee of the ANC during the weekend of 21 to 24 April 2023."

Ramaphosa said on Tuesday that the ruling African National Congress

would aim to repeal South Africa's membership of the Hague-based court, which hears cases of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

But on Wednesday, Ramaphosa's office said he had made a mistake.

The presidency said on Wednesday that South Africa would work towards

establishing an African continental criminal court that would complement the ICC as a court of last resort.

The ANC decided at its national conference in December that South Africa should abandon a legislative process to pull out of the ICC and try to effect changes to the organization from within. VOA



Torn foreign notes like this one give Zimbabweans a chance to earn some money

an operating float each time they pick up the torn notes and pay him a commission.

A married father-of-five, Mr Ngwenya supplements his unpredictable trade by selling fruit and roasted corn on the side. "Things used to be good but these days business is slow," he says. "Sometimes you can be lucky and have someone bring you a torn \$100, some days you have to make do with the \$1 and \$2 notes."

Decades of corruption and economic woes have led to the deterioration of the national and inner city road infrastructure. This presents an opportunity for Mayibongwe Khumalo, 25, from Cowdray Park, a sprawling suburb about 25km (15 miles) west of Bulawayo.

He is one of many people who patch up potholes around the city in return for small change from grateful or sympathetic motorists.

Of Zimbabwe's estimated 5.2 million traders in the informal economy, 65% are women. The government wants to formalise this growing sector of the economy as part of a national strategy to increase tax revenues. It is clamping down on small businesses, sending law enforcement officers to inspect trading licences and fine those who are non-compliant.

Sukoluhle Christine Malima, 36, runs a restaurant in an old caravan trailer at a public transport terminus in Bulawayo. She says it's impossible to save enough money to register as a business, so she is often forced to pay \$4 fines.

"My plan is to raise money for my trading licence but the constant arrests and increased competition have made things harder. Each time you set aside some cash, the police come to check for licences and you have to pay the inevitable fine."

Ms Malima sells Sadza, porridge made from maize "mealie meal" or millet, and a piece of chicken stew for \$1 per plate to minibus drivers and other vendors. BBC



South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa, left, and Russia's President Vladimir Putin arrive for the Leaders Dialogue

# EDITORIAL

## The Buchanan retreat should produce tangibles

**PRESIDENT GEORGE** Manneh Weah chairs a three-day cabinet retreat this week (24 -26 April) in the coastal city, Buchanan, Grand Bassa County, perhaps the last or second to the last by this administration before presidential and general elections in October. This retreat of the cabinet is very important because it provides an opportunity for the Weah Administration to not only measure performance but to outline actual deliverables since its inception in 2018.

**IT ALSO** sets a platform for the government to carry out some real public relations as it seeks re-election in October amid barrage of criticisms about ineptitude, accountability, corruption, mismanagement, economic hardship, gross constitutional violation and insecurity, among others.

**THE GOVERNMENT** has a development roadmap dubbed, Pro-poor Agenda for Development and Prosperity (PAPD). Such forum provides an opportunity to take down partisan lenses, and objectively identify weak links and how to improve them.

**THE FLAGSHIP** priority for the first six years has been roads that it is still battling with even as it seeks re-election. Some of those road projects were already signed by its predecessor and are being implemented, while it has its own road connectivity programs that are ongoing simultaneously.

**BUT THERE** are weaknesses in some sectors such as agriculture, education security, health, rule of law that need critical assessment with open mind. For instance, in the draft FY2023 National Budget Agriculture was allotted US\$5.42 million, representing 0.70 percent in a country that 100 percent relies on rice importation, its staple and other food.

**EDUCATION AND** Health both received a greater chunk of the budget by far than Agriculture but performance leaves much to be desired. President Weah announced all public universities tuition-free. However, state universities and colleges across the country are in financial crisis, leaving lecturers to go on strike or students protesting. The President pays WASSCE fees for 12th graders annually, but Liberia's performance on the subregional exams is nothing to write home about, as announced here recently by the Head of WAEC Monrovia Office Dai Gbotoe.

**DESPITE A** projected budget of US\$75.52 million or 9.71 percent for Health, health institutions across the country are barely functioning because of lack of drugs, tools and logistics. This also raises performance questions.

**SECURITY AND** Rule of Law were allotted a big chunk of US\$96.87 million or 12.45 percent in the 2023 draft budget, but the justice system, starting with the Police, correction, and other arms are operating below public expectations, leading to breach of confidence.

**AS THE** cabinet meets this week in Buchanan City under the watch of President Weah, we believe these are but few of the critical areas that need urgent attention, especially security, as the nation goes to election.

**THE RETREAT** is necessary and should be given the attention it deserves because it is from there government honestly measures its performance of the task it has been entrusted by the electorate.

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# COMMENTARY

By *Cristina Donini,*  
*Doreen Akiyo Yomoah*

## A New Weapon Against Malaria

**G**ENEVA - Over the past three years, the COVID-19 pandemic has dominated headlines and spurred scientific research, with experts around the world focusing resources and any potentially useful technology on the problem. While the spotlight on COVID-19 has dimmed slightly, it remains a high global priority, sometimes to the detriment of infectious diseases linked to poverty and primarily affecting the Global South. For example, Malaria killed an estimated 619,000 people - most of them children in Sub-Saharan Africa - in 2021, when there were 247 million cases worldwide.

Malaria is an entirely preventable and treatable disease, and researchers have made great strides on both fronts. In March, for example, the World Health Organization recommended two new dual-ingredient insecticide-treated bed nets to protect against malaria-transmitting Anopheles mosquitoes, one with a more lethal cocktail of insecticides, and the other able to disrupt mosquito growth and reproduction.

Cost-effective antimalarial medicines are another important tool. In 2021, seasonal malaria chemoprevention was administered to around 45 million children aged three months to five years, who received monthly doses of therapeutic drugs at a cost of less than \$4 per person. The recent news of a groundbreaking vaccine, GSK's Mosquirix (also known as RTS,S), offers some hope, although the cost is still relatively high, at around \$40 per child for the first year.

Despite these efforts, malaria continues to pose a threat to public health. Even after an investment of \$26 billion to tackle the disease in Sub-Saharan Africa, the number of cases increased slightly between 2000 and 2019 (although the number of deaths decreased). New prevention measures - tailored to children, in particular - are clearly needed. Further innovation should take a page from the pandemic playbook: one benefit of the flood of COVID-19 research is that it demonstrated the enormous potential of monoclonal antibodies.

These drugs are laboratory-made copies of the proteins that a person's immune system produces to attack specific foreign invaders. Historically, monoclonal antibodies have served as a powerful weapon against cancer and autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis and lupus. While not often used as a prophylactic, the deployment of monoclonal antibodies to prevent COVID-19 and respiratory syncytial virus has shown great promise. Moreover, their exquisite selectivity enables them to discern between closely related molecular targets, resulting in fewer off-target effects. This makes it a medication with an appropriate safety profile for children (as well as other at-risk populations).

A research group at the United States National Institutes of Health, led by Robert Seder, has identified two antibodies against CSP-1, the protein that the malaria parasite uses to invade liver cells where it first establishes infection. Blocking CSP-1 should thus prevent infection. The more advanced of the two antibodies, L9LS, is currently being tested for its safety and efficacy in children in Mali and Kenya. The Mali study is assessing its success in a setting of seasonal malaria, whereas the Kenya study focuses on an area where year-round infection is possible.

Monoclonal antibodies could be a game-changer for preventing malaria and advance the long-sought goal of eradication. The current generation of antimalarial antibodies has been modified so that a single dose can protect a child for at least three months - possibly longer. The clinical trials will determine the extent and exact duration of protection, and provide useful guidance on how much improvement is needed to achieve a dosage that can be injected once per year.

Although antibodies have a reputation for being expensive, with those used to treat cancer priced at over \$20,000 per month in Europe and the US, increasing the potency of this cutting-edge treatment could significantly decrease costs. Some believe an injection as small as one milliliter of the antibody drug being trialed in Mali and Kenya could protect children at a cost of only \$5-10 per person.

To date, demand for monoclonal antibodies has primarily come from high-income countries; Africa accounts for only 1% of global sales. This disparity highlights the need to work with national regulatory agencies to ensure that submitted product data adequately address public-health concerns, and, in the longer term, to involve affected countries in the production of these biologics. Although manufacturing antibodies is a complex and highly regulated process, investing in the technology to do so now would be a boon for developing economies burdened by endemic malaria.

Monoclonal antibodies may be the new frontier in the fight against malaria, but getting the word out won't be easy: stakeholders from government, academia, and industry must come together to coordinate advocacy efforts and raise awareness. (The same groups should be encouraging the development of these types of biologics for all infectious diseases.)

We are only just embarking on a long road: the first generation of antimalarial antibodies will not be deployed until 2027 at the earliest. They offer tremendous promise as one of many weapons to fight this child killer, alongside bed nets, medicines, and emerging vaccines. The clinical trials will tell us whether this potential can be realized, but we would be wise to begin preparing for success now.

## ARTICLE

## ARTICLE

# Liberia: The 54th Legislature Has failed the Liberian People

By. S.Karweaye

In May 2022, I wrote an article titled *The National Legislature's Budget and Waste* where I revealed how the Liberian lawmakers were eating Liberia's wealth through insane salaries, allowances, etc. In the article, I argued that a recurring theme of Liberia's 17 years of post-conflict democracy is the blurred lines between the executive and the legislative branches of government. Today, Liberians are seeing serious collusion between Liberian President George Weah and the National Legislature, with the ultimate goals of waste and misplaced priorities in the governing of the state.

In Liberia, the National Legislature makes the laws, has oversight functions over the executive, while the executive implements the laws, and the judiciary interprets them. Unfortunately, the executive branch has attracted all the attention and enjoys all the influence over and above the other two tiers. This reality has made some people question the relevance of our legislature and not reckon with it, especially in the recent past where, unfortunately, the National legislature looks more like a student dormitory of equals, with no exciting debates, bickering on the floor, and or innovative vision for the development of this country.

On April 2023, the US Ambassador, Michael McCarthy, through a press release lamented Liberia's misplaced priorities under the George Weah-led administration. According to Ambassador McCarthy, "While hospitals went without, and service centers withered on the vine, the 30 senators and the 73 representatives spent sixty-five million US dollars feathering their own nests." Ambassador McCarthy also questioned, "Why are legislators and ministers, those living on the top of the heap, given annual duty-free imports that deny the LRA much-needed additional revenue?" The controversy Ambassador McCarthy's disclosure generated has shaken the country especially the clear absurdity surrounding the monetary compensation of lawmakers while health centers around the country lie in poor condition.

Ironically, Montserrado County District #4 lawmaker, Rep. Rustolyn Dennis accused the US Ambassador, McCarthy of lying about the 54th legislature's budget. According to Representative Dennis, Ambassador McCarthy's press release was highly misleading and came as a result of what she described as his misunderstanding of how the Legislature's budgets work.

She writes "Your judgment is not only unfair but highly misleading in some areas. You have confused the citizens more than alerted them. Let me state unequivocally herein, our budget we passed is never US\$65m. Next the 40m [plus] that is passed is not for 30 Senators and 73 Representatives, rather it's for the over four thousand workers in central administration and all the legislative

staffers for each member. Your failure to analyze those funds led to your blanket categorization of the legislature."

Truth be told, the National Legislature has powers under the Constitution to make this country better but it appears to have been caught in its own web of malfeasance that has rendered it compromised and unwilling to do the needful. Rather, it has insisted and demonstrated over time that it is simply a part of government and cannot see any fault in the operations of the executive. This is the kernel of the legislature's failing and it has badly rubbed off on the country.

The failures of the National Legislature to effectively activate its oversight roles over the executive is the reason why Rep. Rustolyn Dennis of Montserrado County



District #4 doesn't know that in the 2022 national budget, US\$ 64.3 million was approved for the national legislature, but the 2023 budget shows US\$65.6 million was captured as outturn (The payment of expenditure in the legislature budget). It is the failure of our representatives and senators to conduct legislative oversight that led to the revelation of Ambassador McCarthy that "most of the County Service Centers, and in 2022, NONE had received any of their budget allocation (usually around US\$13,333). One Center has not printed marriage certificates for four years because the printer broke, and their last allocation was received five years ago. Hospitals on which lives depend, where outbreaks are prevented and suffering is alleviated, did not receive any portion of the US\$100,000 or more appropriated by the legislature for them to operate."

Obviously, these vituperations coming from Rep. Rustolyn Dennis are less than sincere and are probably intended for the gallery, given the erstwhile disposition of the lawmakers to the executive arm. The National Legislature including legislators from opposition political parties cannot extricate themselves from the failings of the government it is an integral part of. Not only Rep. Rustolyn Dennis's comment is puerile, but it is also offensive to the common sensibility of Liberians more so as

the legislative and executive branches of government are jointly and severally liable for the bastardized state of the nation. An attempt by either to exculpate itself is not feasible.

Notably, of the three arms of government: Legislature, Executive, and Judiciary; the legislature is the most powerful. Apart from its lawmaking and oversight responsibilities, the National Legislature, to a reasonable extent, determines the composition of the top members of the executive arm of government except for the offices of the President and Vice President. This is because all ministerial nominees and heads of ministries, commissions, departments, agencies, and even the judiciary, must first receive its approval before they can substantively assume

Instead of taking up their assignments seriously, the legislators have simply resorted to theatrics.

The President traveled abroad often and stayed for weeks or months, without legislative involvement only to stay abroad and write them an extension of stay abroad. Weah's non-committal attitude is a direct consequence of the laxity of the National Legislature. Otherwise, a proactive National Legislature would have commenced impeachment proceedings against the Chief Executive for recently violating the code of conduct.

It is not fallacious that the National Legislature is too weak to fight corruption and wasteful expenditure. The true position is that the legislators have refused to do the needful because they are equally caught in the web of corruption at the capitol building.

Furthermore, the National Legislature is partly responsible for the ballooning cost of governance in Liberia. The Liberian lawmakers are among the highest paid in West Africa. The legislative budgets have tended to increase over the years. An important hike occurred in 2009 when the total legislature budget rose from US\$9.4 million in 2007 to US\$19 million in 2009. By 2011, this budget stood at US\$26 million. By 2013, the legislature budget was US\$ 39 million, and by 2015, the budget was at US\$54 million. In 2016 and 2017, the budget was around US\$47 million, and US\$44.6 million in 2020. In 2021, it was 39.6 million. In 2022, another hike occurred to the tune of US\$65.6 million, the highest in the history of Liberia, and in 2023, the legislature budget is 42.7 million.

In 2021, Senator Darius Dillion reported through his asset declaration that lawmakers earned as much as \$126,588! Apart from bonuses and other incentives, the annual salary of the Speaker of the House of Representatives is US\$245,540 while the annual salary of the President Pro Tempore is US\$254,250. Ironically, the Speaker of the United States House Of Representatives' annual salary is US 223,500 while the salary of the US Senate President Pro Tempore is US\$193,400.

They avoid the interrogations of Liberians on their huge emoluments, allowances, and perquisites of office which in itself bloats the cost of governance that the legislature accuses the executive of perpetrating.

They arrogate unto themselves the unconstitutional power to pad the budget in their favor but fail to render an account of how they utilize humongous amounts for their so-called legislative engagement funds, etc. Indeed, the National Legislature cannot free itself from the stunted development of the country of its failure to ensure that the executive arm lives up to its responsibilities. The legislators have proven to be self-serving and lacking patriotism.

office.

Additionally, an institution that enjoys the exclusive prerogative to empower and enlarge the powers of the court combines the executive and judicial powers to investigate, arrest, summon, and examine any person and reserves the right to fix the remuneration of all three arms of government cannot claim to be handicapped. The constitution virtually placed the entire country under the control of the National Legislature. The only snag is that the National Legislature as presently constituted lacks the political will to put Liberia first!

The legislative arm of government at all levels has been slothful in discharging its oversight duties judiciously and effectively. The occasional instances of disaffection between the executive and legislature have largely been for selfish political gains rather than in the public interest.

Liberia is under dire economic constraints due to its huge debt profile and debt serving, yet the National Legislature continues to approve further borrowings without interrogating the utilization of previous ones and the implications of accumulating debts with compound and multiple interests.



## I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- SOLICITATION NO:** VA-669-23-000006
- ISSUANCE DATE:** April 26, 2023
- CLOSING DATE AND TIME FOR RECEIPT OF OFFERS:** May 10, 2023, 11:59 PM Local Time, Monrovia, Liberia
- POINT OF CONTACT:** Executive Officer, email at [LiberiaHR@usaid.gov](mailto:LiberiaHR@usaid.gov)
- POSITION TITLE:** USAID Development Program Specialist (Budget)
- 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.
- 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.

## 11. STATEMENT OF DUTIES

### Basic Function of Position

The Program Development Specialist (Budget) is a mid-level member of the USAID/Liberia Program and Project Development (PPD) Office staff who works closely with the senior Program Development Specialist (Budget) on all components of the USAID/Liberia budgeting process. The main purpose of this position is to assist the Director of the PPD Office oversee the Mission's resources, to assist technical staff on formulating and reporting on the country strategy; program budgets; project development and procurement plans; implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development

objectives, and providing customer services to the Mission. The USAID/Liberia budgeting process includes multi-year budget formulation, multi-year assistance funds, operating year budget management, strategic resource planning, procurement planning, annual Congressional reporting, administration of program and field support costs, representative to technical staff and support staff (e.g., Office of Financial Management (OFM) and the Office of Acquisition & Assistance). S/he assists the daily budgetary documentation, analysis, oversight, management, and reporting of the Mission's budget resource portfolio of more than \$790 million. Close coordination with Technical and other Support Offices and the application of budget and technical knowledge to multi-year program budget planning, activity design, monitoring and evaluation, and strategic resource management utilizing complex databases are essential components of this position.

### Major Duties and Responsibilities

#### A. Budget Planning, Resource Management and Procurement Implementation (50%)

As one of the budget resource specialists, the incumbent advises the PPD Director on budget preparation, oversight, and reallocations to attain the most efficient utilization of program funds. Monitors pipeline and expenditures, guides Technical Offices in allocating budget resources of approx. \$110 million annually into development activities as part of the overall \$535 million Mission portfolio across approximately 55 implementing mechanisms.

Assists in the preparation of the annual Operational Plan, Congressional Budget Justification, Country Budget Notification, the Mission Resource Request Strawman (in coordination with Embassy), the Performance Monitoring Plan, and other program cycle required submissions. Prepares budget allowance requests according to funding requirements identified in the Mission's spend and procurement plan and submits them to the Budget Implementation Division of USAID/Washington/Africa Bureau. Responds to scheduled and ad hoc budget requests from USAID/Washington, the Office of Foreign Assistance in the State Department, the U.S. Embassy, and the Government of Liberia (GoL). Prepares Mission memoranda for the Director of Foreign Assistance approval, annual bi-lateral Assistance Agreement Memo submissions, change notices, and any other additional funding requests. These submissions require a close working relationship with the USAID/Washington Africa Bureau, Embassy counterparts, as well as the Liberian Ministry of Finance.

Supports USAID/Liberia's budget formulation, justification, and implementation. Responsibilities include but are not limited to weekly Ops Master (program budget tracker) updates; daily oversight of program budget through documentation, verification, and analysis of program funds availability; preparation and submission of the Operating Year Budget matrix, change notices and monitoring reports; preparing and tracking requests in the field support matrix and database; and earmark tracking. Works in close coordination with the Office of Financial Management in preparing and presenting the Quarterly Financial Reviews. Reviews and monitors unexpended funds across all 4 technical teams, conducts mortgage and pipeline analyses and prepares Mission program budget reports. Monitors compliance with Congressional Notification requirements.

Serves as a PPD Budget Backstop to Technical Teams as assigned. Supports Technical Teams in all aspects of the Program Cycle, budget formulation and administration, spend plan monitoring. Supports technical office staff in developing and updating their budgets and out-year spend plans. Advises program managers on burn-rates, pipelines, forward funding requirements, incremental funding and change notice actions. This includes advising on the use of funds for initial and incremental funding for activities by ensuring that the appropriate program budget accounts, areas and elements are assigned.

The incumbent carries some representational functions. The job holder serves as a resource during Mission bi-lateral Assistance Agreement negotiations with senior GoL officials and at high-level events such as, annual GoL Portfolio Reviews and quarterly USAID partner meetings.

Provides guidance on the Agency's Automated Directives System (ADS) in the areas of budget and obligation management, pipeline, forward funding, and strategic resource management. Prepares financial summary tables for each technical team, including basic financial Information on all projects in the portfolio, such as life of project, mortgage, pipeline, projected burn rate, etc. Contributes to independent government estimates formulation. When needed, conducts site visits in support of program managers' activity oversight and monitoring.

#### B. Project and Activity Design Development, Monitoring, Reporting and Management (50%)

Provides long range budget and programming analyses and reviews and contributes to sector scenario planning. Provides support to technical teams on activity design and development and resource scenarios. Serves as a member of technical evaluation committees evaluating proposals and applications when needed. Is the Mission resource on budget issues in activity design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.

Serves as a local advisor for the monitoring and evaluation of impact of USAID policies and programs and effectively coordinates such activities within the GoL. Plays an integral role in advising Senior Management on programming strategies and requirements. Identifies designs and oversees scenario planning, research and assessments used to inform CDCS implementation and mid-course stocktaking. This could include reviewing and reporting on GoL sector strategies, tracking official country statistics on development and financial trends in Liberia. Manages the ADS 200 Program Cycle requirement for Project Appraisal Document development, oversight and tracks subsequent amendments.

Plans and develops the guidance for Annual Performance Portfolio Reviews by determining topical issues that each technical team will focus upon, cross cutting themes and activities, data analysis and programmatic impacts required to ensure that the Portfolio Review process is carried out in an efficient and timely manner and achieves the stated Mission goals. Upon completion, s/he maintains the Portfolio Review key issues tracker in order to make certain identified issues are followed up and reports to the PPD Director on progress toward their completion. Highlights problem issues of significance for Mission management consideration.

In coordination with the Office of Financial Management, leads the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (FMFIA) exercise for USAID/Liberia. Prepares analytical input from the technical teams and regional support offices located in USAID/Ghana. Creates the risk mitigation plans and tracks the status of corrective actions.

- Supervision controls:** Continued supervision of other Mission staff is not expected.
- Supervisory Relationship:** Works under the general supervision of the PPD Director or their designee. Assignments are made orally and in writing. Most assignments occur in the normal course of the work, but the incumbent is required to determine those that must be coordinated

with the supervisor. The incumbent will seek advice and assistance as required. Work is reviewed in terms of results achieved. The incumbent will seek advice and assistance as required. Work is reviewed in terms of results achieved.

## 12. PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The work requested does not involve undue physical demands.

## II. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR THIS POSITION

- Education:** A minimum of bachelor's degree in accounting, business/public administration, social sciences, international affairs, or any field relevant to USAID's development mission in Liberia is required.
- Prior Work Experience:** Minimum of three to five years of progressively responsible work experience in basic accounting, resource planning and management, development assistance programming, working in large complex organization. Ability to write and edit memos and reports and official correspondence in English is required.
- Work/Residency Permits:** Applicants must have valid work and/or residency permits allowing work in Liberia.
- Language Proficiency:** Level IV (fluent) professional English oral and writing ability is required.

## 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:** Please describe in 500 words or less why you think you would be the best candidate for this position and explain the skills that you will bring to the position.

**FACTOR #2:** Please describe in 300 words or less a budget related action that you successfully executed. How did you do it? Why were you successful?

### 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	points
<b>Factor #1</b>	20 points
<b>Factor #2</b>	20 points
Interview Performance	60 points

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-669-23-000006 – USAID Development Program Specialist (Budget)** to [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:

- 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~~ **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.



APRIL 3, 2023

**INVITATION FOR BIDS**

**Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA)**  
Menetamba Road, Cooper's Beach Community  
Payneville, Liberia  
www.lta.gov.lr

**Supply of Goods & Provision of Non-Consultancy Services**

The Government of Liberia through the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA) has apportioned funds from its core budget towards the cost of procuring assorted goods and the provision of Non-Consultancy Services for fiscal year 2023.

The LTA now invites firms to submit sealed bids for the supply of said goods and services. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) Procedures as specified in the Amended and Restated Public Procurement and Concession Act (PPC Act). These applicable procurement procedures are consistent with the REPUBLIC of LIBERIA Amended and restated PPC Act published and approved: September 18, 2010.

The supply of goods and the provision of Non-Consultancy Services as per LTA quantities/qualities and requirements included in Bid documents:

Ref: No	Package Description	Description of Lot	Quantity	Bid Security (USD)
IFB LTA/NCB/001/2023	No. Vehicle Maintenance & Repairs	Lot 1 Toyota Brand	3 Pcs	300.00
		Lot 2 Nissan Brand	3 Pcs	300.00
IFB LTA/NCB/003/2023	NO. Stationery & Supplies	Lot 1 Stationery	Assorted	300.00
		Lot 2 Ink/Cartridge	Assorted	300.00
IFB LTA/NCB/004/2023	NO. Security Guard Services	N/A Provision of Security Guard Services	Assorted	500.00
IFB LTA/NCB/005/2023	No. Office Furniture	N/A Furniture	Assorted	300.00
IFB LTA/NCB/006/2023	NO. Office Equipment	N/A ICT Equipment	Assorted	300.00
IFB LTA/NCB/007/2023	No. Sets of Generators	N/A 22. 5 KVA Generators	3 pcs	500.00

**Qualification requirements include the following:**

- Valid Business Registration Certificate (Liberia Business Registry);
- Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (Liberia Revenue Authority);
- Must provide two (2) references of previous or current clients over the last two (2) years;
- Must provide proof of being registered with the Public Procurement & Concessions Commission (PPCC);
- Company's profile
- Letter of assurance of availability of supply (ies)/preparedness to provide services upon the issuance of an approved Local Purchase Order (LPO) and within a minimum period of 10 days goods shall be delivered
- Ability to pre-finance on an approved local purchase order after which payment will be made in thirty (30) days
- All bids must be signed and sealed in an envelope before submission

A complete set of bidding documents (soft copy) can be obtained *free of charge* by qualified and eligible bidders at the below address from Monday- Friday (9:00 A.M- 4:00 P.M). Submission must be clearly marked, signed and sealed in an envelope, including other requested information as follows: (Eg: IFB No: LTA/NCB/004/2023) **CONFIDENTIAL BID- for the provision of Security Guard Services for Fiscal Year 2023.**

Bid security must also be submitted together with bid documents, and *must meet the amount stated above in Manager's check or Bank Guarantee.*

Address to:

Procurement & Logistics Section  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Room # 029  
Liberia Telecommunications Authority  
Menetamba Road, Cooper's Beach Community  
Paynesville, Liberia  
Mobile number: +231-886-591857/777591857  
Email address: procurement@lta.gov.lr

A pre-bid meeting will be held at the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA) Office, Manetamba Road, Copper's Beach Community, Paynesville, in the P&LS Conference Room # 029, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, on Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 1:00 pm to answer questions relevant to the bidding process. Seven (7) days after which, requests for clarification will not be answered.

Bid must be submitted in both hard and soft copies at the respective addresses above on or before Tuesday, May 2, 2023 before 2:00 PM. You are strongly advised to keep your password confidential and bring the encrypted password at the bid opening meeting.

Bid Opening will be done promptly after closing at 2:00 PM, in P&LS Conference Room Room # 029 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor), in the presence of bidders' representatives or those who choose to attend.

Execution of this procurement package is subject to budget approval and the availability of funding resources during the Fiscal Year 2023. Winning bidders must be willing to accept payments either in Liberian Dollars or United States Dollars. Bid submitted electronically will not be accepted

The LTA reserves the right to reject or accept bids submitted and to annul the entire process at any time for reason to be communicated to bidders without incurring any liability thereof.

Signed:   
Prince G. Boah, Jr.  
Procurement & Logistics Manager

Approved:   
Hon. Edwina C. Zackpah  
Chairperson/LTA BoC

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS****MORE HEADLINE NEWS****CENTAL agrees with Amb. McCarthy**

By Lewis S. Teh

The Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (CENTAL) says it welcomes the recent findings of corruption instances released by outgoing United States Ambassador to Liberia, Michael McCarthy, upon his completion of tour of several counties in the country.

CENTAL Executive Director, Anderson Miamen, says the Center welcomes Ambassador McCarthy's observation about the state of decentralization and how the national budget has been manipulated to serve the interests of those who control power.

"Indeed, not only does the Ambassador's statement reflect courage, it transcends any actual or perceived diplomatic boundaries for the good of the Liberian people", he said.

Mr. Miamen says CENTAL sees that the disservice meted out against the Liberian people by their own leaders is so great that it cannot be overlooked by

central level in Monrovia to counties and communities on the periphery.

He says surely, the American engages as a true Liberian patriot and campaigner for good governance and true decentralization, adding that even as corruption brazenly has its way, Ambassador McCarthy faces the odds and speaks truth to power.

He wonders when will Liberians engage their democracy and governance as true patriots wanting the best for the country and its people and

leaders truly lead, selflessly, accountably, and transparently, while citizens satisfactorily live up to their civic duties.

Miamen narrates that in January, Transparency International report showed that there is a further decline in Liberia's score on the index from 29 in 2021 to 26 in 2022, an unfortunate 15-point decline since the score of 41 in 2012.

According to him, the TI report



CENTAL Executive Director, Anderson Miamen

international partners, Ambassador McCarthy in this instant case.

He spoke in a news conference on Thursday, April 26, in Sinkor, Monrovia.

On Monday this week, United States Ambassador McCarthy in a statement released upon completion of his trip to southeastern Liberia wrote, "unfortunately, on the trip I was startled and deeply troubled to encounter multiple county hospitals that received not one penny of what they were promised in the 2022 budget."

According to the Ambassador, hospitals on which lives depend, where outbreaks are prevented and suffering is alleviated, did not receive any portion of the US\$100,000 or more appropriated by the legislature for them to operate.

He added that as reported in the press last week with Tellowoyan Memorial Hospital in Lofa County, these facilities currently survive on the backs of incredibly dedicated health professionals, making do with whatever they can scrape together.

Miamen notes that there can be no better affirmation of recent reports issued by CENTAL detailing how the national budget is being used as a tool for corruption and how decentralization has been reduced to a political token rather than a deliberate effort to devolve power and resources from the

corroborated by CENTAL 2022 State of Corruption Report (SCORE 2022), which he says reveals that 90% of Liberians think the Corruption level is high in the county, with declining confidence in the executive branch of government to fight against corruption, from 30% to 26%.

He pointed out that findings of the US Ambassador's recent trips to the counties, as contained in his recent statement to the public shed further light on how corruption continues to deprive Liberians of access to crucial services, as a few Monrovia-based power brokers binge on public funds with no pricking of conscience.

He says while the Ambassador identified county-level challenges, it is important to note that 'ghost allocations' are not only akin to entities in the counties, stressing that spending entities in Monrovia have themselves complained that in addition to budgetary allocations not covering essential activities and operations, they are hardly received in full.

CENTAL says it is deeply concerned about the perennially mindboggling neglect of the citizens by their elected and appointed national leaders. This extremely unfortunate development has to stop, if the people must truly and measurably benefit from the resources and other assets of the country.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# UP alleges government plot

**-Ahead of naming Boakai's running mate**

By Lincoln G. Peters

Former ruling Unity Party (UP) has accused the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC)-led government of plotting to plant people among UP

Joseph Nyumah Boakai will name his running mate this Friday for the 2023 presidential and legislative elections.

But days before holding the long-delayed program to name a running mate, the party accused the government of a

running mate. UP Secretary General Amos Tweh told a press conference Wednesday, 26 April that there is an alleged plan by the government to plant people in the UP program.

But Tweh warned that the party is prepared to expose any element caught during the program.

Additionally, Tweh stated that the UP has written the Ministry of Justice to help provide security for the party during Friday's program.

The UP chief scribe indicated that the party is looking forward to hearing from the Justice Ministry before the program.

According to him, citizens are in high gear to receive their party's running mate, adding that the program will go down in history.

He said various pickup points will be set for partisans from Paynesville, Bushrod Island, and Sinkor, up to UP headquarters up Broad Street.

There is no official account of who Boakai will pick as his running mate. But Nimba Senator Jeremiah Koung and Grand Bassa Senator Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence have been at the top of the candidates seeking the slot.

plot without providing evidence.

Party officials did not elaborate why they claimed the government wants to plant people in their midst during the announcement of Boakai's

partisans during a program this Friday, 28 April 2023.

UP, Liberia's main opposition party, says its political leader and former Liberian Vice President Amb.



# Professor Kaydor distances from Japanese grant fraud

By Ethel A Tweh

Former Deputy Foreign Minister for International Cooperation and Economic Integration, Thomas Kaydor has rubbished report that he was involved with the Japanese grant under former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

Speaking here Tuesday, April 25, with Truth FM, Mr. Kaydor, who also served as Assistant Foreign Minister for Afro-Asian Affairs, said audit report by the International Economic Cooperation and the Integration Japanese Grant project showed that the project was done between 2014 2015 he said he was in Australia.

According to him, when he returned to Liberia, Ebola has already disrupted the country.

The report was done in 2015, 2014 June when the project was done, I was in Australia. When I came back Ebola has disrupted the country, he said.

He said when he came back and became Deputy Minister, he asked for the bank statement, regarding the project something, he noted brought Dr. Wede

Brownell as signatory to the account.

Prof. Kaydor said that former President Sirleaf requested the Japanese people to supply petroleum to Liberia and US\$35 million worth of petroleum was supplied, besides supplying rice through the Ministry of Commerce so that the rice could be stable on the Liberian market.

He added that the group that published a report against him is not a registered group in Liberia, saying that the group supporting Nathaniel McGill.

Kaydor said he was dismissed by former President Sirleaf for conduct unbecoming of a senior official, for

publishing audit report.

"CDC supporters who are professors at the University of Liberia and they think the university is for CDC, and the President cannot teach a single course at the university except it is a football course." Kaydor added.

Meanwhile, report says the Internal Audit Bureau has conducted a forensic audit of the International Economic Cooperation and Integration Japanese Grant Project to ascertain the accuracy, completeness and reliability of the Project funds and documents and activities

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



Thomas Kaydor

# ECOWAS Commits to Ending Human Trafficking in the Region

The ECOWAS Commission is committed to ending human trafficking in West Africa. This was made known by H.E. Dr. Omar Alieu Touray, the President of the ECOWAS Commission at the Regional Conference of ECOWAS Member States on Ending Human Trafficking, with the theme: 'Charting a way forward for deeper cooperation in ECOWAS to end Human Trafficking', which held from April 25 to 26, 2023, in Freetown Sierra Leone.

The two-day conference organised by the ECOWAS Commission in collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone, with the support of the African Programming and Research Initiative to End Slavery (APRIES) and the International

enhancing the implementation of the ECOWAS Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

In his remarks at the opening ceremony, H.E. Dr. Omar Alieu Touray, the President of the ECOWAS Commission, highlighted that over the years, the ECOWAS Commission has been implementing policies and plans of action that seek to combat Human Trafficking in all its forms. ECOWAS he said will remain by the side of member states at all costs and in all areas, especial in the areas of security, including human security, democracy and good governance.

While opening the Conference, H.E. Julius Maada Bio, the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, underscored that his government has undertaken policy and legal reforms to enhance the



H.E. Dr. Omar Alieu Touray

Organization for Migration (IOM) was aimed at sharing lessons learnt in the implementation of the Member States' respective Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Action Plans to improve Protection, Prevention, Prosecution, and Partnerships in the fight against TIP and provide a platform for cross learning and agreement on key value-added interventions in

fight against Human Trafficking.

"This conference is an opportunity to strengthen regional coordination and cooperation through shared experiences. The roadmap will be a guidepost for the Region, and the jointly agreed upon interventions will reflect and amplify our collective goal to combat Human trafficking" he added.

## Starts on page 11 Gov't fights back

vaccines, which are provided by the Central Government through the National Budget or with assistance of Development Partners.

This amount includes US\$4.9million United States Dollars representing about 175 USD checks cashed out of the GoL Consolidated Revenue Account, and about LRD \$350 million (three hundred fifty million Liberian Dollars) representing more than 148 checks cashed out of the consolidated account for FY2022.

The health facilities include referral hospitals, hospitals, clinics, county health centers, etc.

The disbursement report and analysis as attached show that

some facilities received their operational support in both United States Dollars and Liberian Dollars while other received exclusively in Liberian dollar or United States Dollars

The top 10 receivers in the report accounts for about US\$3.8 million or 59 percent of the total US\$7.2 million disbursed to the 70 plus health facilities across Liberia. The top 10 receivers include referral hospitals such Jackson F. Doe, CB Dunbar, Phebe hospital school of Medicine, Telleweyon John F. Kennedy Memorial, and Redemption hospital, etc.

The below table summarizes the disbursements of resources to health facilities referenced and discussed in the preceding paragraphs.

# Français

## Le représentant Dennis fait exception à la déclaration de l'ambassadeur des États-Unis

La représentante du district n° 4 du comté de Montserrado, Rustonlyn Suacoco Dennis, s'en est prise à l'ambassadeur des États-Unis au Libéria, qualifiant sa déclaration d'injuste et trompeuse.

publié une déclaration, accusant les législateurs de beurrer leur propre pain, tandis que les masses souffrent.

La législatrice reconnaît le travail accompli par l'ambassadeur des États-Unis au Libéria au fil des ans et elle s'est dite reconnaissante pour ses

», poursuit-elle.

Dennis est d'accord avec M. McCarthy sur certaines questions soulevées dans sa déclaration sur le manque de responsabilité, les détournements de fonds publics, les fonds des donateurs, la mauvaise gouvernance et d'autres actes qui sapent le développement du Libéria et comprend sa frustration.

Mais elle estime que le diplomate américain a beaucoup exagéré quand-même.

Elle croit que la frustration a pris le contrôle total de l'ambassadeur au point « d'essayer de corriger le mal en mélangeant délibérément les mauvais fruits avec les bons fruits et en les présentant comme une limonade ».

« Permettez-moi de dire sans équivoque ici que notre budget que nous avons adopté n'est jamais de 65 millions, ensuite, les 40 millions et plus qui sont adoptés ne sont pas pour 30 sénateurs et 73 représentants, mais plutôt pour les plus de quatre mille travailleurs de l'administration centrale et tous les membres du personnel législatif », elle explique.

Elle estime les sommes que reçoivent légalement les législateurs pour les opérations ne peuvent pas être mises en question d'autant que M. Michael sait que le gouvernement américain

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 09

## Cummings mâche la déclaration de l'envoyé américain

Le porte-drapeau de la Collaboration des partis politiques (CPP), M. Alexander Cummings, a mis en garde les Libériens contre l'élection du président George Weah pour un second mandat, qui portera gravement atteinte à la crédibilité internationale du Libéria et aggravera les souffrances et la pauvreté du peuple libérien.

Cummings a déclaré que répéter l'erreur de réélire M. Weah chasserait complètement les partenaires et investisseurs à long terme du Libéria, avec des effets économiques dévastateurs sur les Libériens ordinaires.

Le porte-drapeau de la CPP a fait cette observation en réaction au communiqué de presse de l'ambassadeur américain Michael McCarthy dans lequel il a accusé l'administration Weah d'incompétence flagrante, de mauvaise gestion des fonds publics et de

services rendus.

« Dans votre récente déclaration, vous avez abordé plusieurs problèmes de mauvaise gouvernance et de mauvaises pratiques dans certains secteurs de ces comtés. Je suis ravie que vous ayez visité certaines des zones difficiles d'accès au Libéria et je vous remercie pour les interactions en face à face. Avec nos gens et l'expérience pratique

négligence pure et simple dans la gestion des affaires du peuple libérien.

M. Cummings a déclaré que les problèmes de vol continu et de mauvaise gestion flagrante des ressources publiques, tels que soulevés dans la récente déclaration de l'ambassadeur des États-Unis, ne sont pas étrangers aux Libériens.

« C'est la réalité quotidienne pour des millions de Libériens, que la gouvernance au Libéria soit

devenue si pourrie sous cette administration, au point que nos alliés traditionnels doivent soulever ces préoccupations dans la presse, est considéré comme un sérieux coup porté à l'image du Libéria », a déclaré Cummings.

Il a déclaré que le Libéria est devenu un État paria sous le gouvernement défaillant du CDC, décourageant et refusant les investisseurs et partenaires crédibles, indispensables pour relancer l'économie en difficulté et atténuer les

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 09

## Éditorial

### L'augmentation des cas d'avortement au Libéria est inquiétante

L'avortement est illégal au Libéria, mais selon une étude, près de 40 000 avortements ont lieu dans le pays par an, détruisant des vies innocentes. Cette tendance devrait attirer immédiatement l'attention du gouvernement, des militants des droits et des institutions religieuses, car ce sont des meurtres qui se commettent.

Selon l'étude nationale sur l'avortement au Libéria, en moyenne 38 779 avortements ont lieu au Libéria chaque année, c'est-à-dire 30 femmes âgées de 15 à 45 ans sur 1 000 avorte chaque année.

« Le taux d'avortement n'est pas homogène. Il varie selon les régions. Le centre-nord du pays a le taux d'avortement le plus bas (6,6 sur 1000), tandis que le centre-sud a le taux le plus élevé (49,7/1000). En outre, 14 555 femmes ont reçu des soins pour des complications liées à l'avortement dans les établissements. 67% ont eu lieu dans des établissements publics et 74% dans des établissements de niveau primaire », indique le rapport.

L'étude conclut que l'avortement provoqué est courant dans le pays, la plupart des cas étant liés à des grossesses non désirées.

Quelque chose semble manquer ici. Il semble y avoir une éducation limitée sur les rapports sexuels précoces et les risques associés. Les écoles, les églises et les mosquées et les maisons, sans oublier les hôpitaux et les établissements de santé ne semblent pas jouer leur rôle.

La science reproductive doit être enseignée dans les écoles et les institutions religieuses à travers le pays pour résoudre le problème des grossesses non désirées qui, selon le rapport, est à l'origine de la prévalence des avortements dans la société.

Le rapport met l'accent sur la diffusion et la mise en œuvre complètes de la loi révisée sur la santé publique du Libéria dans toutes les communautés, les centres de santé avec la participation des décideurs politiques pour assurer l'éducation et la sensibilisation de la communauté sur le danger de l'avortement à risque, tout en tenant compte du statut juridique existant de l'avortement et du point d'accès actuel.

Les parents et les tuteurs ont leur part de responsabilité dans cette pratique non autorisée car il semble que la discipline a été jetée par la fenêtre et que les enfants, filles et garçons, sont laissés à eux-mêmes pour expérimenter sexuellement ou pratiquer des relations sexuelles précoces et incontrôlées. N'oublions pas que la famille est la première cellule de la société, et si la discipline y est compromise, la société perd l'équilibre.

En bref, il nous faut limiter le nombre de grossesses non désirées grâce à une éducation vigoureuse et soutenue dans tous les secteurs de la société afin d'inverser la tendance.

Cela nécessite le soutien du gouvernement, en collaboration avec des partenaires. Plus tôt nous commencerons, mieux ce sera pour notre population, car le rapport n'a pas révélé le nombre de décès survenus lors de ces avortements.



Rep. Rustonlyn Suakoko Dennis



ANC leader Mr. Cummings



# Français

## Le représentant Dennis fait exception

alloue des fonds aux membres et aux femmes du Congrès pour les opérations, sauf que les Américains veulent des politiques et des lois, contrairement au Libéria où les citoyens optent pour des projets à impact législatif.

« Votre incapacité à analyser ces fonds d'engagement législatif, plus de quatre mille employés de l'administration centrale ainsi que les membres du personnel individuels a conduit à votre catégorisation générale de la législature. »

Dennis admet qu'il y a des gens totalement mauvais et corrompus au parlement, mais également, il y a des membres qui ne soutiennent

pas la corruption, le détournement de fonds publics et la mauvaise mise en œuvre des affectations législatives. Le parlement est une institution démocratique, pas tous les budgets qui sont adoptés reçoivent l'approbation de tous les membres. L'ambassadeur des États-Unis doit donc savoir qu'il y a des hommes et des femmes vaillants dans la législature libérienne.

« Avant que vous ne veniez au Libéria, nous avons fortement plaidé en particulier pour les législateurs qui partagent les mêmes idées. Votre déclaration générale ne nous a pas seulement blessés ou affaiblis, mais elle visait également à contrecarrer nos efforts et à détruire notre image publique aux yeux de nos électeurs malgré tous les sacrifices », déplore-t-elle.

## Cummings mâche la déclaration

souffrances de la grande majorité.

M. Cummings a déclaré que le président Weah et ses acolytes continuent de s'enrichir, tandis que les Libériens ordinaires continuent de souffrir, le chômage, la hausse du coût de la vie, l'insécurité croissante, la détérioration de la condition des familles, un afflux sans précédent de drogues dangereuses, et dans le même temps, des milliers de Libériens continuent de mourir de maladies facilement évitables, faute de médicaments dans les hôpitaux, causées par des la corruption.

Le porte-drapeau de la CPP a déclaré que ces rapports déchirants découverts grâce à l'initiative personnelle de l'ambassadeur des États-Unis indiquent qu'« il est temps de montrer la porte à Weah, ça suffit ».

Cummings a assuré qu'un gouvernement de la CPP remettrait certainement le Libéria sur la bonne voie en construisant un système fonctionnel sain pour restaurer les services sociaux essentiels de base pour le peuple libérien.

« Comme je l'ai promis à plusieurs reprises, nous lutterons énergiquement contre la corruption en donnant aux tribunaux les moyens de poursuivre rapidement et pleinement les affaires de corruption, en particulier pour les fonctionnaires aux plus hauts niveaux du gouvernement », a déclaré Cummings.

Il s'est engagé à supprimer tous les obstacles pour s'assurer que les entreprises locales se développent et créent plus d'emplois et, en

même temps, mettra en œuvre une stratégie agressive pour faire du Libéria une destination d'investissement attrayante pour les investisseurs internationaux, conformément à la vision à long terme du Libéria pour un changement réel dans Libéria.

Cummings a déclaré que les élections générales et présidentielles imminentes du 10 octobre consistaient à choisir entre l'ancienne « politique habituelle » qui a conduit le Libéria, où il en est aujourd'hui, et « un véritable leadership transformationnel axé sur les résultats qui fera une réelle différence dans la vie des gens. »

Le porte-drapeau de la CPP a déclaré dans toutes ses interactions avec les Libériens à l'échelle nationale, qu'il a vu et entendu les forts désirs de changement réel et a réaffirmé son engagement sincère en faveur d'un changement réel et authentique au Libéria.

Dans un communiqué de presse publié le lundi 24 avril 2023, M. McCarthy s'est demandé pourquoi son gouvernement ferait confiance au gouvernement libérien qui fait des promesses chaque année d'améliorer le secteur de la santé, étant donné son incapacité décaisser ne serait-ce 100 000 dollars pour le fonctionnement des hôpitaux existants.

« Quant à moi, si le Congrès américain demandait comment l'élite de Monrovia traite les citoyens démunis dans les comtés, ma réponse honnête devrait être : « ces citoyens sont traités avec une négligence qui frise le mépris. »

Le diplomate américain s'est dit tout à fait sûr que les Libériens des comtés ne sont pas informés que le parlement a dépensé plus au cours des trois dernières

années pour beurrer leur propre pain, allouant plus de 65 millions de dollars en 2022 pour leurs salaires et leurs opérations.

## Soudan : le Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU s'inquiète après un cessez-le-feu très partiel



**A**u Soudan, le cessez-le-feu de 72 heures conclu sous l'égide des États-Unis est entré dans son deuxième jour mercredi 26 avril. Mais les armes n'ont pas cessé de retentir, rapportent des habitants, qui s'inquiètent d'une situation changeante et confuse. Selon l'ONU, « les combats parfois même se sont intensifiés ». Le Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU s'est également réuni en urgence mardi 25 avril au soir autour de la situation fragile.

Pour le chef de la mission onusienne au Soudan Volker Perthes, qui s'adressait au conseil depuis Port-Soudan en visioconférence, le cessez-le-feu restait fragile et bien qu'en partie respecté dans certaines zones, les affrontements autour de « lieux stratégiques » ont « largement continué et parfois même se sont intensifiés ».

Les factions rivales du général Abdel Fattah al-Burhane, et de son ancien numéro 2 le général Mohamed Hamdane Daglo, dit « Hemedti », ne semblent pas prêtes à négocier sérieusement : chacune serait convaincue de pouvoir emporter une victoire militaire, tout simplement, rapporte notre correspondante à New York, Carrie Nooten.

L'émissaire de l'ONU au Soudan a aussi dénoncé les attaques contre les civils, les hôpitaux, les convois médicaux - et les violations nombreuses du droit de la guerre. La situation humanitaire, déjà très fragile au Soudan avec un tiers de la

population dépendante de l'aide, s'achemine vers une catastrophe.

Le secrétaire général de l'ONU Antonio Guterres et la représentante de l'Union africaine craignent une contagion du conflit hors des frontières. Autour de la table mardi, certaines voix, Soudan et Russie en tête, ont dénoncé des « ingérences » étrangères. D'autres craignent que la crise soudanaise ne suive rapidement l'exemple de la crise libyenne.

Au deuxième jour d'une trêve encore fragile à Karthoum, les habitants « entendent clairement le bruit » des armes

Au Soudan, des périodes de calme sont observées puis aussitôt rompues par des frappes aériennes et tirs d'armes lourdes qui touchent par intermittence une zone puis l'autre de la capitale. Dans le sud-est de la capitale, cet habitant du quartier d'Arkawet a profité de l'accalmie du premier jour de la trêve pour acheter de la nourriture mais ce matin, il n'était pas question de sortir, a-t-il rapporté à notre journaliste du service Afrique, Pauline Le Troquier : Au premier jour de la trêve annoncée, les deux parties belligérantes se sont accusées, l'une puis l'autre, de violer le cessez-le-feu qu'elles avaient initialement accepté. Les affrontements ont alors repris dans plusieurs lieux stratégiques notamment autour de l'aéroport International.

## Singapour affirme que des inconnus sont montés à bord d'un pétrolier au large de la Côte d'Ivoire

**U**n pétrolier immatriculé à Singapour a été arraisonné par des « personnes non identifiées » à environ 300 milles marins (555 km) au large de la Côte d'Ivoire dans le golfe de Guinée, a annoncé l'autorité portuaire de la ville-État.

Le golfe de Guinée était connu depuis longtemps comme un point chaud pour la piraterie mondiale, la compagnie d'assurance Beazley proposant le « Golfe de Guinée Piracy Plus », un plan d'assurance sur mesure pour les équipages maritimes voyageant dans la région. La zone maritime couvre 11 000 km<sup>2</sup> (4 247 milles carrés) et s'étend de l'Angola au Sénégal.

Mais les incidents de piraterie ont diminué depuis 2021 alors que les autorités nationales ont intensifié leurs efforts de sécurité, aidées par des navires de guerre étrangers, selon les Nations Unies.

Le pétrolier Success 9 avait à son bord 20 membres d'équipage de diverses nationalités dont un singapourien lorsqu'il « a été arraisonné par des personnes non identifiées » lundi, a indiqué l'Autorité maritime et portuaire de Singapour (MPA).



Dans un communiqué publié mardi, la MPA a déclaré qu'elle travaillait en étroite collaboration avec l'armateur, les responsables du sauvetage maritime de Monrovia et le centre de commandement et de contrôle de Changi de la cité-État pour surveiller la situation et fournir une assistance.

Il n'a donné aucun autre détail sur l'incident, comme les nationalités du reste de l'équipage.

Hai Soon Group, une société enregistrée à Singapour et propriétaire du pétrolier, a refusé tout commentaire immédiat, affirmant qu'il attendait de nouvelles mises à jour.

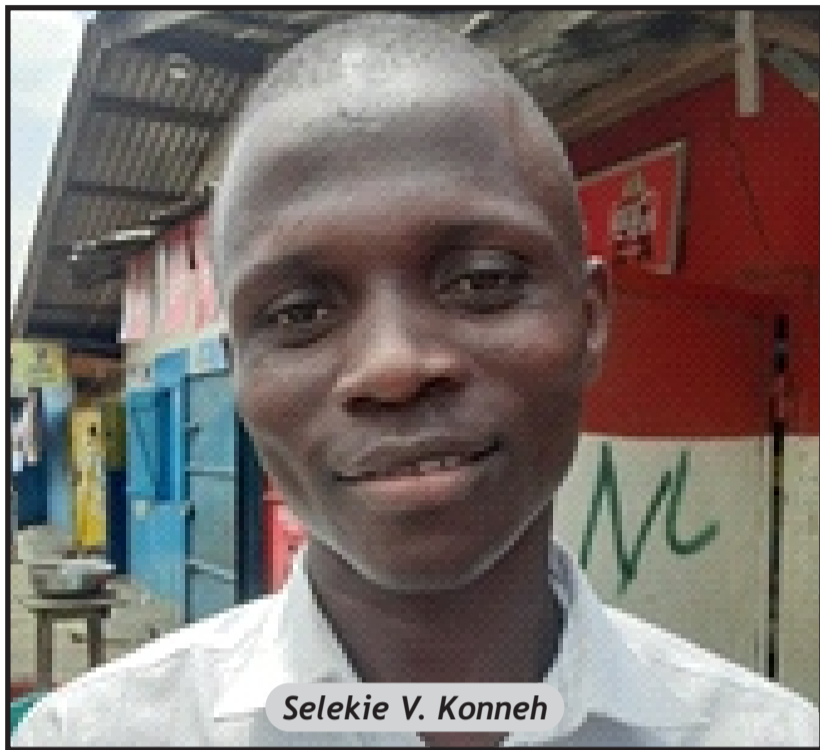
Le pétrolier opère dans la zone ouest-africaine depuis 60 jours, ont montré les données de suivi des navires de Refinitiv.

# LIBERIANS DEBATE

Topic: Politics

By Naneka A. Hoffman

Recently, Senator Prince Yormie Johnson of Nimba County appealed to former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to forgive her ex-Vice President Joseph Boakai and endorse his bid for the Presidency. But Liberians have been expressing their views on the Senator's call, with some deferring and others supportive, as compiled below.



Selekie V. Konneh

also, the leadership of the day wasted lots of opportunities. And who was the head at the time? It was Madam Ellen so, if you will say we wasted lots of opportunities it that means you are not only disgracing yourself or discrediting yourself but the entire leadership in the past (12) years. And understand that your wasted opportunity for the first (6) years. He should have resigned and allowed another person to go with the woman for the second 6 years. For my conclusion, I don't agreed with Prince Johnson's statement and I see no room for reconciliation for Madam Ellen to do such, and what she did to support President Weah during 2017 elections, I think it was the rightful decision she made."

“The issue that has to do with Madam Ellen forgiving Joseph Boakia or creating room for reconciliation between Madam Ellen and Joseph Boakai, I don't see it necessary because Joseph Boakia served as Vice President to Madam Ellen for the past (12) years. And when Joseph Boakai took over the party, we went for the debate; he used words that undermined and disgraced the woman's leadership for the past (12) years that has to do with him being an old car, packing in the garage. And

“I don't really know if there is a beef, because the both of them worked together. They have been saying that they don't have beef with each other. If there is any personal beef, it is important that bygone be bygone. But if there is nothing, then no need to waste time on Madam Ellen forgiving Joseph Boakai. Issue about reconciliation in this country should not be with leaders, it is something that should be done with honesty, even the ordinary people that other Liberians offended, they should be reconciled as well. But on the call from the Nimba County Senator Johnson, that Madam Sirleaf should forgive Joseph N. Boakai actually, all of them coming together in the opposition community to give President Weah a one term; for me, if there is a



Lahai D. Sonie

beef, it should be settled. But the issue whether there is a beef between Madam Sirleaf and her former Vice President Boakai, it needs to be settled. They don't need to be divided in this country. We need to be one to move ahead with development so, I do agree with the Senator that Madam Sirleaf should reconcile, as the only way Ambassador Boakai can make President Weah a one-term President."

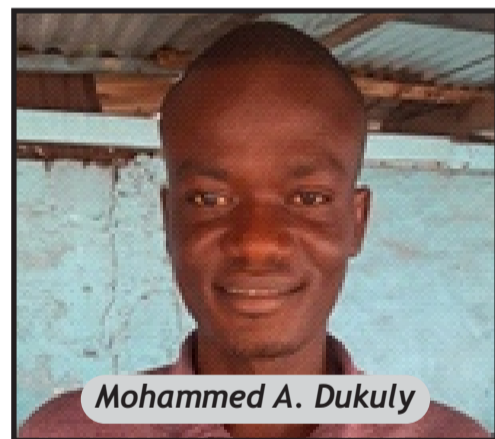
“I don't agree with Senator Prince Johnson's statement that former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf should forgive former Vice President Joseph Boakai. Boakai and former President Sirleaf worked for two terms together as President and Vice President. We didn't see fighting between them for power and there were no visible struggles that could threaten the viability of the state, that could call for an emergency but Prince Johnson knows what he knows, between Joseph Boakai and Madam Ellen. Politics is interest, but you don't force people to vote for



K. Yefuleh B. Giddings

you. In 2017, he went [contested] for the Presidency and the game went the way a went, and President Weah became victorious. So, he Ambassador Boakai needs to work on this to be able to make a win. But with Prince Johnson's statement, I don't agree Boakai should seek for forgiveness from former President Sirleaf. In my opinion, Boakai should engage the electorate more; nobody can stop him from getting elected whether support or not."

“I agreed with Senator Prince Y. Johnson that Madam Ellen should forgive Joseph Boakai, based on the political reality of the country. We live in a country today that is much more difficult than it used to be far years back so, based on the political negotiation that we going through, we think former Vice President Joseph Boakai needs former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's support and you can't underestimate Madam Ellen Johnson



Mohammed A. Dukuly

Sirleaf's support in the politics of Liberia so, based on this current reality, I do agree with Prince Johnson. Prince Johnson is looking at the biggest picture; he isn't looking at self-interest."

Firstly, his call is not sincere. Hon. Johnson as a preacher man, as he claimed, we thought Senator Johnson should be more honest to the society, owing to the fact that in this country for him at this time to still be in that circle, creating confusion in the state, I think is not ok. Senator Johnson is not sincere in his request for Madam



Abu Sheriff

Sirleaf to forgive Joseph Boakai. In fact, why? He's asking Madam Sirleaf to forgive Joseph Boakai when in fact Senator Johnson said that Joseph Boakai is living on battery and Joseph Boakai is not sincere."

# Gov't fights back

The Government of Liberia is fighting back to redeem its tainted image ahead of the crucial October 10, general and presidential elections, a day after US. Ambassador Michael McCarthy accused it of neglecting the leeward counties.

In a statement issued on Wednesday April 26, the government admitted that it

as hone the skills of service providers.

"This, in fact, was the central theme of the recently concluded 3rd International Symposium for Community Health Workers which was hosted in Monrovia and attended by hundreds of delegates from around the world. Many speakers, including those from the World Bank and the Global Financing

of thousands in Resettlement Action Plan to affected residents and can assure the Americans of Liberia's full preparedness to run the facility when it is completed in a few years.

It added that various initiatives are currently ongoing to train and retain healthcare professionals as a means of ensuring that all Liberians have access to quality healthcare services. As was announced by President Weah during his State of the Nation's address, a revolving fund is also being set up to address the perennial problem of drug shortages at some facilities.

It noted that similar efforts are being made in the educational sector as the Weah administration strengthens the free and compulsory primary education initiative, as well as the improvement of school infrastructure and the training and support of teachers. The government is also building new model schools and developing standard curriculums which have led to major improvements in students' performance in WAEC/WASSE.

The Liberian government values the longstanding partnership it shares with the U.S. and believes that open communication between both governments is important to the sustenance of this historical tie.

Data from the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning and validated by the Ministry of Health have been attached as proof of Cash Disbursement to Health Facilities Nationwide for Year Ended Fy2022.

The Government said this provides much needed explanation on the spending and disbursement pattern to health facilities within districts, towns, and villages across the 15 political subdivisions of Liberia. The summary also provides key information and clarification on actual disbursements and the mode of disbursement to health centers and the reporting requirements in order to correct the assertions made in the Ambassador's piece that no funding was reaching healthcare centers.

Facts about Disbursement:

- Under FY2022, about US\$7.2 million (Seven point two million United States Dollars) was disbursed to more than 70 hospitals, clinics health centers across Liberia. This amount represent operational activities and EXCLUDES Salaries of employees, rent, drugs, and

acknowledged the concerns raised by Amb. McCarthy in a press statement released on Monday, April 24 in which he highlighted the state of some health and education centers in the rural parts of the country - as well as efforts Liberia is making to decentralise development.

Facility, cited Liberia as a "powerful example" of how crucial it is to build a health workforce," the statement added. It stated that the government remains grateful for the goodwill and support it continues to receive from all development partners, including the U.S. government, without which this feat would not have been possible. The assistance, the government statement added, has proven vital to the giant strides the country has made over the years.

However, the government explained that it is important, to clarify that the US\$60 million referenced by the Ambassador is not money coming entirely to the government of Liberia, as has understandably been skewed by politicians - with an eye on the upcoming elections. Only a small fraction in Government-to-Government support, which is disbursed only after proof of performance, goes to government.

The Government narrated that the rest is expended through USAID's own funding mechanisms - directly to a select project implementer.

The government said it remains dedicated to investing in critical health infrastructure across the country as it builds clinics and hospitals, while also prioritising human capital development. Liberia is therefore thankful to the U.S. government for its decision to complement the government's efforts by constructing a National Reference Lab.

The government disclosed that it has disbursed hundreds

# APM Terminals blames LRA

By Lincoln G. Peters

APM Terminals Liberia has blamed the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) over the release of two containers in the US\$100m drugs case, claiming LRA had said the container owners met a full obligation.

APM Terminals Deputy Managing Director and Chief Financial Officer Mr. Emake Ogbaje Esq testified for his company at the ongoing trial at Criminal Court "C" Wednesday, 26 April 2023.

He said the containers were released on the instruction under the Delivery Privilege (DP) or point and go straight to the consignee.

On the witness stand, Mr. Emake Ogbaje Esq said the documents that APM Terminals received in the process of releasing the containers were from the shipping lines and the

cleared the company but charged several other suspects.

"I have in my hands, copies of the delivery order received [from] the shipping lines of the two containers," Mr. Emake Ogbaje Esq said. "The second which relies on the instruction from the Liberia Revenue Authority is the custom system," he added.

He detailed that upon receipt of the duty payment, APM Terminals also checks that the fees have been paid and loads the container on the truck before it goes to where it is designated.

"I have copies of the invoices of the payment made by the consignee of these containers," he continued.

Defense counsels recently invited six institutions and individuals to testify in the ongoing US\$100m case relating to cocaine discovered in TRH containers at the Freeport of Monrovia last year.

Based on the defense's request, the Court subpoenaed the



LRA.

He said the documents indicated that the owners of the containers had met their full obligation toward the shipping lines and the LRA.

The Criminal Court "C" is hearing a US\$100m drug case after the substances were discovered in containers belonging to Lebanese conglomerate TRH Trading Corporation. The government

Management of APM Terminals Liberia, NewDawn Newspaper publisher Mr. Othello B Garblah, Customs Broker Association, Management of the Liberia Freeport Authority, Financial Intelligence Agencies, and the Anti-Smuggling Unit at the Freeport of Monrovia.

They are subpoenaed to produce documents and testify to what they know about the drug bust.

Starts from page 7

## Professor Kaydor distances

undertaken for the period June 1, 2014 to July 31, 2015.

The audit was conducted based on a request from former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan, as a result of allegation of suspected fraud in the management of the Japanese funds.

"This report contains our findings and recommendations, based on the audit conducted of the project funds and evidence gathered. Based on the audit of documents and records of the Project, we gathered the following findings:

The Department has no project accountant to periodically monitor, review and

institute internal control over the Project funds;

No bank reconciliations of the two Project Accounts kept at Afriland Bank;

There was no segregation of duties of the financial activities of the Project; all the

financial activities were conducted by a single individual, the Project Manager; signature specimen obtained from the bank indicates that the Project Manager and the former Deputy Minister for Economic Cooperation empowered themselves with exclusive rights to withdraw funds from the accounts with a single signature requirement; this action set the basis for a potential fraud.

## Enforce same rules for all parties

### -EU tells NEC

The European Union Delegation to Liberia has urged Liberia's National Elections Commission (NEC) to enforce the same rules in dealing with all political parties in

others. "There are objective differences between the means and resources available to political parties, but the rules must be the same and the rules must be strictly enforced by the National Elections Commission and strictly respected by the political parties," said Amb.

election regulations," he continued.

According to him, the international community supports the electoral process in Liberia, adding that they support it politically and financially.

"We are great friends and admirers of the Liberian democracy, as you know."

Further, he indicated that some of them in the international community, if invited by the Government of Liberia and the NEC, will send observers for the election.

He revealed that there is at present, for instance, an exploratory mission from the European Union to prepare a possible European Union observation mission.

Amb. Delahousse detailed that the EU has met with media, political parties, the Elections Commission and all stakeholders, but there is no public communication at this stage.

"Third point, we support fully the National Elections Commission to organize the election," he said.

Meanwhile Amb. Delahousse noted that the EU Delegation has observed the voter registration process and it has witnessed during this registration process the practice of trucking.



EU Amb. Laurent Delahousse

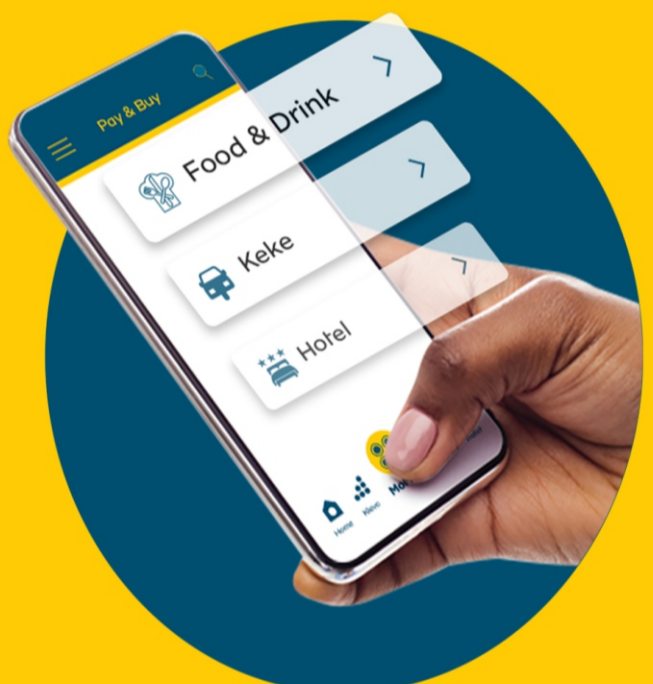
conducting the 2023 presidential and legislative elections.

Delahousse. The EU Envoy explained that campaign regulations are very important because, for the functioning of the Liberian democracy, it is essential that there is a level playing field.

"We have full trust in the National Elections Commission. We call on political parties and the National Elections Commission to be very clear on the implementation of the

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