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MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2023	LS159.9743/US\$1.00	LS162.1344/US\$1.00

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

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Will they stay on?

-As Boakai's VP pick may hurt allies



Nyonblee considers next course of action

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Continental News

Kenyan exonerated over UK holidaymaker's murder

An innocent man who was sentenced to death following the 2011 murder of a British tourist has had his conviction overturned at the Kenyan High Court. Ali Kololo was convicted of robbery with violence in

six months. She was only released after her adult son, Olly, negotiated a ransom deal. Following Ali Kololo's exoneration, Mrs Tebbutt - who has always maintained that he was not part of the gang that murdered her husband and campaigned for his release - said

Distinctive footwear he was allegedly wearing had been presented as crucial evidence at his 2013 trial and used to link him to the scene. But in February 2023, at an appeal supported by Reprieve, Kenya's director of public prosecutions decided his conviction had been based on hearsay evidence about him wearing the shoes, and presented to the court without disclosure of where the information had come from. Mr Kololo was then freed from Mombasa's Shimo La Tewa maximum security prison where he had been held for 11 years, pending today's judgment, which formally quashed his conviction. The UK's Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC), which had been investigating Det Ch Insp Neil Hibberd's role in the case since June 2018, had concluded that "had the officer still been serving, he would have had a case to answer for gross misconduct". The IOPC had not made public its findings.

Neil Hibberd, who retired in 2017, "absolutely disagrees with the [IOPC] findings", his lawyer told the BBC at the time.

However, speaking following Mr Kololo's exoneration, Mrs Tebbutt said she was "very concerned that the British police have been deeply implicated in this travesty of justice." BBC



David and Jude Tebbutt were holidaying in Kenya when they came under attack by Somali pirates

2013, after David Tebbutt was shot dead by suspected pirates. His sentence, later commuted to life imprisonment, has now been quashed. Mr Tebbutt's wife, Jude - who has supported Mr Kololo's fight for justice -

said she was "overjoyed". Mr Tebbutt and his wife Jude were staying at a secluded beachside resort on the Kenyan coast in 2011, when they came under attack by pirates. Mr Tebbutt was killed and Mrs Tebbutt was held hostage in nearby Somalia for

barely a day had gone by over the past decade when she had not thought of him.

"I'm not able to tell him face to face, but if I could, I would like to say: 'Ali I am so sorry that this happened to you and that you, your family and children have suffered so much.

"What happened to you was not right and [was] unfair, but I hope that over time you can all make a life for yourselves and find peace," Mrs Tebbutt said.

Mr Kololo's release comes after a ten-year campaign by human rights group, Reprieve.

Peace Talks Between Ethiopian Government, OLA Continue in Tanzania

Peace talks between Ethiopia's federal government and the rebel Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) have started in Tanzania's semi-autonomous island of Zanzibar. The talks, which began April 24, 2023, and are being mediated by Kenya and Norway, come at a critical time for Ethiopia, which has experienced a rise in ethnic tensions and violence in recent years.

The discussions are receiving a generally positive reception, with many expressing hope they will ultimately bring an end to the prolonged period of conflict and instability in Ethiopia.

Many analysts, including Abbas Mwalimu, a lecturer at the Tanzania Center for Foreign Relations, are closely monitoring the situation. Mwalimu has been following the conflict and said the talks are a step in the right

direction, but more needs to be done to achieve lasting peace and stability in Ethiopia. There will be a chance for success, Mwalimu said, but even greater success can be achieved if the two sides choose to revisit the Constitution and revise it to unify Ethiopia. He said the current Constitution, which allows for regions to have their own governance, is what fuels the

desire for separatism among the people.

As tensions rise over the incorporation of regional military fighters into the national army, Ibrahim Rahbi, a regional analyst, has suggested the Ethiopian government must carefully manage the process to prevent further conflicts. VOA



Members of an Oromo rebel group chat under a tree at their training camp in Ethiopia

Too scared to go to the toilet: Trapped in Sudan

Fighting is raging in Sudan's West Darfur region, despite the ceasefire, with Arab militias targeting warehouses, markets and homes.

A senior policeman has been killed and a Sudanese aid worker has told the BBC he has been hiding under his bed because of the violence. "I cannot even go to the bathroom," Abdallateif Eltayeb said over the phone from the city of El Geneina. The conflict has inflamed already fraught ethnic tensions, he says.

Darfur has been in turmoil for years with violence between its various African and Arab communities.

When non-Arabs took up arms against the government in 2003, complaining about discrimination, the government retaliated by mobilising mostly Arab

week. On Wednesday, the Deputy Police Director of West Darfur State, Brigadier General Abdel-Baqi Al-Hassan Mohamed, was reportedly shot and killed. This shooting took place a day after civilians stormed the West Darfur state police station, seizing weapons.

"Arab militias have been attacking internally displaced people," explains Mr Eltayeb. "They've burned all the IDP camps.

"The IDPs then went to the police HQ and now they're armed. They tried to defend themselves on Tuesday but they couldn't. There are a lot of dead people."

When Mr Eltayeb briefly tried to leave his house to charge his phone because he had not had any electricity in five days, he was faced with the horrific reality of the violence. "I saw pick-up trucks full of dead people and armed Arab militias were looking at us with angry eyes." After that I just went back home and I've been using my



militias who went on to be accused of widespread atrocities. To this day, many Darfuri African groups live in camps for their own safety.

Now Arab militias - linked to the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), the paramilitary group that is fighting the army - appear to be taking advantage of the security vacuum.

"The clashes started four days ago," says Mr Eltayeb, who is a 26-year-old humanitarian consultant originally from Sudan's capital, Khartoum. "Militias are attacking markets, warehouses, offices, organisations, hospitals and now they're targeting homes. I'm just waiting for my turn." There's a lot of shooting in the front yard, close to where the bathroom is. Every time I want to go to the bathroom I have to wait five to 10 minutes to see if there's any shooting and then I can go.

Heavy fighting has been reported in West Darfur all

power bank but the battery is almost drained. I might not have any battery left by the end of the day." He is desperate to get out. "My colleagues and I have talked about trying to escape but there's no chance, zero chance." War Child, the charity he consults for, says it is working with the UN to relocate their Sudanese staff that are not from the region, but are facing huge challenges.

"We're doing everything we can to support our staff, but right now in El Geneina the violence has escalated to the point that even for the UN to try and do any kind of relocation, it's going to be incredibly challenging," Dara McLeod, executive director of War Child Canada, told the BBC.

UN special envoy to Sudan Volker Perthes agreed that groups in Darfur were "exploiting the situation and pursuing their own conflicts." This is made worse by the fact that the actors that are supposed to provide security for the people in the country, in Darfur and other regions, are actively involved in the fighting themselves," he told the BBC.

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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Monrovia-Liberia. Tel: +231-06484201, +231-77007529, +231-0555422200 /
+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan K. Browne
www.thenewdawnliberia.com; Email: info@thenewdawnliberia.com

COMMENTARY

By Atiya Aabroo

Women Health Workers Hold the Key to Eradicating Polio

SLAMABAD - Anyone who witnesses a polio vaccination campaign in Pakistan will notice something remarkable: in most areas, the majority of health workers moving house to house to vaccinate children against this highly infectious paralytic disease are women.

But despite their outside role in providing life-saving vaccinations and other essential services to children in every corner of the country, these frontline workers are rarely consulted on matters of health policy. This year, as Pakistan strives to eradicate wild polio once and for all, input and feedback from the women leading these efforts on the ground must be incorporated into the program's design. There is no hope of success otherwise.

Today, wild polio - a scourge that once caused irreversible paralysis, or even death, all around the world - remains endemic in just two countries: Afghanistan and Pakistan. Vaccination is the key to stopping this virus once and for all, and in Pakistan, the success of vaccination campaigns largely depends on female health workers. In many communities, women can enter homes where men cannot and, as a result, are able to build lasting trust with families.

Decades of progress, reflecting the work of thousands, have brought us closer to success than ever before: wild polio cases in Pakistan are at an extreme low, endemic transmission is now geographically restricted to just seven districts, and ten of the 11 strains of virus circulating in 2020 have been wiped out.

A polio-free Pakistan is within our grasp, and the women on the frontlines will help to carry us over the finish line. Recognizing this reality, the country's polio eradication program launched an unprecedented initiative to listen to underrepresented female health workers and engage them as co-partners in designing solutions to end polio in Pakistan.

The first step was to gather data at scale by surveying a representative sample of more than 2,600 women working in the highest-risk districts. They answered questions about their experiences and challenges in the field, including the barriers to reaching children during campaigns and administering vaccines in homes, as well as their motivations and safety concerns.

Based on the survey results, 14 in-person workshops were held across the country, bringing together hundreds of female frontline workers in dedicated listening sessions. In addition to swapping stories and experiences, attendees suggested solutions for the biggest hurdles to ending polio in their districts and shared their hopes for future livelihoods beyond polio. The leadership at Pakistan's National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) - the heart of the country's polio program -

promised to review and act on the valuable feedback gathered from these structured listening sessions.

I was lucky enough to attend one of the workshops, and the sense of excitement was palpable. Knowledgeable women, whose extremely valuable work has been underappreciated for too long, finally had the floor and were eager to help design a more effective program that better reflects the reality they face every day.

The importance of such an exercise was evident from their creative ideas for addressing practical challenges like having to choose between walking for hours or hiring private transport during rush hour in order to get to work on time. They also brainstormed about how to overcome parents' refusal of the polio vaccine, owing to misconceptions about how best to protect their children, and disrespect for polio workers in many communities.

This co-design initiative is just one example of the Pakistani government's revitalized commitment to engage women more deeply in public-health efforts. The NEOC, for example, established its own National Gender Group, tasked with giving a voice to the women who are essential to eradication efforts - starting with initiatives like this one.

Pakistan's government was the first in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative to launch such a program, and I am encouraged to see that we are not alone. With similar efforts to listen to and learn from female health workers now underway in Somalia, Nigeria, and other countries, a global movement is taking shape. In many places, it is the first time that women have a seat at the policymaking table.

As the world faces a historic convergence of crises, from climate change to pandemics and persistent conflict, women's policy input is indispensable - and not just to improving health care. After years spent engaging with local communities in order to battle outbreaks and provide essential services, these frontline workers will play a crucial role in designing solutions far beyond the eradication of polio.

Here in Pakistan, our polio program's National Gender Group has much work to do. Female health workers across the country have proposed hundreds of solutions to address the key challenges they face, and the program is now reviewing and refining them, and deciding which will be implemented later this year.

Thousands of women have raised their voices, and we owe it to them to act. At the workshop, I understood that the future of Pakistan rests in their hands. Following their lead in fine-tuning Pakistan's polio eradication effort is the key to ending this disabling and life-threatening disease.



Lord, is it true da de Footballer ask for 200k just to rent car?

Dear Father:

Huh, dis orlor gees here it full my mouth oo. Is it true da the Footballer asked for 200k of Uncle Sam money to just to rent car in Uncle Sam's Cousin village?

Da news ooh, bor da true? I heard one insider crying all over de place ooh. Huh, dis one da na small gallah ooh. My son you say whatin na happen again?

Huh, Father, they say the Footballer tell him people he wan 200k jus to rent one car in those Obroni village for two days ooh. You say whatin?

Father, dis one da na benny seed popping from my mouth ooh. They say de people fini doing de paperwork for de money and our Big Brabee will soon be leaving to go for some kinda program in Obroni village.

Hmm, so you mean all da plenty money da jus for renting one car? Wait ooh, de car get gold on it, or diamond scattered all over it? De thin sef na full my mouth.

Bor wait ooh, dis 200k here ehn dey geh perdiem and all kinda small, small thin insah it? I beg you yah Father, they say it na insah oo da jus for de car one ooh-chey!

Anyway, we insah propro. So, dey say what da orlor Palestinian man say he wor doing de orlor day?

Oh, Father, you na heard, dey say conned man say he wor holding some kinda dry face march for all de people in de orlor side to come together oo.

You say whatin? He better go and find himself a place to go sit down. He think da Palestine her ehn?

Those people dem look leh people who wan come together. Da na so, so scam dey on there whole day. All lor your geh one man to fight bor instead of yor putting all yor energy whole day yor sit down there pulling each other apart nonsense!

Wait, ehn we here. De good news is da dis our village here de people know how to rub thins in people face. Our old people say de child who can't hear will suffer.

Bor Father, you, yor self too ya, wah do you expect from greedy people? Wen you na wan share da wah can happen; you can lose everything.

The one I can't understand sef da de cussing each orlor dey can be doing. Yor na enemy. All lor yor wan remove one man bor yor can't even stand each orlor in de face. SO, who will support who na?

No wonder, everyday somebody jumping ship. Bor how de people will na be jumping ship and the side they belong to de only thin dey know is to be fighting each orlor. If dey na in the Palaver Hut today, tomorrow dey to de voting house, Da how yor will be?

OP-ED

By Ahmed Ogwel Ouma

Global Health Institutions Need Africa

ADDIS ABABA - Public-health policy has adopted an increasingly expansive perspective in recent years, reflecting a growing awareness of the many factors influencing human well-being, including the health of ecosystems and animals, and the need to facilitate global collaboration. By bridging disciplines and transcending borders, we can better address emerging threats and improve health outcomes for all.

Global pandemic preparedness, for example, requires international alignment on how to modify health infrastructure and tailor responses. The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), of which I am acting director, has participated in several global discussions on the subject, ensuring that Africa's interests - and the Global South's perspective more generally - are represented in venues where they have been historically sidelined. Genuine inclusion of African voices in policy deliberations, especially early in the process, is the only way to establish common positions that do not leave low- and middle-income countries to fend for themselves.

As the public-health arm of the African Union (AU), the Africa CDC collaborates with member states on numerous regional programs. The next step is to increase the continent's participation in global decision-making, especially when policies have greater implications for places where disease outbreaks and health emergencies are more frequent - like most countries in Africa. Currently, voices from the Global South are rarely heard on the international stage, and African participants at global health forums and conferences are often isolated, or else included further downstream only after decisions have already been made. Thoughtful, deliberate action is therefore required to bring these stakeholders to the table early on.

The Africa CDC and similar organizations must take the lead in conceptualizing and developing new platforms that give voice to the countries most affected by global inequality. In parallel, existing institutions and working groups must consult with African governments in a genuine and serious way.

The ongoing review of the World Health Organization's International Health Regulations is a good example of greater inclusion. Member states of the WHO African Region proposed amendments that reflect their unique needs and advocated for increased collaboration and equity, including a stronger requirement for state parties to deliver health products and technologies to other jurisdictions that need them to fight public-health emergencies. The proposed changes also called for expanded benefit-sharing as a prerequisite for transferring biological material and data, and the establishment of a financial mechanism that provides grants or concessional loans to developing countries, which often lack the funding to prepare for future health crises.

By contrast, suboptimal representation of Africa in the World Bank's Pandemic Fund represents a missed opportunity. Considering that the Africa CDC directly supports AU member states in responding to health emergencies, we could have played an essential role in this new decision-making body. While the AU is not yet one of the Pandemic Fund's Implementing Entities, we encourage member states to participate in the Fund's first call for proposals.

There are signs that institutional change is taking root. The zero draft of the WHO instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response, created for the intergovernmental negotiating body, proposes granting single votes to states at the Conference of the Parties. It also recognizes the potential for regional bodies to exercise the full number of their members' votes (if none of the member states exercises its right). This system would better reflect the majority view of the Global South in the Conference of the Parties, while also acknowledging the coordinating role of regional organizations. The regional representation and co-chairing arrangements envisaged for the instrument's intergovernmental negotiating body are likewise a step in the right direction. More should be done, however, to normalize equity by using binding language for relevant financing and intellectual-property commitments.

More forceful terms are also important in realizing the 100 Days Mission, which aims to develop and enable access to safe and effective vaccines against new pathogens within 100 days of an epidemic or pandemic threat being identified. The Africa CDC will closely monitor the initiative and related projects, which should guarantee, rather than merely enable, equitable access and distribution. The recent announcement of a vaccine-manufacturing partnership between the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations and Institut Pasteur de Dakar, for example, should boost domestic drug supplies.

The Africa CDC recognizes that promoting African countries' influence on global health policy must be combined with efforts to shape priorities and policies on the continent. This includes leading discussions and creating platforms like the Conference on Public Health in Africa. Two areas ripe for partnership and investment are the regional manufacturing of medicines and medical supplies and the implementation of a "One Health" approach - balancing the health of people, animals, and ecosystems - to reduce the threat of zoonotic diseases and prevent future public-health emergencies.

While COVID-19 demonstrated the Africa CDC's ability to marshal a well-coordinated response, it also revealed that promises and pledges from foreign partners do not always translate into meaningful support. Guided by the New Public Health Order, the Africa CDC's latest health-security agenda, and the need to correct imbalances and make our public-health systems more self-sufficient, we will continue to amplify voices from the continent and champion partnerships between African institutions and like-minded global actors. We are committed to playing our role in ensuring that Africa is part of an inclusive global health system and is represented at forums that impact global health security. The next serious disease outbreak is just around the corner, and it is up to us to be ready.



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
- 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
Factor #1	20 points
Factor #2	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.

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.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

LNBA seeks full involvement

-In Liberia October 10 election
By Lincoln G. Peters

The Liberian National Bar Association (LNBA) says it has developed a concept note seeking full involvement and participation in the electoral process of Liberia in the

residents. He said the Bar has shared the concept note and held meetings with the European Union, the World Bank, USAID, and UNDP to see how they can have the LNBA's involved in the electoral process.

"...Because this country is at

on violence. Rennie pointed out that if the LNBA concept note is approved by the international partners, they will use lawyers to help implement the project in educating the public about election matters and violence.

"We are hoping that if the package is approved, we will be coming to you to help us implement it," said Rennie.

"Because some of you have to be stationed in the various counties either as observers or lecturing magistrates and conducting civic education and educating our people on election violence in the various communities," he added.

He mentioned that the legal aid program has its own project, but because of resources, they can't extend the program to other counties.

Speaking to the Association of Public Defenders, Cllr. Rennie said there are challenges within the rule of law program.

"Like one of the speakers said, people are condemned before they are even allowed to serve justice," he said.

"But, again, we have to all work together to ensure that public education becomes paramount as it relates to the rule of law," he stated.

The LNBA president thanked the Public Defenders Association for its numerous sacrifices irrespective of the incentive.

"The job that you do is very difficult. Some of you are assigned up interior and some of you hardly get to your working place, you have to commute by means of motorcycle which is very risky," Cllr. Rennie concluded.



Cllr. Sylvester Rennie

pending October 10 presidential and legislative elections.

LNBA president Cllr. Sylvester Rennie disclosed the plan Thursday, 27 April 2023 at the National Association of Public Defenders of Liberia.

Rennie said the Bar has developed a concept note which is currently before several diplomatic partners seeking the full involvement of the LNBA in the pending elections.

According to Cllr. Rennie, Liberia is at a critical road and the LNBA must be involved in the electoral process to address some of the election violence and promote legal education for citizens and

a critical road and the Bar must be involved," Rennie said.

The National Association of Public Defenders of Liberia on Thursday, 27 April 2023, kicked off its fifth annual convention.

The program was held at the ballroom of the Temple of Justice under the theme: "Presumption of innocence until proven guilty, protecting the rights of an accused person under our laws."

The program was graced by several lawyers and many others.

Speaking further at the program, Cllr. Rennie explained that in the concept paper, they have a portion on elections' early warning signs which have to do with educating the public

Weah dedicates FA new headquarters after 87yrs

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

The Liberia Football Association (LFA) will finally have a new home in Congo Town, Monrovia when former world's football icon President George Manneh Weah, leads an array of government officials, football legends and former soccer players of the Liberia National Team today, Friday, 28 April to commission a three-storey multipurpose headquarters of the Liberia Football Association.

The structure is located in Swankamore community along Samuel Kanyon Doe Boulevard, outskirts of Congo Town.

The facility valued US\$1.5 million, and designed by CESAF-Liberia Limited, a Liberian owned construction company, through fundings under the former FIFA Goal

project, will replace the current LFA House of Football, at the Antionette Tubman Stadium (ATS) between UN-Drive and Lynch Street, Central Monrovia.

The three-storey building contains a ground floor, luxurious entrance and a very spacious conference room,

fully air-conditioned offices occupying the first and second floors respectively, among other modern facilities.

The new LFA headquarters is the first-ever owned by the government since its

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



Over 8,000 Liberians in Ivory Coast pledge support to Weah

By Lincoln G. Peters

Over eight thousand Liberians residing in neighboring Ivory Coast have pledged their unflinching support to the re-election bid of incumbent President George Manneh Weah.

Mr. Weah is seeking re-election during the polls due 10 October 2023 against several opposition presidential hopefuls.

The group pledging their support is under the banner "Liberians Residing in the Ivory Coast for President Weah."

They said they have decided to support the re-election bid of President Weah due to his many developmental activities and better leadership displayed. Mr. Robert Varney Zokar, Chairman

This is the first time for us to see such development," he added.

"We are optimistic that President Weah will win this election with a resounding one round victory. We are over eight thousand Liberians residing in the Ivory Coast that are giving support," he continued.

According to him, they have held town hall meetings on various occasions in the Ivory Coast and in Liberia with the President and his delegates. He indicated that in their meetings, they have been strategizing ways to have President Weah re-elected to continue his developmental work.

"We have met with President Weah in the Ivory Coast, but not on the line of CDC," he said.

Meanwhile, the Ivorian-based Liberian has appealed to members



Mr. Robert Varney Zokar

of the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) Ivory Coast chapter, revealed the group's plan in an exclusive interview with the NewDawn newspaper Thursday, 27 April 2023.

He stated that their membership is currently over eight thousand Liberians residing in the Ivory Coast.

He explained that they have recognized President Weah's numerous development activities across the country, especially roads, health, education, infrastructure and the alleged stability of the economy. Mr. Zokar further hailed President Weah for paving enough roads across the country.

"I am seeing university free, and Liberians going to school.

of the ruling CDC for logistical assistance for the party's chapter in Ivory Coast. He pleaded that transportation and other things are needed for Liberians in the Ivory Coast to go to nearby border towns and register to vote. "Now, I am in Liberia and will meet with the chairman of CDC and other high executives to see how best they can provide the logistics for all the Liberians in the Ivory Coast to get to their nearby border line to register," he said.

"We will be coming to register through the various border lines, especially through Maryland, Nimba and, Grand Gedeh Counties, among others, to register and vote for President Weah.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

No support to Boakai

-Snowe clarifies

By Lewis S Teh

Bomi County Senator Edwin Melvin Snowe dismisses speculations from the public here that he has crossed over to the opposition Unity Party

admits to visiting Vice President Boakai's residence in the county.

"Now let me make this clarity, the morning I went to see the former Vice President, it was the same morning Senators Koung and Lawrence were meeting with the former

Weah remains firm; there has been no reason to shift my support; I will support him; I made a commitment to that." Snowe says in the pending election, he would do nothing to create enemies because of politics, noting that Senators Nyonblee Kangar Lawrence of Grand Bassa and Jeremaih Koung of Nimba counties are both his friends despite they being in the opposition.

He continues that while Senator Lawrence was making her way to meet the former Vice President, he (Snowe) had left the residence to distribute rice and other items sent by President Weah to hospitals, prisons, and the Muslim community in Bomi.

He maintains that contrary to speculations, the senators (Koung and Lawrence) didn't even explain to him outcome of the meeting they held with Ambassador Boakai.

However, he reveals that the brief meeting held with the former Vice President was to put aside their differences, and there was nothing like pledging support. "We shook hands; he was very nice and mature to me, as usual and we both put our differences behind us. So, I'm confused when people start to speculate; I remain unbending in my support to President Weah", Snowe vows.

He has plied his political trade from the National Patriotic Party to the former ruling Unity Party before leading support to President Weah. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Vice President at his residence in Bomi County", he added.

"I'm not a small boy in Liberia politics, whether people like me or not. If for any reason I decide that I will shift my support from President Weah in this 2023 elections, I will drive up to him and tell him the reason behind my decision."

According to him, as it stands, he doesn't see any reason to withdraw support from President Weah saying, if the need be in the future, he will do it but for now there's absolutely no reason.

"My support for President

community and its environs before moving to Grand Bassa. The L\$4 million loan scheme is intended to empower women who are struggling to improve their businesses.

The loan is interest-free and

performing individuals are expected to be given more money above the set threshold.

Mr. Freeman said due to the bad handling of the

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



Simeon Freeman

25 Liberia student leaders to benefit diplomatic training in China

By Kruah Thompson

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has announced the selection of 25 student leaders to undergo three weeks of diplomatic training in China.

The initiative aims at enhancing their leadership skills and prepare them to represent Liberia on the international stage and at home.

The announcement was made by Minister Dee Maxwell Kemayah during a briefing at the Ministry of Information Cultural Affairs and Tourism on Thursday, April 27.

According to him, the program is part of the ongoing reform process at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, under the vision and directives of President Weah, to prioritize and attract support for

in Training Initiative will provide training opportunities for young Liberians from across the country who are interested in pursuing careers in diplomacy but lack the financial resources to do so.

"The 25 participants were selected through an objective and balanced equal opportunities process based on merit, with no consideration given to their political affiliation," he said.

According to him, participants were nominated or recommended by organizations including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Liberia, the Federation of Liberian Youth, Liberia National Student Union, University of Liberia Student Union, Montserrado County Student Union, Grand Bassa University Student Union, Sinoe University



Liberia's rapid post-war development.

Minister Kemayah emphasized the importance of developing a technocratic foreign service for Liberia and enriching previous programs and initiatives to support Liberia's economic development and diplomacy efforts.

Minister Kemayah explained that the Liberian Young Diplomat

Student Union, Maryland University Student Union, Margibi University Student Union, Bong University Student Union, Union of Nimba County University Student Association, Lofa University Student Union, Rivercess University Student Union, Grand Cape Mount University Student Union, Gbapulu University Student Union, Bomi University Student

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

Starts on page 11 Nyonblee considers

The female senator notes that upon conclusion of a brief meeting with Ambassador Boakai, a meeting of the executive leadership of the Liberty Party was convened immediately to inform the party about the outcome of her conversation with Ambassador Boakai.

According to her, consistent with the LP's tradition, the executive leadership has unanimously resolved at its sitting to consult its various constituents across the country and in the diaspora in order to provide a clear direction for partisans, many of whom had been anxiously waiting for the

pronouncement of Ambassador Boakai.

Senator Lawrence discloses that consultations have already begun, and in subsequent time, the public, partisans and supporters will be duly informed of the direction for the 2023 elections. "Meanwhile, we wish to admonish all partisans and supporters of the Liberty Party to remain calm as we conclude these processes. Let it not be forgotten that we embarked on this journey with a deep commitment to work with like-minded forces to bring about real and positive change in the governance of our dear country and to give the Liberian people a government that they truly deserve", she concludes.

Français

Le gouvernement répond à l'ambassadeur McCarthy

Le gouvernement du Libéria a démenti les accusations portées contre lui pour racheter son image entachée avant les élections générales et présidentielles cruciales du 10 octobre.

de certains centres de santé et certaines écoles dans les régions rurales du pays, le diplomate américain a accusé l'état du Libéria de négligence.

Mais le gouvernement, dans sa réponse signée par le ministre de l'Information Ledgerhood Rennie, a déclaré que le pays continue de

ralenti la croissance dans de nombreuses régions du monde.

Le gouvernement reconnaît qu'il y a toujours place à l'amélioration, en particulier dans l'allocation et le décaissement des fonds pour les services essentiels, mais le récit tel qu'exprimé par l'ambassadeur McCarthy est inexact.

Les secteurs de la santé et l'éducation, selon le gouvernement, sont des secteurs dans lesquels le gouvernement continue d'étendre ses efforts pour augmenter la couverture afin de répondre aux besoins de millions de Libériens, ainsi que de perfectionner les compétences des prestataires de services.

« C'était en fait le thème central du 3e Symposium international des agents de santé communautaires qui s'est récemment tenu à Monrovia et auquel ont participé des centaines de délégués du monde entier. De nombreux orateurs, y compris ceux de la Banque mondiale et du Mécanisme de financement mondial, ont cité le Libéria comme un "exemple puissant" de l'importance cruciale de la constitution d'un personnel de santé », ajoute le communiqué.

Il a déclaré que le gouvernement reste reconnaissant pour la bonne volonté et le soutien qu'il continue de recevoir de tous

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 09



américain Michael McCarthy de négliger les comtés, le gouvernement du Libéria, dans une déclaration publiée le mercredi 26 avril, a certes admis les préoccupations soulevées par M. McCarthy, mais il a fait valoir que certaines choses dites par le diplomate américain ne sont pas vraies.

Dans un communiqué de presse publié le lundi 24 avril dans lequel il a souligné l'état

faire des progrès significatifs depuis la fin de la guerre civile, qui a déchiré le pays pendant plus d'une décennie et l'a plongé davantage dans la pauvreté.

Il a ajouté que les efforts récents, notamment ceux de l'administration Weah visant à relancer les infrastructures essentielles ont été salués par divers partenaires bilatéraux et multilatéraux. Ces efforts s'accroissent malgré les difficultés économiques mondiales qui ont

Mali : le groupe État islamique appelle ceux qui l'ont combattu à déposer les armes

Le groupe État islamique appelle ceux qui l'ont combattu à déposer les armes. Dans un message audio mis en circulation il y a plusieurs jours, un cadre de l'État islamique au Sahel propose le « repentir » et la soumission. Un message de propagande diffusé alors que le groupe jihadiste assoit sa domination sur une grande partie du nord-est du Mali.

Youssef Ould Chouaib est un cadre de la branche sahélienne du groupe État islamique dans le Liptako-Gourma, zone des trois frontières Mali-Niger-Burkina. Malien arabe par son père et tamachek (touareg) par sa mère, il est parmi les initiateurs de la vaste offensive menée depuis mars 2022 par l'État islamique dans le nord-est du Mali.

Plusieurs sources sécuritaires locales jointes

par RFI reconnaissent formellement sa voix sur cet audio de propagande de trois minutes, également authentifié par Menastream, organisation spécialisée sur les questions de sécurité et de jihadisme au Sahel et en Afrique du Nord. Qui précise que l'audio n'a pas été diffusé par les canaux officiels du groupe État islamique - ce qui est

habituel pour ce type d'initiatives locales et non « centrales » - et qu'il a commencé à circuler pendant le mois de ramadan, après l'arrivée de l'État islamique à Tidermène le 10 avril dernier. Une incursion qui a consacré la domination du groupe dans la région de Ménaka.



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.

Français

Le représentant Dennis fait exception

Les partenaires au développement, y compris le gouvernement américain, sans lesquels cet exploit n'aurait pas été possible. L'aide, ajoute le communiqué du gouvernement, s'est avérée vitale pour les pas de géant que le pays a réalisés au fil des ans.

Cependant, le gouvernement a expliqué qu'il est important de préciser que les 60 millions de dollars américains mentionnés par l'ambassadeur ne sont pas remis entièrement au gouvernement du Libéria, comme les politiciens ne cessent de le faire croire en vue des élections à venir. Seule une petite fraction de l'aide de gouvernement à gouvernement, qui n'est décaissée qu'après preuve de performance, va au gouvernement.

Le gouvernement a indiqué que le reste est dépensé par le biais des propres mécanismes de financement de l'USAID - directement à un exécutant de projet sélectionné.

Le gouvernement s'est dit déterminé à investir dans les infrastructures de santé essentielles à travers le pays pour construire des centres de santé et des hôpitaux et à donner la priorité au développement du capital humain. Le Libéria est donc reconnaissant au gouvernement américain pour sa décision de compléter les efforts du gouvernement en construisant un laboratoire national de référence.

Le gouvernement a révélé qu'il a déboursé des centaines de milliers de dollars dans le cadre du plan d'action de réinstallation pour les résidents concernés et peut assurer les Américains de la pleine préparation du Libéria à gérer l'installation lorsqu'elle sera achevée dans quelques années.

Il a ajouté que diverses initiatives sont actuellement en cours pour former et retenir les professionnels de la santé afin de faire en sorte que tous les Libériens aient accès à des services de santé de qualité. Comme l'a annoncé le président Weah lors de son discours sur l'état de la nation, un fonds de roulement est également mis en place pour résoudre le problème persistant des pénuries de médicaments dans certains établissements.

Il a dit que des efforts similaires sont déployés dans le secteur de l'éducation alors que l'administration Weah renforce l'initiative

d'enseignement primaire gratuit et obligatoire, ainsi que l'amélioration des infrastructures scolaires et la formation et le soutien des enseignants. Le gouvernement construit également de nouvelles écoles modèles et développe des programmes d'études standard qui ont conduit à des améliorations majeures des performances des élèves aux examens de fin d'année.

Le gouvernement libérien apprécie le partenariat de longue date qu'il partage avec les États-Unis et estime qu'une communication ouverte entre les deux gouvernements est importante pour le maintien de ce lien historique.

Les données du ministère des Finances et de la Planification du développement et validées par le ministère de la Santé ont été jointes comme preuve de décaissement en espèces à l'intention des établissements de santé à l'échelle nationale pour l'exercice clos l'exercice 2022.

Le gouvernement a déclaré que cela fournit une explication bien nécessaire sur le modèle de dépenses et de décaissement des établissements de santé dans les districts, villes et villages à travers les 15 subdivisions du Libéria. Le résumé fournit également des informations clés et des éclaircissements sur les décaissements réels et le mode de décaissement pour les centres de santé et les exigences en matière de rapports afin de corriger les affirmations faites dans l'article de l'ambassadeur selon lesquelles aucun financement n'atteint les centres de santé.

Faits sur le décaissement :

- Au cours de l'exercice 2022, environ 7,2 millions de dollars américains (sept virgule deux millions de dollars américains) ont été versés à plus de 70 hôpitaux, cliniques et centres de santé à travers le Libéria. Ce montant représente les activités opérationnelles et EXCLUT les salaires des employés, le loyer, les médicaments et les vaccins, qui sont fournis par le gouvernement central à travers le budget national ou avec l'aide des partenaires au développement.

- Ce montant comprend 4,9 millions de dollars américains représentant environ 175 chèques en dollars américains encaissés sur le compte de recettes consolidé du GoL, et environ 350 millions de dollars LRD (trois cent cinquante millions de dollars libériens) représentant plus de 148 chèques encaissés sur le compte consolidé pour l'exercice 2022.

- Les établissements de santé comprennent les hôpitaux de référence, les hôpitaux, les cliniques, les centres de santé régionaux.

- Le rapport de décaissement et l'analyse ci-jointe montrent que certaines installations ont reçu leur soutien opérationnel à la fois

Afrique «Le retour de la dignité» pour les tirailleurs sénégalais de Bondy en région parisienne, attendus à Kaolack



Les valises sont bouclées et le moment de quitter la France approche pour Gorgui M'Bodji, Ousmane Sagna, Oumar Dieme et Yoro Diao, quatre des neuf tirailleurs sénégalais attendus au Sénégal. Un repos bien mérité pour ces vétérans de Bondy, en banlieue nord de Paris, qui ont mené une longue bataille contre l'administration française pour la reconnaissance de leurs sacrifices sous le drapeau tricolore.

Ils sont neufs à partir et ils ont entre 80 ans et 96 ans pour le plus ancien. Tous sont ravis de retourner sur la terre de leurs ancêtres, même si tous considèrent que cela a mis trop de temps à arriver. Leur retour au Sénégal a été rendu possible suite à une mesure dérogatoire décidée en janvier 2023 par le gouvernement français. Jusque-là, ces vétérans des guerres d'Indochine et d'Algérie avaient l'obligation de passer au moins six mois par an en France pour avoir droit à leur pension. Ils vont désormais pouvoir vivre en permanence dans leur pays d'origine sans perdre leur allocation minimum vieillesse de 950 euros par mois. Dans leurs valises, beaucoup de souvenirs. Le rythme depuis quelques jours s'accélère après l'annonce officielle de leur départ. Les bagages sont prêts, entassés dans leurs logements de 15 mètres carrés. Les souvenirs feront partie du voyage, entassés dans une valise.

En réalité, de leur passé de combattants pour la France, ils n'ont rien oublié. Yoro Diao a passé trois ans dans l'enfer de la

guerre d'Indochine, dans des « pluies torrentielles », avec les « animaux charognards qui mangeaient la chair humaine ». « C'était terrible... j'étais infirmier major, chef des brancardiers. [Je transportais] les blessés sous le feu de l'ennemi. C'est la baraka, j'ai pas été blessé, mais j'ai perdu beaucoup de camarades », soufflet-il. Il sera ensuite mobilisé pour la guerre d'Algérie, pendant deux longues années.

Des honneurs de dernière minute. La semaine dernière, les autorités françaises ont voulu marquer le coup et essayer de rattraper le temps perdu avec l'inauguration de la place des tirailleurs dans le 18e arrondissement parisien en présence de la maire de Paris. Dans la même journée, le président Macron les a remerciés au nom de la nation pour leur engagement sous le drapeau tricolore. Une réception a été organisée par le maire de Bondy, qui fera d'eux des citoyens d'honneur de la ville, où certains ont vécu plus de 20 ans.

À leurs côtés depuis 10 ans dans la bataille contre l'administration française, Aïssata Seck, petite-fille d'un tirailleur, et présidente de l'Association pour la mémoire et l'histoire des tirailleurs sénégalais, voit ses efforts récompensés. « Il y a eu négligence » de l'État à leur égard, martèle-t-elle, rappelant que la France n'a levé qu'en 2006 les mesures de gel qui bloquaient les pensions des anciens combattants coloniaux.

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

Un 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 km² (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.

Will they stay on?

By Winston W. Parley

All is set to know officially as of Friday, 28 April 2023, who becomes the running mate of Liberia's

attention has been shifted to three major forces for the slot so far.

Top on the list in the past few months have been Grand Bassa County Senator and

might be a sense of hard feelings among those who might feel let down after years of fighting together for a ticket to unseat incumbent President George Manneh



Former VP Boakai, Mr. Urey, LP leader Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence, Dr. Jeremiah Z. Whapoe

main opposition leader Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai for the 2023 presidential elections.

But curiosities are also high across Liberia as to whether Boakai's choice of a running mate will not drive some of his long-time allies to different political camps out of frustration.

Initially, there were public suggestions that former Coca-Cola Executive, now leader of the opposition Collaborating Political Parties (CPP)/Alternative National Congress (ANC), Alexander B. Cummings be chosen as Boakai's running mate on the once formidable CPP ticket. The original version of the CPP made up of four political parties, collapsed after internal political struggles that led to court cases. It's now made up of a faction of the Liberty Party and the ANC.

After years of failed recommendation to have a united opposition field Amb. Boakai and Mr. Cummings on a single presidential ticket,

Liberty Party leader Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence; and Nimba County Senator and Movement for Democracy and Reconstruction leader Jeremiah Koung.

Though not frequently mentioned as Koung and Karnga-Lawrence for Boakai's VP slot, there have been some suggestions that human rights lawyer Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe could make a good running mate for Boakai, among others.

Meanwhile, there have been speculations out there that the favourite of the three candidates might be Koung, a son of vote-rich Nimba County and an ally of long-serving Nimba County Senator and political godfather, Prince Y. Johnson.

Ahead of Boakai naming his running mate, local broadcasters have reported Johnson allegedly assuring his people in Nimba that Boakai will choose Koung.

There have been suggestions in the public that whichever way Boakai turns in picking a running mate, there

Weah. What remains to be seen is whether the former vice president and his Unity Party officials can manage to maintain the political support of whoever feels unhappy about not being selected as his running mate.

Already, a local broadcaster reported in Monrovia Thursday evening that the opposition Liberty Party has vowed it will give its partisans a direction. The station said Nyonblee has urged her partisans to respect Boakai's decision on picking a running mate.

Some in the opposition have suggested that Boakai's VP decision would either benefit or hurt his chances of ascending to the presidency. The 78-year-old lost the 2017 presidential elections during the run-off against incumbent President Weah.

He had sought to succeed former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf with whom he worked as vice president for 12 years from January 2006.

Nyonblee considers next course of action

By Lincoln G. Peters & Ethel Tweh

As Unity Party Standard Bearer Joseph Nyumah Boakai announces his running mate today in the October 10th elections, Liberty Party political leader, Grand Bassa County Senator Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence, says LP partisans would be duly informed about the next course of action to take ahead of the polls.

Former Vice President Boakai is expected to announce Nimba County Senator Jeremiah Koung today, as his running mate just five months to elections. Senator Koung is leader of Senator Prince Johnson's Movement for Democracy and Reconstruction (MDR) party that broke company with President George Weah because of alleged failed promises.

In a statement dated Thursday, April 27, 2023, Senator Karnga-Lawrence, who has widely been speculated to become Boakai's choice for running mate, acknowledged that she has been informed by

years. Besides, the decision is also expected to affect UP's relationship with the All Liberian Party (ALP) of businessman-turned-politician Benoni Urey, who has favored Senator Lawrence to become Boakai's running mate.

Late Thursday, this paper gathered from many social media blocs that Senator Karnga-Lawrence and Mr. Urey have both decided to give today's ceremony at the UP headquarters on Broad Street, Central Monrovia cool shoulders.

Senator Karnga-Lawrence recounted to LP partisans under her leadership that about two years ago, they embarked on a mission with the Unity Party to begin the process of providing a new direction for the country.

However, she laments that during this period, they as individuals and a political institution represented by the Liberty Party, went through a most difficult experience characterized by intra-party rivalry based "on our decision to stand with the Unity Party and its leader, Ambassador Joseph N. Boakai".

She describes the decision as



LP leader Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence

Ambassador. Boakai that he has made up his mind to, instead, choose his running mate from Nimba County. "At this juncture, I wish to inform you that consistent with our democratic tradition, the choosing of a running mate is the decision of a Standard-Bearer. Accordingly, on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, Ambassador Joseph N. Boakai, with whom the Liberty Party and the All-Liberia Party have fostered a partnership for over two years, informed me that he has made up his mind to choose his running mate for the pending elections outside of the Liberty Party", Senator Karnga-Lawrence notes.

Observers say Senator Koung was favored over Senator Lawrence because he hails from vote-rich Nimba, and also due to the prolonged Inter-Party conflict within the Liberty Party.

They note that the decision is sure to strain relations with the LP faction headed by Senator Lawrence that has stood by former Vice President for several

being a period that has seen the Liberian people yearning for a change of leadership in the governance system of the country and expressing their approval for a team they wish would have charted a new course of direction.

"We wish to express our gratitude to the public for participation in various opinion polls that projected a Boakai-Nyonblee Ticket for the ensuing 2023 presidential elections. We are very grateful", Senator Karnga-Lawrence continues.

She says at this juncture, consistent with the LP's democratic tradition, the choosing of a running mate is the decision of a Standard-Bearer. Accordingly, on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, Ambassador Joseph N. Boakai, with whom the Liberty Party and the All-Liberia Party have fostered a partnership for over two years, informed her that he (Boakai) has made up his mind to choose his running mate for the pending elections outside of the LP.

Starts from back page **Vote trucking is disadvantageous**

that the government is committed to providing basic social services, health care delivery, security, education, agriculture, and road connectivity.

He then called on his supporters to overwhelmingly vote and re-elect President Weah for a second term so as to complete the work he has already started.

"Maryland is one of the strongholds of the CDC-led government in the southeast and we aren't prepared to relinquish it to anyone come October 10, 2023," he declared.

When asked how credible and reliable the process is, Chambers said registration will ensure that the election is carried out void of multiple voting, as well as other irregularities, fraud, and many other negative election-related issues.

"I see the introduction of the BVR exercise as an important step to conducting a free, fair, and transparent election on October 10, and future elections," the Speaker noted.

Chambers said the introduction of the biometrics shows that democracy in Liberia is growing and getting

better under this CDC-led government.

"In the conduct of election activities, Liberia has to graduate from the traditional method and must try to meet up with some nations in our sub region and the west," Chambers noted. Chambers is seeking a 4th mandate as a representative of the Pleebo Sodoken district, comprising another six years. It can be recalled that during the 2017 general and presidential elections, Speaker Chambers won with 7,858 votes, which constituted 57.3%.

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Vote trucking is disadvantageous to citizens

Speaker Chambers

House Speaker Bhofal Chambers says trucking voters from one county to another, or from one district

have warned against voters trucking during the ongoing biometric voter registration exercise across the country said trucking is an anti-democratic practice that should not be tolerated. The speaker added that

of said voter trucking, he noted, only imposes leaders who aren't the choice of the residents of the county they have been trucked to. Meanwhile, Chambers has called on Marylanders to take advantage of the ongoing



to the next, is advantageous to aspirants but disadvantageous to the citizens. Speaker Chambers who frowned on vote trucking argued that the act is also disadvantageous to the county or district from where citizens are being trucked. He said it decreases the population of those areas. Speaker Chambers who

voter trucking undermines development, which is driven by population. He, therefore, called on political aspirants to desist and allow the citizens to register in their county of residence. "Politicians who are in the habit of trucking voters are only doing that to get power; they are not in the interest of the people," he said. The undemocratic practice

voter registration exercise. "I want you to register so that you can reelect President Weah for his second term. If you don't register you will not have the power to reelect us," he pleaded with Marylanders. He assured Marylanders of continuous support from the CDC-led government, noting

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