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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2023	LS166.8243/US\$1.00	LS168.8511US\$1.00

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

The New Dawn

French Version Inside

New Dawn

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VOL. 13 NO. 084 THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2023 PRICE LD\$40.00

Kailondo and GT Bank tussle over 1.2m debt

-Amidst dossiers to prove otherwise

Guaranty Trust Bank (Liberia) Limited
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Tel: +231 774 9852
Fax: +231 774 9895
gtbank@gtbank.com
www.gtbank.com

GTBank

April 22, 2021
Dr. Jallah A. Barbu
Counselor at Law and Senior Consulting Counsel
Public Interest Law Office
11th Street Sinkor Between Warren & Payne Avenues
Monrovia, Liberia

Re: Our Understanding of the Decisions Reached at Today's Conference
Dear Dr. Barbu,

We acknowledge receipt of your communication dated April 22, 2021 in which you conveyed the decisions reached at the conference held at our offices on April 22, 2021 regarding:

- > An unauthorized United States five hundred and ten thousand (US\$510,000.00) debit to Kailondo Petroleum's account and
- > Queries by Kailondo Petroleum regarding the outstanding amount owed as its loan obligation to the bank.

The bank generally agrees with your conclusions except paragraph 3, in which you asserted that the bank will credit your account and will honor any check issued as of today growing out of our discussions and the decisions reached. We wish to clarify that the bank agreed to credit your account and will honor checks up to the amount that will be available in your account as at the time the checks are presented to the bank.

We thank the management of Kailondo Petroleum for the amicable resolution of this matter and look forward to the fulfillment of your expressed commitment to:

- > Publicly clarify via reputable media outlets the misinformation that GTBank defrauded Kailondo Petroleum;
- > Begin using your account with the bank for business transactions;

Chief Executive Officer, GTBank (Liberia) Limited
Chief Executive Officer, GTBank (Liberia) Limited
Chief Executive Officer, GTBank (Liberia) Limited



Rural women in Nimba abandon PYJ



Senator Prince Johnson

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Continental News

Street Traders Thrive as Zimbabwe's Currency Crumbles

HARARE, ZIMBABWE — Festus Nyoni picked out a few items in a supermarket in Zimbabwe's capital, looked at the prices and knew she was in the wrong place.

She abandoned her shopping cart and headed for a nearby street jammed with traders offering bargains in U.S. dollars.

changing shopper preferences in this southern African nation of 15 million. Many people are shunning brick-and-mortar stores, where prices must be charged in local currency and rise frequently.

On the street, costs are more stable because shoppers pay exclusively in U.S. dollars.

With greenbacks scarce at banks, many people and

inflation and other economic woes, with mixed success. Facing Lebanon's worst financial crisis in modern history, many stores and restaurants there are demanding dollars.

Similarly, manufacturers and suppliers are now pushing for payment in U.S. dollars from stores that are forced to sell the same products using the freefalling Zimbabwe dollar, said Denford Mutashu, president of the Retailers Association of Zimbabwe.

"It's currently impossible to purchase goods in U.S. dollars and sell in local currency and recover the money spent," said Mutashu, adding that manufacturers are increasingly preferring informal traders over formal retailers to avoid using local currency.

"The informal market is ready to pay in U.S. dollars. The Zimbabwe dollar is being squeezed out," Mutashu said.

Zimbabwe's economy is inching toward "full dollarization," with the local currency facing collapse, local investment firm Inter-Horizon Securities said. It slumped by 34% in April alone.

Street traders in cars, on bicycles or on foot clog sidewalks, roads and parking spaces. They sell items ranging from groceries to cosmetics, brooms, dog chains, car parts and medicines.

Next to the entrance of a fashion shop, street traders displayed new and secondhand clothing at knockdown prices. Some landlords have divided large buildings into tiny rooms where groceries are sold. VOA

businesses get them on the black market, making the official exchange rate — 1,000 Zimbabwe dollars to one U.S. dollar — that retailers are required to use artificially low. It's double that on the street, so to break even, stores are forced to make their products more expensive.

"Zimbabwe dollar inflation on the black market is on a rampage, so retailers have to constantly change their prices," economist Prosper Chitambara said.

Other countries like Lebanon and Ecuador also have turned to using the U.S. dollar to beat back

dollars. From the trunk of a car, she picked toiletries, rice and soups. For her two children, a young street vendor dodged traffic to offer her a box of candy.

"I can't keep up with those Zim dollar prices in the supermarket — it's insane," Nyoni said, referring to the local currency. "For the price of one in the supermarket, I am getting two soaps in the street."

A yearslong currency crisis that forced the 2009 adoption of the U.S. dollar — one of the world's most reliable assets — is

restoring the country's fragile transition to democracy, which was disrupted by a military coup led by the two generals in October 2021.

The conflict has killed at least 863 civilians, including at least 190 children, and wounded more than 3,530 others, according to the most recent numbers from the Sudanese Doctors' Syndicate — which mainly tracks civilian casualties. It has also pushed the East African country to near collapse, with urban areas in the capital, Khartoum, and its neighboring city of Omdurman turning into battlegrounds.

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Sudan Conflict Displaces Over 1.3 Million

CAIRO — The fighting between Sudan's military and a powerful paramilitary force has displaced more than 1.3 million people, the U.N. migration agency said Wednesday.

The International Organization for Migration said the clashes have forced over 1 million people to leave their homes to safer areas inside Sudan. Some 320,000 others have fled to the neighboring countries of Egypt, South Sudan, Chad, Ethiopia, the Central African Republic and Libya.

The fighting erupted on April 15 after months of escalating tensions between the military, led by Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, and the Rapid Support Forces commanded by Gen. Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo. The conflict derailed Sudanese hopes of

with at least 132,360 people, followed by Chad with 80,000 and South Sudan with over 69,000, the agency added.

Sporadic fighting continued Wednesday in several areas, despite a cease-fire reached this week. Residents reported hearing gunshots and explosions in central Khartoum as well as areas close to military facilities in Omdurman.

The weeklong cease-fire, which was brokered by the United States and Saudi Arabia, took effect Monday night. It was the latest international effort to push for humanitarian aid delivery to the conflict-torn country.

A joint statement from the U.S. and Saudi Arabia late Tuesday warned that neither the Sudanese military nor the Rapid Support Forces observed the short-term cease-fire.

"The Sudanese people continue to suffer as a result of this devastating conflict," the statement said. It called on both

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The talks focused on security and counterterrorism cooperation between the two countries, the source added.

Meanwhile, four Somali government soldiers were killed Monday in a roadside explosion in Mogadishu's Daynile district, the Ministry of Defense said. VOA

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A street trader smiles while greeting motorists on the streets of Harare



Sudanese, who had been stranded in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, arrive at Port Sudan airport

US Military Confirms Airstrike Against Al-Shabab in Somalia

The United States military has confirmed conducting a new airstrike against al-Shabab militants in the Middle Juba region of southern Somalia.

The airstrike took place in Jilib town on Saturday in collaboration with the Somali federal government, according to a press statement released Monday by the U.S. Africa Command known as AFRICOM.

"The command's initial assessment is that no civilians were injured or killed," the statement said.

The AFRICOM statement did not say whether any of the senior al-Shabab commanders were targeted. Jilib, 385 kilometers (239 miles) southwest of Mogadishu, is an al-Shabab stronghold.

The strike came as Mahad

Salad, director of Somalia's National Intelligence and Security Agency, was in Washington and New York, meeting with U.S. officials from the Pentagon, CIA and FBI, according to a source familiar with the visit who did not want to be identified as they are not authorized to speak to the media.



Armed al-Shabab fighters ride on pickup trucks as they prepare to Mogadishu

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The conflict has killed at least 863 civilians, including at least 190 children, and wounded more than 3,530 others, according to the most recent numbers from the Sudanese Doctors' Syndicate — which mainly tracks civilian casualties. It has also pushed the East African country to near collapse, with urban areas in the capital, Khartoum, and its neighboring city of Omdurman turning into battlegrounds.

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EDITORIAL

Playing games in the US\$100m cocaine case

The NEW DAWN senses a clear gameplay in the US\$100 million cocaine case at Criminal Court "C", Temple of Justice involving four defendants that have been released by the court because of lack of evidence and reportedly absconded the country.

Barely days after jury panel in the US\$100 million cocaine burst case at Criminal Court "C", Temple Justice in Monrovia last week Thursday brought down a not guilty verdict against the four defendants, calling for their immediate acquittal for lack of evidence by prosecutors, the Government of Liberia thru the Ministry of Justice is calling for their re-arrest, squashing the verdict.

It has been the slightest imagination of the Liberian public that despite overwhelming evidence that defendants Maiam Conte, Adulai Djibri Djalo, Makki Admeh Issam and Oliver A. Zayzay have link to the container that brought the drugs at the Freeport of Monrovia and taken to TRH Trading Corporation's warehouse in Topoe Village along Japan Freeway outside Monrovia where the consignment was offloaded, would have been acquitted and released from detention.

But this is what happened on Thursday, May 19, to the disappointment of most Liberians, particularly ordinary citizens, who are victims of dangerous drugs being brought into the country by unscrupulous people posing as legitimate business persons.

Justice Minister Cllr. Frank Musa Dean says the verdict undermines the collective efforts of Liberia and its international partners in clamping down on illegal transit of illicit drugs via West Africa as a conduit to trade narcotics from Latin America and other parts of the world

What is even disgusting more is that just after the defendants' release, they are reportedly nowhere to be found with speculations that they may have been escorted out of the country with the help of interested parties.

It beats the imagination of keen observers of Liberian governance structure that defendants duly charged based on overwhelming evidence and put on trial would be adjudged not guilty, released by the court and allegedly escaped with no trace.

This is difficult to believe and is not the first time. We vividly recall the case with former passport director Andrew Wonplue, who was denied entry to the U.S. by State Department for his involvement in passport scandal.

In 2020, the Government of Liberia thru the Ministry of Justice indicted and tried Mr. Wonplue for passport fraud, but the court acquitted him for lack of evidence.

However, after former Secretary of State Mike Pompoe barred him and his immediate family from entering the United States, the government re-indicted Wonplue and re-ordered his arrest but the former passport boss reportedly absconded and has since not been brought to justice for bringing Liberian Diplomatic Passport to disrepute.

We clearly sense a similar scenario in the US\$100 million Cocaine case where indictees put on trial were acquitted of all charges and set free only for the state to be calling for their re-arrest with reports that they have absconded. We fervently hope that this is not the case and the four defendants will be brought back to face the full weight of the law.

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

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COMMENTARY

By Jayati Ghosh

Building a Better SDR

NEW DELHI - With much of the developing world teetering on the edge of a debt crisis, the calls for a new issuance of special drawing rights (SDRs, the International Monetary Fund's reserve asset), have grown louder and more urgent. But to have the desired effect, the IMF must modify its allocation criteria and clarify how SDRs can be used to support low- and middle-income countries through the current economic turmoil.

One proposal currently being considered is to expand SDR allocation beyond individual countries to include multilateral development banks and dedicated funds. The idea of channeling SDRs to multilateral institutions like the World Bank and regional development banks, which are uniquely equipped to assist emerging and developing countries, has become increasingly popular in recent years. The Bridgetown Initiative, led by Barbadian Prime Minister Mia Mottley, has called for a new issuance of SDR500 billion (\$650 billion) "or other low-interest, long-term instruments" to support the creation of a multilateral agency that would accelerate "private investment in the low-carbon transition, wherever it is most effective."

Similarly, the recent report by the High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism (of which I was a member) recommends the "immediate, and thereafter regular" annual issuance of additional SDRs to aid countries facing foreign-exchange shortages. The report also suggests that IMF shareholders amend the organization's Articles of Agreement to permit "selective SDR allocation." This proposed change aims to facilitate a more targeted and effective distribution that prioritizes the most vulnerable countries over the world's largest economies, which receive the lion's share of SDR allocations under the current rules.

Another proposed amendment stipulates that "specific conditions" would automatically trigger SDR allocations to ensure a "swifter global response." Notably, the report emphasizes that eligibility for SDR allocation should not be conditional on the recipient country adopting an IMF-supported fiscal consolidation program.

Unfortunately, these proposals were not even discussed during the Spring Meetings of the IMF and World Bank in April. But we must continue to pursue these reforms, because increased international liquidity, delivered in a timely and efficient manner, is needed more than ever.

By modernizing the outdated system of SDR allocation, the international community could also narrow the climate-finance gap. But, first, the many developing countries currently at risk of a severe debt crisis must receive immediate budgetary support. Unless we create a global financial safety net, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals stand little chance of being met.

The ongoing financial turmoil highlights the current system's inherent inequities. Over the past few weeks, governments that control global reserve currencies, such as the United States and Switzerland, have pumped massive amounts of liquidity into the banking sector to rescue private banks. In contrast, debtor countries that have applied for debt relief under the G20's Common Framework for Debt Treatments have been waiting for years for a fraction of those sums.

The sovereign-debt crisis currently engulfing the world's poorest countries, which also happen to be the countries most affected by climate change, requires immediate action. At a minimum, low- and middle-income countries grappling with balance-of-payments challenges

should be given the opportunity to bolster their foreign-exchange reserves through a new SDR allocation.

But even if a fresh allocation is eventually agreed upon, countries must understand how to make the most of it. Unfortunately, the IMF's vagueness on this issue has caused much confusion, with some asserting that SDRs belong to central banks, not governments, and others insisting that they are loans rather than assets distributed by the IMF.

Consequently, many recipient countries' newly allocated SDRs simply augment foreign-exchange reserves. While this can have a positive impact by increasing a country's perceived creditworthiness, it can also hinder more effective uses of SDRs, particularly in times of acute shortages and fiscal constraints.

The Ecuadorian economist Andrés Arauz has highlighted these concerns, arguing that there is no legal basis for central banks to appropriate SDR allocations. The IMF's own guidance says that members "enjoy a large degree of freedom in how to manage the SDRs allocated to them," including the extent to which "central banks are involved in their management and whether the budget can directly use them for budget support." According to the Fund, SDRs are "allocated and held by the member and instructions for its use come through the fiscal agency of the member" (emphasis added). In other words, governments can use SDRs as they see fit.

The confusion over the nature and status of SDRs stems, in part, from the IMF's own misclassification of these assets. As Arauz points out, prior to the release of the IMF's latest balance-of-payments manual (BPM6) in 2009, SDR allocations were treated as equity rather than as liabilities that recipient countries must repay. The BPM6, however, reclassified them as liabilities, essentially treating them as debt. This change, which was made without clear reasoning or transparent discussion, must be contested, because it can deter the use, transfer, and recycling of SDRs, preventing allocations from fulfilling their potential.

Some countries, particularly in Latin America, have demonstrated creativity in their use of SDRs. Ecuador, for example, used them to finance its 2021 investment plan. The same year, Paraguay channeled its allocation to investments in health, education, housing, and other public expenditures, and Argentina used its \$4.6 billion allocation to pay off maturing debt, fulfilling its obligations to the IMF.

In other countries, central banks' perceived role as the custodian of SDRs did not completely restrict alternative uses. Colombia, for example, used SDRs to facilitate a domestic debt swap between the government and the central bank and generate short-term liquidity. Although Mexico's central bank asserted its ownership of the country's SDRs, the Mexican government acquired international reserves from it through a currency exchange in late 2021.

The current crisis is an opportunity to construct a fairer, more sustainable international monetary system. A sensible reform agenda must include increased SDR issuance and the creation of more efficient and equitable distribution mechanisms. To achieve this, the G7 countries, as the IMF's largest shareholders, must demonstrate a modicum of wisdom and leadership.

Jayati Ghosh, Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, is a former member of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism.

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April 22, 2021

Dr. Jallah A. Barbu
Counselor at Law and Senior Consulting Counsel
Public Interest Law Office
11th Street Sinkor Between Warren & Payne Avenues
Monrovia, Liberia

Re: Our Understanding of the Decisions Reached at Today's Conference

Dear Dr. Barbu,

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- An unauthorized United States five hundred and ten thousand (US\$510,000.00) debit to Kailondo Petroleum's account and
- Queries by Kailondo Petroleum regarding the outstanding amount owed as its loan obligation to the bank.

The bank generally agrees with your conclusions except paragraph 3, in which you asserted that the bank will credit your account and will honor any check issued as of today growing out of our discussions and the decisions reached. We wish to clarify that the bank agreed to credit your account and will honor checks up to the amount that will be available in your account as at the time the checks are presented to the bank

We thank the management of Kailondo Petroleum for the amicable resolution of this matter and look forward to the fulfilment of your expressed commitment to:

- Publicly clarify via reputable media outlets the misinformation that GTBank has defrauded Kailondo Petroleum;
- Begin using your account with the bank for business transactions;

- Begin repayment of the reconciled loan amount by June 2021.

We look forward to the joint reconciliation of your account scheduled to begin on Monday April 26, 2021 and hope that the conclusions will be mutually satisfactory.

Kind regards.

Yours Sincerely,

For: **Guaranty Trust Bank (Liberia) Limited**

Prince Saye
Executive Director

Ikenna Anekwe
Managing Director

The Board: Chief Mrs. Opral Mason-Benson (Chairman), Prof. Ophelia Inez Weeks, Mr. Demola Odeyemi (Director), Mrs. Tayo Asupoto (Director), Mr. Ernest C. B. Jones (Director), Dr. Richard V. Tolbert (Director), Mr. Ikenna Anekwe (Managing Director)

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**GUARANTY TRUST BANK (LIBERIA) LIMITED
CUSTOMER STATEMENT
KAILONDO PETROLEUM**



Guaranty Trust Bank (Liberia) Limited

PRINT DATE: 25-04-2023
ACCOUNT NUMBER: 0112605/002/0001/000
ACCOUNT TYPE: CURRENT ACCOUNT
CURRENCY: US DOLLAR
FOR THE PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2017 To APRIL 25, 2023
PAGE NUMBER: 7

TRANS. DATE	EXPLANATION TEXT	DOC. #	VALUE DATE	DEBIT AMOUNT	CREDIT AMOUNT	CURRENT BALANCE
03/31/21	ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT CHARGE	0	03/31/21	20.00		-5,440.00
04/22/21	GTB CHQ IFO GEORGE B KAILONDO	0	04/22/21	3,000.00		-8,440.00
04/22/21	GTB CHQ DEP BY KAILONDO PETRO IFO CONEX PETRO	664578	04/22/21	365,000.00		-373,440.00
04/22/21	GTB CHQ IFO DR JALLAH A BARBU	0	04/22/21	15,000.00		-388,440.00
04/22/21	GTB CHQ#664577 WTHD IFO STEPHEN J C S KAI	0	04/22/21	30,000.00		-418,440.00
04/23/21	GT BNK CHQ WITHDR BY GEORGE B. KAILONDO SR	664585	04/23/21	18,000.00		-436,440.00
04/24/21	COUNTER CHQ# 664585 ISSUED CHARGE	3061	04/24/21	5.00		-436,445.00
04/24/21	COUNTER CHQ# 664579 ISSUED CHARGE	3061	04/24/21	5.00		-436,450.00
04/24/21	COUNTER CHQ# 664578 ISSUED CHARGE	3061	04/24/21	5.00		-436,455.00
04/24/21	COUNTER CHQ# 664577 ISSUED CHARGE	3061	04/24/21	5.00		-436,460.00
04/24/21	COUNTER CHQ# 664576 ISSUED CHARGE	3061	04/24/21	5.00		-436,465.00
04/26/21	RVLS OF A PURCHASE TRANS EXECUTED MAR 12,2015	0	04/26/21		510,000.00	73,535.00
04/27/21	A/C REC'D TRANSACT	9821000071	04/26/21	30.00		73,505.00
04/30/21	ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT CHARGE	0	04/30/21	20.00		73,485.00
05/31/21	ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT CHARGE	0	05/31/21	20.00		73,465.00
06/25/21	TRANSFER IFO BALANCE TO 1602 IFO KAILONDO PETRO.	0	06/25/21	73,300.00		165.00



I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- SOLICITATION NO:** VA-669-23-000020
- ISSUANCE DATE:** May 24, 2023
- CLOSING DATE AND TIME FOR RECEIPT OF OFFERS:** June 15, 2023, 11:59 pm Local Time, Monrovia, Liberia
- POINT OF CONTACT:** Executive Officer, email at LiberiaHR@usaid.gov
- POSITION TITLE:** Project Management Specialist (Strategic Information/ Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning [SI/MEL])
- MARKET VALUE:** USD \$35,104 – USD \$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 USAID Project Management Specialist (Strategic Information/Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning [SI/MEL]) position sits within the USAID Liberia Health Office, Service Delivery Team, and supports the development of and reporting on PEPFAR strategic information and monitoring, evaluation, and learning systems in support of Contracting/Agreement Officer's Representatives (C/AORs), Activity Managers and Advisors managing Mission PEPFAR programs/projects/activities as well as the interagency PEPFAR team.

The SI Specialist provides technical expertise for program monitoring and evaluation; data collection, use and analysis of large complex data sources; and surveillance and health informatics analysis and visualization for the USAID Mission, the broader PEPFAR inter-agency and host country stakeholders. He/she serves as the coordinator for meeting key reporting timelines related to the interagency Liberia PEPFAR program. The incumbent will be responsible for reporting on progress toward achieving PEPFAR targets as well as translating strategic information into improved PEPFAR programming, responsive service delivery and providing accountability for use of PEPFAR resources. S/He will coordinate data collection across the implementing agencies for all PEPFAR data streams, including performance indicators, site improvement through Monitoring System (SIMS) results, and expenditure analysis data.

The job holder guides USAID Implementing Partners (IP) and collaborates with development partner stakeholders and host country counterparts on mutually identified critical operational research and/or targeted public health evaluation questions; provides assistance in development of strategies and protocols to address those questions; and helps disseminate findings to the broader community within USG, development partners and host country stakeholders. The incumbent may be expected to perform work-related travel.

Major Duties and Responsibilities

A. Program/Project/Activity Performance Management and Reporting (50%)

- Responds to strategic information inquiries; gathers and compiles regular updates for OGAC, PEPFAR West Africa Region, USAID/Washington; assists CORs/AORs/Activity Managers by interfacing directly with implementing partners on data reported to USAID, the interagency and/or to the Government of Liberia (GOL).
- Addresses program-related vulnerabilities; and shares pertinent information on other development partner programs. S/he conducts regular site visits to review and provide feedback on program implementation, this may include meeting with beneficiaries.
- Provides technical guidance to Health Office, Mission staff, IPs, and other USG agencies on MEL concepts, processes, design, training, and best practices. Provides guidance to IPs in understanding of the Performance Monitoring Plan systems, and their role in the process, and advises on specific measurement techniques appropriate for their programs/projects/activities.
- Provides technical strategic information (SI) and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) expertise to the Program Office, USAID/Washington, and other USG agencies to plan and manage Health Office responsibilities related to the PMP, including collection, assessment of validity, and improving data quality. Develops innovative and cross-cutting monitoring tools, including Data Quality Assessment and Improvement (DQA/I) tools in coordination with the Program Office and SI/MEL contractors; tracks and maintains multiple sets of key indicators, common indicators related to standard components in all USAID programs/projects/activities, indicators at the strategic objective level, and detailed indicators at the activity level; and, ensures proper collection of data, and that indicators serve is an appropriate measure of their corresponding result.
- Leads, designs, and performs assessments/studies/research requiring independent analysis and interpretation, on a regular and recurring basis; studies and research are cross-cutting and include substantive and often sensitive Mission and Health Office topics. Briefs Health Office and Mission leaders on findings and makes recommendations to impact strategic, operational, and programmatic direction.

B. Technical Support (35%)

- Provides guidance to PEPFAR/Health team on defining measurable indicators and targets for desired results addressed by their program/project/activity, and edits quarterly, semi-annual, and annual performance reports. Provides technical expertise for program monitoring and evaluation; data collection use and analysis of large complex data sources; and surveillance and health informatics analysis and visualization for the USAID Mission, the broader PEPFAR inter-agency and host country stakeholders.
- Provides technical direction to the PEPFAR team to monitor progress toward objectives as detailed in the Regional Operations Plan (ROP).
- Provides technical and operational support to ensure necessary and timely program-level data analytics requirements from OGAC are accurately interpreted and communicated to relevant USG agencies, in preparation for the annual ROP/Strategic Direction Summary (SDS) planning and development process, as well as country and program - level quarterly reviews.
- Serves as a key member of the Mission's M&E Team coordinated by the Mission's Program Office; and as a reviewer of Mission evaluation designs and reports, participating on Mission evaluation teams.
- Guides USAID IPs and collaborates with development partner stakeholders and host country counterparts on mutually identified critical operational research and/or targeted public health evaluation questions; contributes to development of strategies and protocols to address those questions; and helps disseminate findings to the broader community within USG, development partners and host country stakeholders.
- Provides support on the development of standards and indicators for assessing program effectiveness and quality to be assessed on site visits and feedback provided to program staff. Provides support to strengthen the capacity of USAID and partners staff in the use of appropriate data management systems to measure and track progress made toward achieving
- targets based on required indicators. Advises on data collection and program monitoring tools and systems.
- Leads work and coordination with IPs to ensure PEPFAR data reporting requirements are met on a timely basis. Related activities include reviews of guidance documents, PEPFAR targets for the annual ROP, quarterly progress reports, and stakeholder meetings to analyze progress against targets.
- Assists in the analysis and interpretation of quantitative and qualitative data from various sources including SIMS (Site Improvement Monitoring System), Data for Accountability, Transparency, and Impact Monitoring (DATIM), District Health Information System 2 (DHIS2), and facility and partner-level data.
- Participates in the review and approval of annual work plans and periodic reports of USAID partners.

C. Representation & Public Speaking (15%)

- Attends external meetings, committees, and task teams, including GOL-facilitated technical working groups, as needed to represent the Liberia/PEPFAR interagency team.
 - Supports development and presentations for research publications and/or abstracts for national and international conferences and symposiums.
- Presents PEPFAR program performance results, research results and M&E plans to OGAC, USAID/Washington, USAID/Liberia, PEPFAR interagency stakeholders and external stakeholders that include other development partners, private sector partners, GOL, USG counterparts from other countries and PEPFAR IPs.

- Actively engages in local SI capacity building of host country governments and other local organizations to strengthen the collection, analysis, and use of data for program planning and direction.
- Travel: International and local travel may be required.

Supervision controls: None

Supervisory Relationship: The USAID Strategic Information / Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning [SI/MEL] Specialist works within the Service Delivery Team, and under the direct supervision of the Service Delivery Team Lead or designee. The supervisor makes assignments in terms of overall objectives and resources available. The day-to-day work is directed by the Care and Treatment Program Management Specialist. Completed work is reviewed in terms of achievement of program/project/activity goals, products produced, effectiveness in meeting host-country and USAID objectives, and integration with other initiatives in the Office and Mission portfolio. Some technical direction may come from other professionals in the Office; in general, however, the incumbent will be expected to exercise considerable autonomy and best judgment in discharging the duties of the assignment.

12. PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The work requested does not involve undue physical demands.

II. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR THIS POSITION

- Education:** Minimum bachelor's degree in social science, statistics, mathematics, mathematics, economics, computer science, epidemiology, health informatics, public health, infectious disease, zoonotic disease, biology is required.
- Prior Work Experience:** Minimum of five years of progressively responsible job-related professional-level experience in monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) and other surveillance systems, evaluation of program/project/activity implementation, in direct program/project/activity management, or in a closely related activity is required. Field experience in data analysis and interpretation, data collection, data quality evaluation and in fulfilling reporting requirements is required. Experience working in Liberia and/or in another African country and working in a multicultural bilingual environment is required.
- Work/Residency Permits:** Familiarization training in USAID- and PEPFAR-specific procedures, regulations, reporting tools and methods, and orientation to working from a donor-Agency perspective, will be provided. Successful completion of formal C/AOR training is necessary for proper job performance and will be provided. Training to maintain professional capability in the field, and other courses offered for professional USAID staff, as appropriate; and courses, seminars, conferences, and other activities in fields related to the function and needed to maintain and update professional qualifications may be provided as they become available, subject to availability of funds.
- Language Proficiency:** Level IV (fluent proficiency) in English (reading, written and spoken) is required. Language competence may be tested.
- Job Knowledge:** The incumbent must have in-depth, professional-level knowledge of development approaches and methods for performance analysis, data visualization, and program design, monitoring, and evaluation. The incumbent must have excellent knowledge of MEL systems, public health programming, and international donor operations in the sector. The incumbent must have knowledge and understanding of the economic, political, social, and cultural characteristics of the host country; development problems in the health sector in the host country and the region; an understanding of the resources, resource constraints, and overall development prospects and priorities of the host country and the region. The incumbent must have working knowledge of USG legislation, policy, and practice relating to monitoring, evaluation, and learning, and of USAID programming policies, regulations, procedures, and documentation, and of the objectives, methodology, and status of assigned activities.
- Skills and Abilities:** The incumbent must have the ability to plan, organize, manage, and evaluate HIV-AIDS and clinical care activities. S/he must have strong verbal communication skills and diplomatic skills in order to form good working relations with technical level national and local government officials, other development partners and external stakeholders. Verbal communication skills must be sufficient to explain complex data analyses and interpret PEPFAR attitudes, priorities, and concerns. Writing skills must be sufficient to prepare and edit regular and ad-hoc reports with special emphasis on data visualization, in keeping with Agency and PEPFAR requirements. The incumbent must be proficient with Tableau, Microsoft Excel, PowerPoint, Word, and email platforms. S/he must have strong capacity to manage activity goals and achievements, both technical and financial; must have skills in project programming and strategy development; and must be able to work effectively in a team environment to achieve consensus on policy, project, and administrative matters. The incumbent must have the ability to acquire knowledge of USAID programming policies, procedures, regulations, and documentation, and of the objectives and methodology of assigned activities.

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:

In 250 words or less, describe your experience collecting, managing, and visualizing data. Provide examples of your information management skills to collect, analyze, manage, and visualize data, especially data related to health programs.

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 10 points

Timed data analysis and presentation exercise: 50 points

The data analysis and presentation exercise will demonstrate the candidate's ability to use a data management tool to interpret, analyze and visualize sample datasets for a typical PEPFAR HIV program.

Interview Performance 40 points

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

- Management abilities
- Teamwork and interpersonal skills
- Technical knowledge

Total Possible Points 100 points

IV. SUBMITTING AN OFFER

Applications must be submitted electronically by email with the subject line VA-669-23-000020 – Project Management Specialist (Strategic Information/ Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning [SI/MEL]) 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 least one reference provided should be a current or former supervisor.
- A supplemental document with a written response to the Evaluation Factor(s).

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

GoL dealt another blow in US\$100m cocaine case

-Chamber Justice declines to issue the peremptory writ

By Lincoln G. Peters

Justice in Chamber, Associates Justice Yamie Quiqui Gbeisay on Wednesday, May 24, declined to grant the peremptory writ prayed for by

government official, or lower court requiring that they perform an act or cease to act where the court finds that an official law, duty, or judgment requires them to do so.

During a conference with both parties in chamber,

place a stay order on the release of the money to the four individuals.

This comes after the announced its rejection of Judge Dixon's ruling that the US\$200,000 seized from the four men be returned after their acquittals were pronounced.

The government's argument is that the money in question was US\$113,000 and not US\$200,000, adding that it was confiscated from one Gustavo Henrique who was tired by the government in absentia.

But during his instruction to the jury who found the defendants not guilty, the prosecution claimed that Judge Dixon remarked that if the Jurors had returned with a 'Not Guilty' verdict, the US\$200,000.00 taken from the defendants should be immediately returned.

The government argued that Judge Dixon's order to the jurors was erroneous because it was not in his purview to issue such an order.

Moreover, the prosecution argued that the amount in question does not belong to the four defendants who were set free by the jurors.

According to prosecutors, the government confiscated US\$113,000 and not US\$200,000, adding that the amount was deposited at the Central Bank of Liberia and a copy of the confirmation of the deposit of the amount (US\$113,000.00) is in their possession. **-Edited by Othello B. Garblah**

Associates Justice Gbeisay said he found no merits in the case.

"After listening to both parties, I like to decline in granting the writ of peremptory as prayed for by the prosecution. This decision is based on the lack of merits in the case. Therefore, I urged that this matter be trashed due to the lack of merits," Associates Justice Gbeisay ordered.

However, after hearing the verdict, prosecution announced an appeal to the full of the Supreme Court.

In its peremptory writ of prohibition filed on Tuesday, May 23, 2023, prosecutors asked the Supreme Court to



the Liberian Government not to return the US\$200,000 seized from defendants in the US\$100m drug case.

The Chamber Justice decision comes days after the accused were acquitted of all charges and the government was instructed by trial Judge Blamo Dixon to return the defendants' money.

But the Government through the Minister of Justice and Attorney General filed a peremptory writ, which sought to overturn the judge's decision.

A peremptory writ of mandate, or mandamus, is a judicial writ (i.e. order) to any governmental body,

ArcelorMittal Liberia given three-week ultimatum

-Amidst strike and protests at its Buchanan offices

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

Arcelor Mittal Liberia has been given three weeks ultimatum to address concerns raised by citizens of Grand Bassa County as it relates to the Mineral Development Agreement signed by the company, this paper has learned.

The ultimatum was said to have been given by the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Citizens of Grand Bassa on Monday, May 22, staged a protest blocking entries and exits to the Arcelor Mittal Liberia's premises demanding the company live up to the MDA, part of which would have seen the company build a Washing Plant in the county to create jobs for locals.

The citizens on Monday also burned tires on the railroads and stopped the movement of

trains, while demanding answers from the company.

The washing plant in question was moved to neighboring Nimba County for construction, something the citizens of Bassa find very appalling and demanding

answers.

They claimed that authorities at Arcelor Mittal Liberia Buchanan offices have refused to dialogue with them.

However, following the protest on Monday,

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Simeon Freeman names running mate

By Lincoln G. Peters

The standard bearer of the Movement for Progressive Change (MPC) businessman Simeon Freeman has named former Presidential aspirant and public health specialist, Dr. James Kollie Barclay, as his running mate in the October 10th Presidential and Legislative Elections.

Mr. Simeon made the choice on Tuesday, May 23, 2023, at the MPC's fourth national convention held at the Baptist Seminary in Paynesville outside Monrovia. The party has elected new corps of officers to steer its affairs for the next six years.

"Having been elected by the MPC as its standard bearer, I also want to name my running mate today. Our running mate is a Liberian, married, comes from Bong County and is a medical doctor. Our running mate is well school. With that, I like to call out Dr. James Kollie Barclay as

three months.

Quoting statistics from the World Bank and other international organizations and government's commitment, the MPC standard bearer noted that the Government of Liberia should have created 50,000 jobs by 2014, but it failed to do so.

Mr. Freeman noted that from 2014 to now, the population of Liberia has increased and things have changed, which means that government now needs to provide or create at least 65,000 jobs annually.

"This government (CDC) has proven that they can't give it to you. Now the question is, how will those jobs be created? How will the many women that have kids and the fathers have not looked back or the many men that have girls pregnant, when that child is born, may probably not know their fathers; how are you going to feel that child? Those are the issues this election is about. Therefore, you have to be very careful how you vote", he cautioned Liberian voters.



my running mate", Mr. Freeman announced.

He continues, "From today onward, Dr. Barclay and I will be moving forward as the next President and Vice President of Liberia in this upcoming election. We will make sure we bring change to the people of Liberia."

He urged Liberians to make sure the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) government of President George Weah is replaced at the ballot box comes October.

"This election is not about T-shirts, how much money a politician spent to build toilets and other facilities for you. Let it be about who has the competence and capacity to deliver Liberia from poverty and redeem us back to respectability."

He reminded Liberians that if they have endured poverty for the last six years, then they shouldn't be deceived in the next

He said the pending elections are about education and future of all Liberians, especially single mothers, who deprived themselves of dressing and eating just to educate their children but later after graduation, the child still becomes liability to parents only because the quality of education is too substandard to be competitive.

He added that the election is also about the challenges that people face when they go to hospital to get medication and disappointingly there are no drugs at the facility and their homes are much cleaner than the government facility.

"After this election, let it not be said that the people fool us. These elections are about your future. If you vote for someone based on sympathy, you are responsible for Liberia's shortcomings. If you vote on the fact that you know the people and they don't have the competence and capacity to move our country forward, then you are part of the problem of our country."

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

House begins budget Performance Report Hearing

The House of Representatives Committee on Ways, Means, and Finance begins Budget Performance Report Hearing today, May 25, at the Capitol Building for line ministries and agencies.

According to the Press and

SOEs and Agencies are using the resources allocated to them in the budget appropriately and achieving the expected results.

The hearing will focus on entities' performances for FY-2022 Consolidated Report, FY-2023 First Quarter Report, and FY-2023 Revenue Performance

Finance and Development Planning, and the Bureau of State Enterprises.

On Friday, 26 May, Liberia Telecommunications Authority, Liberia Immigration Service and National Road Fund will appear for hearing, while on Monday, 29 May Liberia Maritime Authority, ministries of Labor, Mines & Energy, and the Forestry Development Authority. Tuesday, 30 May will have the Ministry of Justice, National Port Authority, Liberia Petroleum Refinery Company, and the National Fisheries and Acqua Cultural Authority appearing.

Other entities to appear on 31 May will include; Ministry of Health, National Public Health Institute, and the Ministry of Education. The committee will end the hearing on 1 June with the following institutions appearing; ministries of Commerce, Agriculture, and Public Works.

Meanwhile, the Committee says failure on the part of any agency to attend, Section (f & g) of the Budget Law 2023, coupled with available sanctions as expressed in the Public Financial Act, and the House's Rules and Procedures shall apply.



Public Affairs department at the House, the hearing is geared towards reviewing the spending of public funds by these entities to ensure that they are fulfilling their objectives in an efficient and effective manner. This involves assessment of whether the

to date (for revenue generation Agency only).

The appearance(s) of SOEs is consistent with Section 8 (a) of the Budget Law 2023.

The hearing begins today, Thursday, with the following institutions appearing; Liberia Revenue Authority, Ministry of

Agriculture boss stresses implementation of strategies -to boost rice production here

By Lincoln G. Peters

Liberia's Ministry of Agriculture, Madam Jeanine M. Cooper, stresses the urgent need to ensure self-sufficiency in food and believes that can only be achieved when the country gravitates from trials and researches to real implementation strategies.

While it is true that some of these many projects, especially internationally-supported projects are most often successful in trial states, Madam Cooper observes that in most cases, they are rarely successful in their real implementation stage.

Predicated upon this, she suggests that these trials should be replicated to the real farmers to have good results out of the soil and enhance massive local food production, especially the country's staple food; rice.

Minister Cooper spoke Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Improving Rice Production for Smallholders Project (LibRice) project joint coordination meeting held at the Ministry of Agriculture in Monrovia.

"We are looking to recapitalize on these strategies for food production and we want to make our dream of self-sufficiency in rice production realized. We are looking to see the progress of the LibRice Project. But my suggestion is that these trials be replicated to the farmers to have good results. They should not just focus on trials and researches, but must implement," she further emphasizes.

"What I mean is that the JICA LiRice project, unlike other past projects, should

move or grow from research to implementation so that the result that we get as a nation and people will be meaningful and impactful. The reason we are saying this is because whenever those projects close, we don't see the impact(s). And so at the level of the Ministry of Agriculture, we will provide the needed technical assistance we can to address those challenges because we want to steer our

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

projects into impactful interventions."

Chief Advisor on the



NUHACE threatens to protest at Bea Mountain

-writes Labour Ministry

By Lewis S. Teh

The National Union of Hospitality Aviation Communication & Energy Workers (NUHACE) has frowned at the Ministry of Labour for not prevailing on Bea Mountain Mining Corporation (BMMC) in Grand Cape County to seek its members' welfare or else, it would carry out industrial action against the company.

NUHACE has served the Ministry of Labour a formal notice about its plan to strike against the Management of Bea Mountain for the company's reported failure to implement several recommendations seeking the welfare of workers.

In the letter addressed to the Ministry dated May 16, 2023, NUHACE recounted that since September, 2020 to now, the workers of BMMC/Construction and Mining Contractors (CMC)

Union explained that BMMC willfully violates and refuses to provide direct or indirect housing for 90% of its employees as per (MDA Section 11.b).

It said what is even more disturbing is the fact that the Ministry of Labour has been concerned with preventing workers from exercising their rights to strike and not prevailing on the BMMC/CMC management to do the right thing by implementing the various agreements.

NUHACE also stressed that the company has violated the Decent Work Act Chapter 14 Section 5 (e, j) subsection 6 among others, noting that the management of the entity willfully violates the rights of casual workers who have overstayed the statutory period (DMA Chapter 13.2) and providing professional jobs to them while classifying them as casual workers.

According to the group, BMMC grossly refused to change



through their workplace representatives and office have filed series of complaints against the management.

The letter added that those complaints detailed several violations of the Collective Bargaining Agreement, Memorandum of Understanding and the outcome of discussions held between the Ministry of Labour, the local union, mother union and the management of the company at several venues and different dates, including at the Ministry.

The Union noted that it categorized the workers' concerns into short, medium and long terms for implementation based on advice from the office of the Minister of Labour, Cllr. Charles Gibson, but stressed that unfortunately, the management of BMMC/CMC has failed to implement all of the agreements reached through those social dialogue processes.

Providing reasons for their planned strike and lockouts, the

overstayed contractors' status to permanent status, and provide workers their target bonus as prescribed in the CBA, including failure to increase salary.

The National Union of Hospitality Aviation Communication & Energy Workers averred that the company further refuses to fully implement NASSCORP EIS scheme (employee injury scheme) thus leaving injured employees without benefit from NASSCORP, while the BMMC management fails to instruct NASSCORP to provide employees contribution statements.

Among other things, NUHACE stressed that the Bea Mountain Mining Company has failed to provide medical checks to all employees who are working in hazardous areas after every three months as prescribed by the CBA, and has refused to implement the Ministry of Labour's ruling on salary increment for underground workers, as part of a social dialogue held in February 2022. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Français

Mme Taylor dans le collimateur de l'opposition

La vice-présidente Jewel Howard-Taylor continue de faire l'objet de critiques de la part de l'opposition quelques jours après que des membres de son parti, le Parti patriotique national, ont interrompu le

milliers de Libériens pendant la guerre civile brutale du pays. Elle a même menacé d'encourager l'établissement d'un tribunal des crimes de guerre et des crimes économiques au Libéria.

La vice-présidente craint que la liste Joseph Boakai - Jeremiah

Whapoe au siège de son parti lundi, le Dr Jeremiah Z. Whapoe a dit que la vice-présidente Taylor n'a aucune intégrité morale pour accuser qui que ce soit de tueur ou pour remettre en cause le comportement d'un libérien, car elle est entièrement auteur et bénéficiaire des guerres civiles atroces du Libéria qui ont entraîné la mort de plus de deux cent cinquante mille Libériens.

" La vice-présidente Howard-Taylor n'a aucune intégrité morale à laquelle s'accrocher pour remettre en question la capacité de tout Libérien bien intentionné à vivre ou à mieux vivre. Cette vice-présidente est bénéficiaire et partisane de la guerre qui a tué de nombreuses personnes dans ce pays. Elle a aidé et soutenu la guerre en donnant à son ex-mari, l'ancien président Charles Taylor, des conseils pour tuer des Libériens. Madame Howard-Taylor et l'ancien président Charles Taylor sont responsables de la mort des deux cent cinquante mille Libériens pendant la guerre civile", a dit Dr. Whapoe.

Donc, selon lui, la vice-présidente Howard-Taylor n'a pas la rectitude morale de remettre en question l'intégrité du sénateur Johnson en ce qui concerne sa participation à la guerre civile, car elle-même n'est pas innocente.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 09



culte à l'église Christ Chapel of Faith du sénateur Prince Johnson.

Des jeunes du NPP vêtus de t-shirts du parti et rejoints par la suite par des jeunes du Congrès pour le Changement Démocratique (CDC), ont interrompu le culte de l'église. Il y a quelques jours, la vice-présidente Howard-Taylor qualifiait le sénateur Johnson de "tueur", l'accusant d'avoir tué des

Koung permette au sénateur Johnson de saisir la présidence libérienne. Le sénateur Johnson était le leader du Front national patriotique indépendant du Libéria, un ancien groupe rebelle, qui a capturé et torturé à mort le président Samuel Kanyon Doe en septembre 1990.

Le sénateur Johnson a ainsi promis de répondre à la vice-présidente depuis son pupitre dans son sermon du dimanche.

Mais, animant un point de

Le Sénat va enquêter sur une affaire de cocaïne de 100 millions de dollars

Le récent verdict du tribunal pénal "C" dans l'affaire de drogue d'une valeur de 100 millions de dollars américains est un facteur qui sape les efforts collectifs de lutte contre la drogue et ses effets néfastes sur le pays, c'est en tout cas ce qu'a dit le sénateur Abraham Dillon du comté de Montserrado.

Jeudi dernier, les jurés du tribunal pénal "C" ont acquitté à l'unanimité quatre suspects accusés d'avoir importé au Libéria, 520 kilogrammes de cocaïne d'une valeur de 100 millions de dollars américains.

Une énorme quantité de cocaïne d'une valeur marchande de près de 100 millions de dollars américains a été saisie par des acteurs de la sécurité nationale à Monrovia. Le stupéfiant a été introduit dans le pays par le port de Monrovia

« Une semaine après ladite saisie, un autre lot de drogue dangereuse d'une valeur marchande de quarante millions de dollars américains aurait été saisi dans la capitale », a rapporté le sénateur Dillon.

Les quatre accusés jugés non coupables sous la juridiction du juge A. Blamo Dixon du tribunal pénal « C » comprennent un

Libérien, Oliver Zayzay et trois étrangers nommés, Makki Ahmed Issam, Adulai Djalo et Malam Conte.

Ils ont été jugés pour blanchiment d'argent, association de malfaiteurs, possession non autorisée de drogues contrôlées et importation non autorisée

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 09



Éditorial

La montée en flèche du taux de change est insupportable

Les Libériens assistent, impuissants, à une augmentation soudaine du taux de change entre le dollar américain et le dollar libérien. 1 USD est passé de 150 LRD à 168 voire 170 dollars libériens en seulement un mois.

La hausse soudaine du taux de change crée des augmentations correspondantes des prix des produits de base, en particulier la nourriture, le carburant et les frais de transport, imposant de sérieuses contraintes aux citoyens ordinaires.

L'opposant Tiawan Saye Gongloe, candidat à la prochaine présidentielle, a récemment dit que la hausse rapide du taux de change est attribuable à l'injection incontrôlée de dollars libériens sur le marché par les dignitaires du régime de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) pour séduire les électeurs pour la réélection du président George Manneh Weah.

« Ils mettent une grande masse de dollars libériens en circulation et gardent les dollars américains. Ils économisent les dollars américains parce qu'ils ne sont pas trop sûrs de gagner les élections », a-t-il expliqué.

Les membres du parti au pouvoir, aussi bien ceux qui ont un poste que ceux qui n'en ont pas actuellement, distribuent d'énormes quantités de dollars libériens aux citoyens de tout le pays pour renforcer leurs chances d'être élus et réélus. Cela a bien sûr de graves conséquences négatives pour le pays dont l'économie est fortement dépendante des importations.

Economiste et professeur de droit, Me Gongloe a averti que les Libériens ordinaires vont être poussés à l'extrême pauvreté et aux difficultés en raison de ce qui se passe dans le pays, où d'énormes quantités de dollars libériens est en quête des quelques dollars américains disponibles.

« Sur le plan économique, ce qui se passe actuellement est terrible pour le Libéria. D'ici les élections, la vie sera beaucoup plus difficile que les Libériens n'ont jamais imaginé », a-t-il prévenu.

Avant même le début officiel de la campagne, la Coalition pour le changement démocratique au pouvoir mène une série de projets politiques dans plusieurs comtés, dont Lofa et Nimba, pour adoucir le terrain et rallier le soutien des citoyens.

Comme cela a été le cas lors de l'élection présidentielle de 2017 et de l'élection sénatoriale spéciale de 2020, lorsque les candidats du parti au pouvoir ont distribué des millions de dollars libériens aux communautés et aux électeurs, et ont inondé le marché, une répétition similaire est attendue, alors que les Libériens se rendront aux urnes le 10 octobre.

Nous ne pouvons que rejoindre Me Gongloe pour prévenir nos compatriotes libériens de se serrer la ceinture et de se préparer aux conséquences économiques négatives pendant et après les élections auxquelles ils devraient faire face en conséquence directe des dépenses électorales, bien que la loi électorale du Libéria ait un plafond sur le financement des campagnes.

Français

Mme Taylor dans le collimateur

Le leader politique du parti Vision for Liberian Transformation a exhorté Madame Howard-Taylor à cesser d'instrumentaliser l'établissement d'un tribunal des crimes de guerre et des crimes économiques au Libéria pour promouvoir une justice sélective à l'encontre du sénateur Johnson.

Le Dr Whapoe s'est dit convaincu que si justice pour les criminels de guerre il y a, la vice-présidente Howard-Taylor va être poursuivie aux côtés de son mari Charles Taylor, qui purge actuellement une peine de cinquante ans de prison ferme.

Le Dr Whapoe a également souligné que Madame Howard-Taylor est non seulement bénéficiaire du sang du peuple libérien, mais aussi complice principale de tous les crimes de guerre qui ont été commis au Libéria.

Le leader politique de VOLT s'en est également pris à la vice-présidente Howard-Taylor pour avoir dit que les Libériens ne sont pas prêts à faire d'un fils du

comté de Nimba président de la république. Il l'a également mise en garde contre toute tentative de menacer de mort le sénateur Johnson, car tout ce qui arrive à un Libérien arrive à tous.

Par ailleurs, le Dr Whapoe a dit craindre et être préoccupé non seulement par la sécurité des prochaines élections prévues pour avoir lieu en octobre, mais également par la stabilité de l'État.

Il accuse le pouvoir de se servir des hooligans pour violer les droits religieux et les droits protégés par la Constitution. Ce type de comportement, selon lui, devraient indigner tous les Libériens épris de paix peu importe leur affinité politique.

Il a appelé la communauté internationale à intervenir et à protéger le processus électoral à venir, car les Libériens n'accepteront aucun résultat électoral frauduleux et sont prêts à prendre toutes les mesures nécessaires pour obtenir le résultat qui reflètera leur volonté.

Le Sénat va enquêter

de drogues contrôlées.

Mais dans la communication qu'il a adressée à la plénière du Sénat le mardi 23 mai, le sénateur Dillon a déclaré que le verdict vide également de sens la lutte du pays contre le trafic de drogue et expose le Libéria au ridicule international.

Il a dit que les partenaires internationaux du pays et le monde regardent avec consternation et que comme beaucoup de ses collègues parlementaires, il est profondément préoccupé par l'ensemble du déroulement du procès et, à ce titre, le Sénat libérien doit chercher à savoir ce qui s'est passé.

Dillon a rappelé qu'en vertu de l'article 34 (b) de la Constitution du Libéria de 1986, le pouvoir législatif a le pouvoir et l'autorité de "prévoir la sécurité de la République", qu'elle soit économique, sanitaire, publique, nationale, etc.

Selon lui, en raison de la gravité de cette affaire, de l'énorme intérêt et des préoccupations du public et des menaces que ces drogues dangereuses font peser sur le pays et son peuple, son bureau a délibérément suivi et observé le procès devant le tribunal pénal

"C" au Temple de la Justice.

« Ce qui est alarmant, c'est le fait que le nombre de nos citoyens, en particulier la population jeune en proie à la toxicomanie et à la dépendance aux stupéfiants continuent de croître. En termes simples, ces actes sont des menaces pour notre sécurité nationale avec des menaces potentielles pour notre existence en tant que pays et peuple. Il est temps, plus qu'avant, que les "anciens" du pays agissent sous l'autorité de l'article 34 (b) de la Constitution du Libéria. Nous en avons le devoir », a dit le sénateur du comté de Montserrado.

Dans le même temps, il a sollicité l'approbation de la Plénière pour convoquer le ministre de la Justice et procureur général Frank Musa Dean, le directeur de l'Agence libérienne de lutte contre la drogue et le commissaire général de l'Autorité fiscale du Libéria, respectivement.

Il souhaite que ces responsables comparaissent avec d'autres autorités de sécurité de l'État compétentes en rapport avec l'affaire mentionnée ci-dessus pour prendre des mesures législatives appropriées.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Jayati Ghosh

Construire un système de DTS plus efficace

NEW DELHI - Alors qu'une grande partie du monde en développement est au bord d'une crise de la dette, les appels à une nouvelle émission de droits de tirage spéciaux (DTS, l'actif de réserve du Fonds monétaire international) se font de plus en plus pressants. Mais pour obtenir l'effet escompté, le FMI doit modifier ses critères d'allocation et préciser comment les DTS peuvent être utilisés pour aider les pays à revenu faible ou intermédiaire à traverser la crise économique actuelle.

Une proposition actuellement à l'étude consiste à étendre l'allocation des DTS au-delà des pays individuels pour y inclure les banques multilatérales de développement et les fonds dédiés. L'idée de canaliser les DTS vers des institutions multilatérales telles que la Banque mondiale et les banques régionales de développement, qui sont particulièrement bien équipées pour aider les pays émergents et en développement, est devenue de plus en plus populaire ces dernières années. L'initiative de Bridgetown, dirigée par la première ministre de la Barbade, Mia Mottley, a appelé à une nouvelle émission de 500 milliards de DTS (650 milliards de dollars) "ou d'autres instruments à long terme et à faible taux d'intérêt" pour soutenir la création d'une agence multilatérale qui accélérerait "l'investissement privé dans la transition vers une économie à faibles émissions de carbone, là où c'est le plus efficace".

De même, le récent rapport du Conseil consultatif de haut niveau sur un multilatéralisme efficace (don't j'étais membre) recommande l'émission annuelle "immédiate, puis régulière" de DTS supplémentaires pour aider les pays confrontés à des pénuries de devises. Le rapport suggère également que les actionnaires du FMI modifient les statuts de l'organisation pour permettre une "allocation sélective des DTS". Cette proposition de modification vise à faciliter une distribution plus ciblée et plus efficace, donnant la priorité aux pays les plus vulnérables plutôt qu'aux plus grandes économies du monde qui reçoivent la part du lion des allocations de DTS en vertu des règles actuelles.

Un autre amendement proposé stipule que des "conditions spécifiques" déclencheraient automatiquement l'allocation de DTS afin d'assurer une "réponse globale plus rapide". Le rapport souligne notamment que l'éligibilité à l'allocation de DTS ne devrait pas être conditionnée à l'adoption par le pays bénéficiaire d'un programme d'assainissement budgétaire soutenu par le FMI.

Malheureusement, ces propositions n'ont même pas été discutées lors des réunions de printemps du FMI et de la Banque mondiale en avril. Pourtant, nous devons continuer à poursuivre ces réformes, car une liquidité internationale accrue, fournie en temps voulu et de manière efficace, est plus que jamais nécessaire.

En modernisant le système obsolète d'allocation des DTS, la communauté internationale pourrait également réduire le déficit de financement de la lutte contre le changement climatique. Mais d'abord, les nombreux pays en développement actuellement menacés par une grave crise de la dette doivent bénéficier d'un soutien budgétaire immédiat. Si nous ne créons pas un filet de sécurité financier mondial, les objectifs de développement durable des Nations unies ont peu de chances d'être atteints.

Les turbulences financières actuelles mettent en évidence les inégalités inhérentes au système actuel. Au cours des dernières semaines, les gouvernements qui contrôlent les monnaies de réserve mondiales, comme les États-Unis et la Suisse, ont injecté des quantités massives de liquidités dans le secteur bancaire pour sauver les banques privées. En revanche, les pays débiteurs qui ont demandé un allègement de leur dette au titre du cadre commun de traitement de la dette du G20 attendent depuis des années une fraction de ces sommes.

La crise de la dette souveraine qui engloutit actuellement les pays les plus pauvres du monde, qui

sont aussi les plus touchés par le changement climatique, exige une action immédiate. Au minimum, les pays à revenu faible ou intermédiaire confrontés à des problèmes de balance des paiements devraient avoir la possibilité de renforcer leurs réserves de change grâce à une nouvelle allocation de DTS.

Néanmoins, même si une nouvelle allocation est finalement convenue, les pays doivent savoir comment en tirer le meilleur parti. Malheureusement, le flou entretenu par le FMI sur cette question a semé la confusion, certains affirmant que les DTS appartiennent aux banques centrales, et non aux gouvernements, et d'autres insistant sur le fait qu'il s'agit de prêts et non d'actifs distribués par le FMI.

Par conséquent, les DTS nouvellement alloués à de nombreux pays bénéficiaires ne font qu'augmenter leurs réserves de change. Bien que cela puisse avoir un impact positif en augmentant la solvabilité perçue d'un pays, cela peut également entraver une utilisation plus efficace des DTS, en particulier en période de pénurie aiguë et de contraintes budgétaires.

L'économiste équatorien Andrés Arauz a mis l'accent sur ces préoccupations, affirmant qu'il n'existe aucune base juridique permettant aux banques centrales de s'approprier les allocations de DTS. Les directives du FMI indiquent que les membres "jouissent d'une grande liberté dans la gestion des DTS qui leur sont alloués", notamment en ce qui concerne la mesure dans laquelle "les banques centrales sont impliquées dans leur gestion et si le budget peut les utiliser directement à des fins de soutien budgétaire". Selon le Fonds, les DTS sont "alloués et détenus par le membre et les instructions relatives à leur utilisation sont données par l'intermédiaire de l'organisme budgétaire du membre" (emphasis ajoutée par mes soins). En d'autres termes, les gouvernements peuvent utiliser les DTS comme bon leur semble.

La confusion sur la nature et le statut des DTS découle en partie de la classification erronée de ces actifs par le FMI lui-même. Comme le souligne Arauz, avant la publication du dernier manuel de la balance des paiements du FMI (MBP6) en 2009, les allocations de DTS étaient traitées comme des capitaux propres et non comme des passifs que les pays bénéficiaires doivent rembourser. Mais le MBP6 les a reclassées en tant que passifs, les traitant essentiellement comme des dettes. Ce changement, qui a été effectué sans raisonnement clair ni discussion transparente, doit être contesté, car il peut décourager l'utilisation, le transfert et le recyclage des DTS, empêchant ainsi les allocations de réaliser leur potentiel.

Certains pays, notamment en Amérique latine, ont fait preuve de créativité dans l'utilisation des DTS. L'Équateur, par exemple, les a utilisés pour financer son plan d'investissement en 2021. La même année, le Paraguay a affecté son allocation à des investissements dans les domaines de la santé, de l'éducation, du logement et d'autres dépenses publiques. L'Argentine, quant à elle, a utilisé son allocation de 4,6 milliards de dollars pour rembourser la dette arrivant à échéance, s'acquittant ainsi de ses obligations envers le FMI.

Dans d'autres pays, le rôle perçu des banques centrales en tant que gardiennes des DTS n'a pas complètement limité les autres utilisations possibles. La Colombie, par exemple, a utilisé les DTS pour faciliter un échange de dette intérieure entre le gouvernement et la banque centrale et pour générer des liquidités à court terme. Bien que la banque centrale du Mexique ait affirmé qu'elle était propriétaire des DTS du pays, le gouvernement mexicain lui a acheté des réserves internationales par le biais d'un échange de devises à la fin de 2021.

La crise actuelle est l'occasion de construire un système monétaire international plus juste et plus durable. Un programme de réforme sensé doit inclure une augmentation de l'émission de DTS et la création de mécanismes de distribution plus efficaces et plus équitables. Pour y parvenir, les pays du G7, en tant que principaux actionnaires du FMI, doivent faire preuve d'un minimum de sagesse et de leadership.

Jayati Ghosh, professeure d'économie à l'université du Massachusetts Amherst, est un ancien membre du Conseil consultatif de haut niveau du Secrétaire général des Nations unies sur le multilatéralisme efficace.

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REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
National Investment Commission (NIC)
M&E Professional Building/ UN Drive
Monrovia, Liberia



Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI)
(Consultancy Services)

Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zone (SAPZ) Project

CONSULTANCY SERVICE FOR "PREPARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (ESIA)-STUDIES FOR INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS OF THE LIBERIA SPECIAL AGRO-INDUSTRIAL PROCESSING ZONE (SAPZ) PROJECT, BUCHANAN CITY – GRAND BASSA COUNTY - LIBERIA"

Sector: Agriculture/Industry

Financing Agreement Reference: 2100150042703

Project ID: P-LR-AA0-009

1. BACKGROUND

The Government of Liberia has received funding from the African Development Bank (AfDB) towards the establishment of a Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zone (SAPZ) over a period of five (5) years, (January 2022 to December 2026), and intends to apply part of the agreed amount towards the provision of consulting services for:

Phase I: a) Preparation of an Environmental & Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for Construction of a 5km Linked-Road to the Proposed Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zone (SAPZ)/ Special Economic Zone (SEZ) designated site in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County; b). Conduct Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement for the construction of a 200ha perimeter fencing & signature gate, site grading and the use of a gender-sensitive communication strategy; and c). Preparation of an Environmental & Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the Construction of a 33kv Distribution line that stretches from the CLSG Buchanan substation to the Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zone (SAPZ) site.

Phase II: (a) Preparation of Environmental & Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for Construction of Three (3) Agricultural Transformation Centers (ATCs) & Aggregation Centers (ACs) in Madina (Grand Cape Mount County, Gbartala (Bong County) and Sanniquille (Nimba County) respectively.

The Project development goal is to contribute to inclusive and sustainable agro-industrial development in Liberia, and in the process reduce staple food imports, create jobs, and reduce poverty.

The project development objectives are to: (i) Create a better business environment for increased investment in the agro industrial sector, (ii) Create opportunities for investments at the industrial level and coordinate the integration of small holder farms and agro processing industry into sustained agro value chains and, (iii) Improve capacities and skills to benefit from new agribusiness employment and value chain opportunities.

The project is structured around three related components including: (a) Support the development of Climate-resilient Infrastructure to attract investments into Agricultural Value addition/industrialization, (b) Support Business Competitiveness, Enable skills and climate-smart agricultural value chain development and strengthen farmer coordination and, (c) Strengthen Institutional Capacity, Project Coordination & Management.

The primary objective of the consultancy is to develop the required Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) with detailed Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) that satisfy the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia compliance requirements, the African Development Bank's Integrated Safeguard Policies; and obtain the relevant permits for the project sub-components. These studies shall identify, predict and propose management strategies and implementation plans that address potential environmental, social, economic and gender sensitive impacts associated with the project activities. These studies shall provide detailed gender sensitive methodologies for the field assessments and management of environmental and social issues related to physical, biological and socioeconomic baseline of the project environment.

The scope of services will include but not limited to the following:

- Assess, review and identify the nature and magnitude of potential risks, vulnerabilities, and impacts associated to the project implementation.
- Conduct a gender-responsive baseline assessment of the physical, biological and socioeconomic environment of the project corridor in accordance with the appropriate Operational Standards and National Environmental Regulations;
- Assess and identify potential risks to social livelihood (men and women) and the environment including fauna (native species), vegetation, air quality and dust, noise and vibration, erosion and sediments control, water quality, heritage (Indigenous and non-indigenous), and provide appropriate mitigation measures and material actions needed to reduce any adverse impact to acceptable levels.
- Conduct public consultations to be termed as "scoping" to identify, inform and receive input from the affected stakeholders and interested parties; The public consultative meetings should create a forum for information disclosure relative to the project and ensure that all relevant parties and stakeholders are involved and that women and men engage meaningfully;
- Identify and define, at an early stage of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) process, the significant environmental and gender related issues, problems and alternatives related to the different phases of the proposed project or activity including a No Action Alternative of an Alternative Climate Sensitive approach in accordance with the appropriate African Development Bank's Operational Standard (Oss);
- Identify appropriate mitigation and improvement measures to prevent, minimize, mitigate or compensate for adverse impacts or enhance the environmental and social benefits of the project, including related accountability; develop environmental and gender monitoring program with indicators, allocate responsibilities/accountability and estimate monitoring costs/budget in accordance with appropriate (OSs);
- Prepare an environmental risk management plan, including an accident risk analysis, identify appropriate safety measures; identify institutional accountability and needs assessment procedures in accordance with appropriate (Oss);
- Develop an environmental and social management plans and strategies to ensure successful mitigation of all adverse impacts including gender related risks, develop a monitoring and evaluation plan that includes gender-sensitive indicators and institutional arrangements to execute this plan; and to provide clear instructions to works supervisors and contractors with regard to any measures that need to be implemented in order to limit potential negative impacts to acceptable levels in accordance with applicable African Development Bank's Operational Standards (Oss);
- Identify national, legal and administrative environmental and gender related policies relevant to the proposed project and relevant Operational Standards (Oss);
- Follow-up with the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia for obtaining the EPA's permits for project sub-components;
- Prepare comprehensive, appropriate and accessible Grievance Redress Mechanism- (GRM) and a Sexual Gender Based Violence reporting and referral system for the duration of the project.

The National Investment Commission invites eligible consulting firm (s) to indicate their interest in providing these services. Interested consulting firm (s) must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services, (i) information detailing the company's existence and areas of expertise (ii) list of similar assignments and experience in similar conditions, (iii) list of overall permanent and temporary staff in fields related to the assignment (Qualification will be considered from one of two perspectives: a. firm's qualification and b. staff and consultants qualification), (iv) evidence of past performance if any, and (v) any other relevant information that might be useful. Consulting Firm may constitute joint ventures to enhance their chances of qualification.

Eligibility criteria, establishment of the short-list and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with the African Development Bank's "Procurement Policy and Methodology for Bank Group Funded Operations" (BPM), dated October 2015", which is available on the Bank's website at <http://www.afdb.org>.

Interested consulting firms may obtain further information at the address below during office hours 8:30AM – 5:00PM Monrovia Time.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in hardcopy or by email to the address below and clearly marked "EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR PREPARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (ESIA)-STUDIES FOR INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS OF THE LIBERIA SPECIAL AGRO-INDUSTRIAL PROCESSING ZONE (SAPZ) PROJECT, BUCHANAN CITY – GRAND BASSA COUNTRY - LIBERIA" on or before 3:00pm Local time Monday, June 12, 2023.

Special Agro Industrial Processing Zone Project
Attn: Andrew Anderson – Project Coordinator
National Investment Commission
Project Implementation Unit
M&E Professional Building
2nd Floor, Room - 15
Sekou Touré Ave. UN Drive Tel: +231 886 976 983/ 8860 376 864/ 777 551 753
Email: aanderson2024@gmail.com/ boimahgibson@gmail.com/
Monrovia, Liberia



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Golden Veroleum (Liberia) Inc. (GVL) is an Oil Palm Company operating in Southeastern Liberia. The Company has an exciting opportunity for Plantation Manager to join our Plantation Team.

Position: Plantation Manager
Number Needed: Two (2)
Duty Station: Grand Kru County
Category: Local
Application Deadline:

General Scope of Work/Duties:

The candidate must be an experienced plantation manager who has mastered international plantation management systems. You will be fully responsible for managing the plantation's daily operations.

Duties and Responsibilities-

1. Fully responsible for the assigned plantation's operation and financial performance.
2. Assigning leadership in ensuring infrastructure and supporting units are well equipped.
3. Working closely with other department heads to facilitate cost-effective operations.
4. Providing leadership and strategic guidance to all Agriculture aspects (R&D, Development, Harvesting, and Maintenance).
5. Actively involved in the business' ground operations.
6. Involved in the planning and execution of the company's expansion plan.
7. To be cost-conscious and effective.
8. Oversees the daily plantation operations of the estate – be responsible for human capital development, asset utilization and preservation, and operational performance.
9. Collaborate and work closely with the workshop & transport department to ensure the availability of trucks and equipment.
10. Inspect the plantation operations daily and prepare a written report after each visit detailing the state and conditions of all aspects of the estate, together with necessary recommendations.
11. Provide recommendations on all agricultural aspects of developing and operating the estate's conformance to best-developed practices.
12. Ensure plantation operations are within the Environment policies and responsibilities framework.
13. Ensure all work operations in a safe and responsible manner
14. Collaborating with related departments to manage and monitor all estate fixed assets and inventories.
15. Department data and proceedings confidentiality must be maintained at all times. Revealing such details to third parties, regardless of who they are, is a serious offense.
16. Planning, developing, training, and empowering existing downline human resources to take on additional and higher responsibilities
17. Continuously monitoring worker needs for upkeep, harvesting, and collection, and planning effectively to ensure daily worker requirements are met
18. Planning and managing estate budgets to maximize operating expenses and profitability.
19. Build relationships with key stakeholders, local government, and the community around the estate.
20. Any other duties delegated by the Regional Controller or inline senior management.

Education

A Bachelor's or Master's degree in Agriculture or a related field,

Experience/Competencies/Skills:

- University Degree in Agriculture/Forestry/ Food Science & Technology or equivalent
- Must have 12+ years of experience in the International Plantation Industry and 5-7 years as plantation manager.
- Solid Technical Background with an understanding of Palm Plantation.
- Strong experience in managing plantations in various locations
- Proven track record in managing multiple estates
- Having knowledge and ability to use the SAP program
- Interpersonal Skills,
- Good Communication & Social Skills,
- Endearing Behaviour,
- The ability to manage Subordinates, peers, and external agencies.
- Ability to work under stress
- Potential to progress to a higher responsibility position
- Ability to live in a remote environment

How to Apply

Interested Candidates should address a cover letter with a CV & (2) two passport-size photos to:
The Human Resources Department
Golden Veroleum (Liberia) Inc.
Butaw Main Office
Sinoe County

Kindly note the followings:

- the information & application shall optionally be dropped at the GVL Butaw Main Office (HR Department)
- applicants shall also email the application letter, cover letter & credentials to: alphonso.kofi@veroleum.com or daniel.cephas@veroleum.com
- Only selected candidates will be notified for the interview.

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ArcelorMittal Liberia

authorities at the company and representatives of the Liberian Government through the National Bureau of Concessions reached a consensus to dialogue with the citizens to find an amicable solution and answer to their concerns.

On Tuesday, citizens continued their protest when a meeting with company officials and authorities at the county's administrative building ended in deadlock.

The meeting was disrupted after citizens were informed by the Director General of the National Bureau of Concessions Atty. Edwin N. Dennis the washing plant will no longer be constructed in Grand Bassa County, instead of Nimba County.

Atty Dennis, it was a decision taken by the Government in compliance with the MDA for Arcelor Mittal to construct the disputed plant in Nimba County, while other aspects of the MDA which include the construction of schools and clinics will be done in both counties.

At least six citizens were arrested and detained in Police custody on Tuesday, but police later restored calm while Internal Affairs Minister Varney Sirleaf at the meeting assured citizens that the Government is doing everything possible to address the matter. -Edited by Othello B. Garblah

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Agriculture boss stresses

LibRice Project, Mr. Katsuyuki Yamamoto, explained that the project began in May of last year and since its establishment, several trials and surveys have been conducted, which when implemented, would promote local rice production.

"This is very important to Liberians. JICA has a similar scheme to improve production," Yamamoto says, noting that the project is working with over 2,000 farmers in Bong County, central region.

LibRice Focal Point, Mr. Emmanuel D. Williams, notes that the project is in line with Liberia's rice development project that gears to expanding rice production.

For his part, the Assistant Minister for Extension at the Ministry of Agriculture, Avin Wesseh, lauds Minister Cooper for her oversight in the sector, especially her reservation about the LibRice Project.

"We will take your observation in good faith and take all necessary corrective measures so as to improve the project. Owing to the importance of rice to Liberians, we will find solutions. We can guarantee you, Honorable Minister, that we address our concern," Mr. Wesseh assures. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

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Kailondo and GT Bank tussle over 1.2m debt

Liberian businessman Cllr. George B. Kailondo Sr and the Guarantee Trust (GT) Bank are at it again. This time over an alleged accumulated debt of US\$1.2M which the bank claims Kailondo owes. But the businessman has argued otherwise, claiming that the Bank has rather defrauded him.

twenty-four consecutive monthly installments commencing from November 30, 2017, to October 30, 2019.

The bank further explained that it had made several demands to Kailondo to effect payment but to no avail and therefore has instituted the action of debt by attachment praying the court to compel Kailondo Petroleum to pay the amount of US\$1.2 Million

The audit was to also establish whether he owed that amount because according to him, he had already initiated payment on the 791, 458.21 in the amount of over 414,000. That would have left him with the amount of US\$377,000 plus.

Additionally, he further argued that when he agreed to assume full responsibility for ACE Global's financial obligation it was to be interest-free.

However, following the audit, it was established that an unauthorized amount of over 900,000 or so was taken out of his account at the bank.

On April 21, 2021, the bank wrote Kailondo Petroleum through its then Lawyer Dr. Jallah A. Barbu, Counsellor at Law and Senior Consulting Counsel at Public Interest Law acknowledging that an unauthorized amount of US\$510,000.00 was debited to his account and agreed to credit his account with said amount.

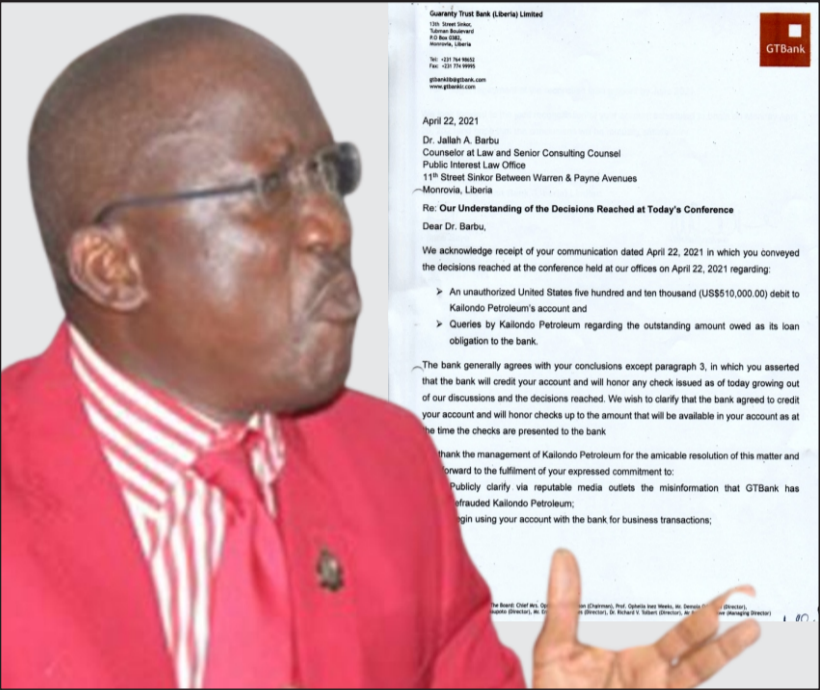
The bank also pleaded with Kailondo Petroleum to publicly clarify through media outlets that GT Bank defrauded his company.

"We thank the management of Kailondo Petroleum for the amicable resolution of this matter and look forward to the fulfillment of your expressed commitment to:

Publicly clarify via reputable media outlets the misinformation that GTBank has defrauded Kailondo Petroleum;

Begin using your account with the bank for business transactions;

Begin repayment of the reconciled loan amount by June 2021," GTBank wrote. - **To be continued**



documents filed by GTBank, on September 29, 2017, it entered into a Novation Agreement with Kailondo for the latter to pay the full amount of ACE Global, a Collateral Management Agency's financial obligation to the bank under a Collateral Management Agreement entered into by Kailondo Petroleum and GTBank Liberia in the tune of US\$791,458.21.

which includes other charges and penalties.

But Kailondo is fighting back, saying the bank is trying to defraud him. On August 26, 2020, GT Bank through its legal representative Heritage Partners & Associates wrote him demanding payment of little over US\$1.2 Million as his obligation to the bank based on the 2017 novation agreement.

Kailondo upon receiving the demand letter, wrote the banking demanding to have an audit of his account which had not been done since opening an account there somewhere around 2014.

Lukasu Residents Embrace Community Forestry Management Project

Monrovia, Liberia; 24 May 2023: The people in the remote Lukasu village in Lukambah District -Lofa County have welcomed and embraced the Community-Based Forestry Management Project that is envisioned to replace the destructive slash-and-burn agricultural practices with sustainable commercial farming.

The project, implemented by UNDP and FAO in partnership with the Forestry Development Authority, and with funding from the Embassy of Sweden, will introduce improved higher-yielding crop varieties including rice and cocoa, and intensified crop production systems that will reduce deforestation because of shifting agriculture.

The Lukasu Commissioner said the community used to plant rice once a year, but they are now learning how to use the System of Rice Intensification (SRI), which maximizes yields while minimizing the environmental impacts of rice farming, to produce three crops per year.

"Today is a dream come true for the people of Lukasu," said the Lukasu Commissioner Hon. Anthony S. Armah Sr., last week during a visit to some of the project sites by the funding and implementing partners. "What you have taught us about lowland rice production, about how to care for and protect the (wild) animals is remarkable such that other villages around us are emulating what you are teaching us here."



Rural women in Nimba abandon PYJ

By Thomas Domah
Nimba County

Over 5,000 rural women from Electoral District#4 in Nimba County have threatened to leave Senator Prince Johnson's Movement for Democracy and Reconstruction (MDR) party for expelling their lawmaker Gunpue Kargon and three others.

MDR executives, including Senator Johnson, recently gathered in Ganta at the PYJ Polytechnic University and expelled Representative Kargon and three others, including vice chairman for governmental and political affairs Wilfred Bangura from the party for alleged divided loyalty.

PYJ openly demanded the lawmaker to choose which party he (Gunpue Kargon) wants to be within the pending elections.

"We in the MDR are the ones

their numbers to beg him not to expel their son, Representative Gunpue Kargon, from the MDR, he ignored their plead.

Madam Massaquoi explained that Representative Kargon is a founding member of the MDR, and he should have faced other punishment other than expulsion.

The Nimba District#4 women, attired in their uniforms gathered on the campus of the PYJ Polytechnic University where they vowed to abandon Sen. Johnson and instead, support the re-election bid of President George Weah.

Prior to reaching their decision, President Weah recently produced a music for them, describing them as very important people.

The President promised to impact lives of the women of District#4.

Our correspondent, who was at the PYJ Polytechnic University campus said Representative Kargon openly told Senator



that made you to have many properties and improve your living condition today; we want you to openly tell the gathering here which party you belong to", he told the expelled lawmaker.

According to Senator Johnson, the CDC-led government is fighting the people of Nimba because former Vice President Joseph Boakai named Senator Jeremiah Koung of the MDR as his running mate.

Following the expulsion of Rep. Kargon, huge population of Nimbaians mainly rural women from District#4 have vowed not to support PYJ's reelection and the Boakai-Koung Ticket.

The head of the group, Madam Mary Massaquoi, said their decision is based on disrespect shown them by Senator Johnson, noting that despite gathering recently in

Johnson that despite his expulsion from the party, he will not disrespect him because the Senator is a son of God.

"I will not be ungrateful to President George Weah's government and also disrespect Senator Prince Johnson", he added.

Addressing reporters, the Nimba County chairman of the MDR, Mr. Joseph G. Wongar, expressed disappointment in Representative Gunpue Kargon and several former representatives from the county, who he said got elected on MDR's tickets, but later left the party.

He said executives of the party are aware of those lawmakers who are working against its interest, lamenting that the MDR made people who today, have turned their backs against the political institution. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

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Biney-led NPP

democratic conduct it exhibited over the years.

The Biney NPP faction maintained that there are more good people than bad people in the NPP.

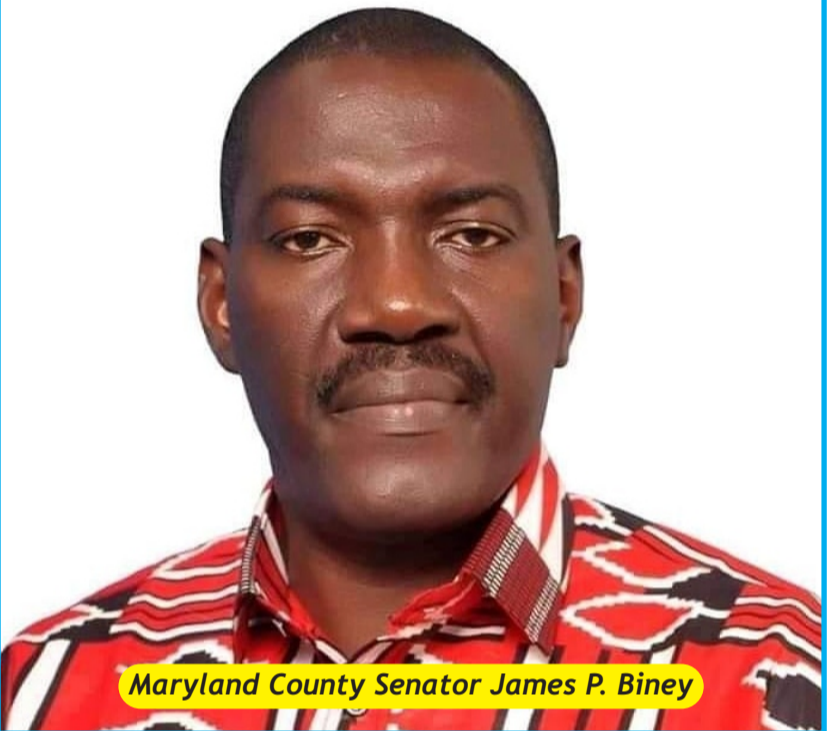
"There are partisans of the NPP who tolerate dissent and criticism from our political

adversaries. In light of this, we apologize to the Christ Chapel of Faith on behalf of the NPP and appeal to the public to not characterize the NPP on the basis of the action of these few misguided persons," the statement concluded. **-edited by Othello B. Garblah**

Biney-led NPP condemns VP Taylor

-Accuses her of unleashing thugs

The faction of the National Patriotic Party (NPP) headed by Maryland County Senator James P. Biney has accused



Maryland County Senator James P. Biney

of Faith and disrupted normal service. In a statement issued on Wednesday, the NPP Biney faction condemned the action of the NPP Youth wing saying

over by Madam Jewel Howard Taylor.

The group comprises people appointed by Madam Taylor to positions in what she referred to as "expanded NEC", unsupported by convention and the constitution of the party.

Peter Blidi and Jimmy Toby, the ringleaders of the church saga, and Roland Duo, all accompanied Madam Taylor on her recent political tour to the Southeast, campaigning for Weah - Taylor's ticket.

We ask the public to view the videos of Madam Taylor's recent tour to the Southeast. As such, Madam Taylor should step up and take control of her supporters who are denigrating the party in the name of protecting her and the President.

Sadly, this latest action by Madam Taylor's loyalists in the party destroyed all we worked for over the years trying to rebrand the NPP," the statement read.

It said the NPP reached this level of acceptance because of the strides it made at foreign missions both in Liberia and outside of Liberia and the lawful and

Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor of hiring thugs to carry out the recent disruption of normal worship service at the Christ Chapel of Faith of Evangelist Prince Johnson.

A group of partisans from the NPP on Sunday, May 21, unlawfully stormed the premises of the Christ Chapel

the lawless actions displayed by the individuals do not represent the best of the NPP.

"Barely one week ago, we disclosed that the NPP was divided, with one group being lawless. It is important to note that the NPP partisans who disrupted the church service are from the group presided

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