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

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**P11**

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# Finance Ministry submits US\$625m draft budget



**P11**

Speaker Chamber receive draft budget from Deputy Min. Brunson

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# Continental News

## Kenya fines Carrefour franchise \$7m

Kenya's competition regulator has fined the local Carrefour franchise holder, Majid al Futtaim, \$7.1m (£5.6m) after accusing it of forcing suppliers to accept lower prices. The regulator said it had abused "its superior bargaining position" over two suppliers.



The fine is the highest-ever issued by Kenya's competition authority

The fine is the highest-ever issued by the competition authority. Majid al Futtaim, which runs one of the biggest retail chains in Kenya, has not yet responded to the fine.

In addition to the fine, the Competition Authority of Kenya (CAK), has ordered the Carrefour franchise holder to refund the two companies involved - honey processor Woodlands and manufacturer Pwani Oil - \$112,000. CAK has said that Majid al Futtaim forced suppliers to accept lower prices through a system of discounts known as rebates, which cuts final payments by up to 12%. The regulator also accused the supermarket chain of illegally transferring its costs to suppliers.

"Investigations also determined that Carrefour's suppliers are required to provide free products and pay listing fees for every new branch opened as well as post employees to the supermarket's branches," CAK said in a statement shared on X on Tuesday. "These practices amount to transfer of the retailer's costs to suppliers, which is prohibited by the Competition Act."

The supermarket chain has subsequently been ordered to "amend all its supplier contracts and expunge clauses that facilitate abuse of buyer power". In 2021, Kenya's Competition Tribunal (CT) found the franchise guilty of exploiting suppliers by forcing them to accept lower prices through charging them high listing fees and rebate rates, after another Kenyan company filed a complaint against its supplier practices. The company is yet to respond to the penalty, but after the 2021 investigation, it said that it "remains committed to working with its suppliers through mutually beneficial relationships".

There are 21 Carrefour outlets in Kenya across many of the country's major cities. BBC

## Hundreds of thousands flee Sudan safe-haven - UN

At least 250,000 people have fled fighting in a Sudanese state once seen as a safe haven for those escaping the civil war, the UN said. The paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have advanced into the city of Wad Madani, in al Jazira state.

For months, both the state and the city have housed large numbers seeking safety from fighting in the capital.

Many in Wad Madani have fled the city without having anywhere to go, a resident told the BBC. "So many people are wandering, there is no transportation, nothing to take us, many people do not know where to go, they are just running away," Ahamed Fadol, who moved to Wad Madani from the capital, Khartoum, after the conflict began, said. As people have been leaving the city over the past few days, the cost of transport has climbed. On Tuesday, no transport was available at all. As a result, Mr Fadol walked for three hours to seek refuge

better known as Hemedti, alleged that his fighters attacked Wad Madani after learning that the army and leaders of the former regime were preparing an offensive on Khartoum. On Tuesday evening, four days after the RSF began attacking Wad Madani, the army released a statement saying it will investigate how its forces managed to lose control of the city. When the war broke out in April, the city replaced Khartoum as a hub for international humanitarian organisations.

Many of these non-profit organisations have left over the past few days, with some heading towards the Sennar and Gadrif. However, RSF fighters on social media have now threatened to attack those cities too.

There is also speculation the RSF may attack Kosti, a city in the south where many Wad Madani residents fled to.

Will Carter, Sudan director for the Norwegian Refugee Council, said: "We still have our international staff there for the moment, but many organisations



At least 250,000 have fled Wad Madani since Friday, the UN has said

in a village called Marnjan. Eissa Mussa also found himself fleeing for a second time on Tuesday - he had initially left Khartoum after her home in the south of the city was bombed several times. The 38-year-old said: "I got on a lorry after being exhausted and fled [Wad Madani] to Blue Nile state, I didn't want to wait like last time when I was in Khartoum."

Residents of the city said the RSF - who are fighting the army - had attacked a hospital and taken over a military base.

In a post on X, formerly Twitter, the RSF said: "We seized control of the SAF [Sudan army] First Infantry Division in Wad Madani. Our operation included the liberation of the central reserve camp and the strategic Hantoub bridge from the eastern side." Elsewhere on social media, RSF chief Mohamed Hamadan Dagalo,

have left, some of our Sudanese staff have also left to be with their families. It's very tough. "Wad Madani's only cancer treatment centre has closed in the wake of the fighting, along with all of its hospitals and pharmacies. Houses and offices have been looted by armed groups and civilians. Over the weekend, the US State Department called on the RSF to cease its advance on Wad Madani. Washington said the group's actions were inconsistent with its stated aim of protecting Sudanese civilians. Unicef's Sudan director, who was recently in Wad Madani, said: "I've heard bone-chilling stories from children and women of their harrowing journeys from Darfur and Khartoum into Madani city. That was last week."

Mandeep O'Brien told the BBC's Newsday programme: "You can imagine now these very same children and women are being forced to flee a second time, and probably for some a third time.

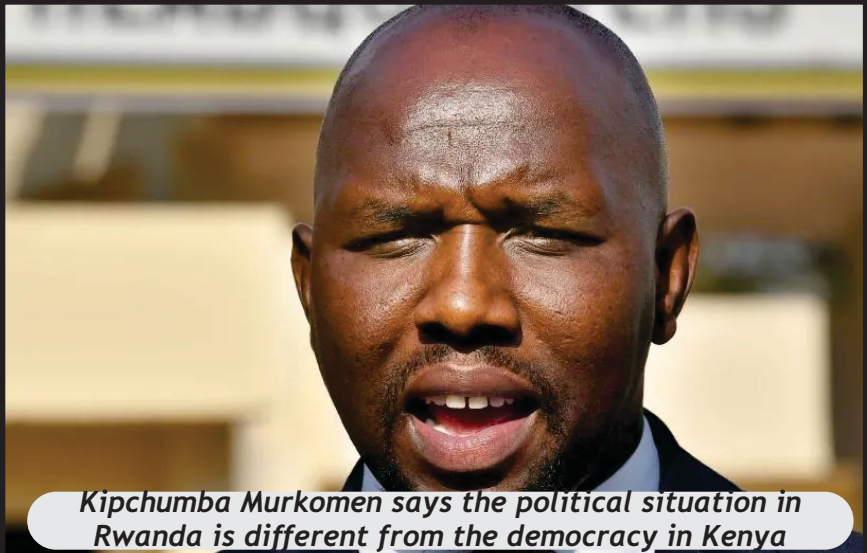
## Kenyan minister calls Rwanda an 'autocracy'

Kenyan minister has stirred controversy after saying that Rwanda was an "autocracy" where "whatever the president says is the law". Transport Minister Kipchumba Murkomen said Kenya, unlike Rwanda, was a democracy with legal processes. He was responding to criticism that unfavourably compared Kenya's transport system to that of its near neighbour. Rwanda, which has in the past enjoyed good relations with Kenya, is yet to respond to the minister's comments. Kenyans urged Mr Murkomen to retract the remarks fearing that they would unnecessarily provoke Rwanda. Appearing live on privately owned Citizen TV on Monday night, Mr Murkomen was asked why Kenya could not make public transport work in an orderly way like in Rwanda. In Kenya, regulation-flouting minibuses weaving their way through congested roads are often a cause of accidents.

dismissed any comparison between Kenya and Rwanda saying that the political situation in Rwanda was different from the democracy in Kenya.

"Rwanda is not like Kenya. Rwanda is an autocracy and there whatever the president says is the law," Mr Murkomen minister said, adding that Rwanda is "even smaller than Kajiado county", a county in the outskirts of Nairobi.

"For every decision you make in this country you must go through a proposal then parliament then public participation," he added. Rwandan President Paul Kagame has been the dominant political figure in the country since 1994. He won the last presidential election with nearly 99% of the vote and, elections permitting, could remain in power until 2034. Rights groups have accused his government of silencing opposition voices, something it denies. The Kenyan minister's sentiments sparked sharp reactions on social media, with some Kenyans terming them "bar talk" that could trigger a diplomatic row between the two East African countries.



Kipchumba Murkomen says the political situation in Rwanda is different from the democracy in Kenya

But the transport minister

# EDITORIAL

## Cleanliness should be our way of life

VOLUNTEERS CLEANING OUR streets, including young men, women, and older women is not only heart-touching but highly nationalistic. This exercise is going on in preparation for the festive seasons and mainly for the pending inauguration of President-elect, Joseph Nyumah Boakai and Vice President-elect, Jeremiah Kpan Koung in January 2024.

THESE MASS VOLUNTEERS signing up to clean the capital and its suburbs are revolutionizing the way we ought to take care of our capital, looking and waiting on government to do for us clearly what we can do ourselves.

But cleaning up the city should not be only for Christmas or inaugural purposes. Instead, it should be a way of life for us, as Liberians. We do not need a special time to clean up our city or our environment. It should be a daily, weekly, and monthly practice to set go example for the next generation of Liberians that cleanliness is not just hygienic, but Godly.

We dirty the city and our communities all of the time without any remorse. It is correspondingly important that we clean it regularly instead of waiting for a specific period or a national event.

Unfortunately, Monrovia is littered with garbage and feces everywhere. Shamelessly even public buildings such as the Capitol and other places are not spared of garbage. Grass has swallowed the Capitol. It lacks running water and functioning toilets.

Yet this is where our elected leaders sit to represent us! No wonder why President-elect Boakai has chosen to take his inaugural program there, to ensure it is given a proper facelift.

This was not the case in the past especially, during the Tubman, Tolbert, Doe, and most recently, Sirleaf eras, because relevant state institutions responsible to keep the city and its environs tidy were fully functional such as the Monrovia City Corporation and the Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation.

The MCC is the enforcer of city ordinances, while the LWSC is responsible for the sewage system and running water in the capital. But these institutions have broken down completely because of bad administration and corruption. The LWSC cannot provide the city running water and sewer services so feces littered the streets due to clogged sewage lines, while the MCC has collapsed under recently sanctioned Mayor Jefferson Tamba Koijee.

The incoming administration of President-elect Boakai should maintain the current group of volunteers to help keep the city and parts adjacent cleaned from time to time to demonstrate Liberian pride.

Garbage and feces are breeding grounds for roaches, rats, flies, mosquitoes, and other rodents that come directly into homes and contaminate food and drinking water with sicknesses such as cholera and diarrhea. A clean environment is a healthy environment that promotes healthy people.

Such delicate responsibility is not a child's play and should not be assigned to someone with divided or mixed priorities. It should be reserved for people with enough innovation and resilience to execute the job of maintaining a healthy environment that will drive the health of the nation.

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# COMMENTARY

By Hippolyte Fofack

## Africa Needs an Entrepreneurial Boom

CAMBRIDGE - For decades, Africa has been the world's most commodity-dependent continent. At the same time, it has become overly reliant on imports from the rest of the world: intracontinental trade accounts for only 15% of total African trade, compared to 60% in Asia and 70% in the European Union. Worryingly, imports of manufactured goods into African countries have grown by more than 25% over the decade ending in 2022.

The continent's import dependency can be explained primarily by the dearth of African industrial entrepreneurs. And Africa's projected population growth and burgeoning middle class suggests that this dependency will only grow in the medium term, with significant implications for macroeconomic stability, unless local actors begin driving innovation and creating new products and services to meet the needs and desires of domestic consumers.

The problem, however, is not sustained import growth per se, especially when the rise of global value chains and increasing fragmentation of production have reduced the power of exports as a driver of short-term demand. Instead, the main issue is that African countries are participating in global value chains largely through backward activities, systematically exporting natural resources and primary commodities and importing manufactured goods, an imbalance that drains wealth away from the continent. For African fossil fuel-producing countries, the carbon-intensive "round-tripping" model of exporting crude oil and importing refined petroleum has been costly, resulting in immense deadweight losses and foreign-exchange leakages. In Nigeria, for example, the opening of a much-anticipated oil refinery could save the country \$26 billion annually.

Moreover, in an era of hyper-globalization when intermediate goods account for 50% of global trade, African countries' high level of forward participation in global value chains has scuttled prospects for structural transformation and shrunk the continent's share of global trade to around 3%. It has also perpetuated the unhealthy correlation between growth and commodity-price cycles, resulting in increased exposure to global volatility and persistent structural current-account deficits.

While limited access to finance has been cited as a binding constraint on African economic development, what if the chronic deficit of entrepreneurs is equally limiting? After all, entrepreneurship, which improves competitiveness and business efficiency to lower prices for consumers, has become a leading driver of innovation and growth in many countries in recent decades. And Africa lags behind in this area: in the latest edition of US News and World Report's Best Countries for Entrepreneurship, the continent's highest-ranked country, South Africa, places only 44th.

One top-ranking country on that list, which includes some of the world's wealthiest and most complex economies, is Singapore. Recently, companies based in the city-state have pursued major growth opportunities across myriad sectors and industries in Africa, highlighting the continent's entrepreneurship deficit. The Tolaram Group, for example, created the instant-noodle market in Nigeria, producing 4.5 billion packets annually and generating almost \$1 billion in annual revenue.

Compared to more diversified and higher-ranking countries like Singapore, where tight labor markets have pushed unemployment to natural rates, a shortage of industrial entrepreneurs may be doubly costly for Africa,

where persistent widespread poverty and high unemployment fuel insecurity and migration pressures. For example, the unemployment rate is at Great Depression-era levels - above 30% in two of the continent's largest economies, Nigeria and South Africa. In other countries, economic informality - think of street vendors hawking imported toothpicks, candles, cell phones, and batteries - has become a form of disguised unemployment.

An increase in entrepreneurship on the continent would generate wealth more sustainably, expand employment, and reduce migration flows. In many African countries, industrial entrepreneurs, in particular, could help diversify sources of growth, improve the current-account balance, and broaden the tax base. This, in turn, would expand countries' fiscal space, improve debt sustainability, and gradually ease the constraints associated with capital scarcity.

Moreover, when the rules of origin for the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) are finalized, they will serve as an "industrialization passport" enabling made-in-Africa goods to circulate duty-free. This would provide local entrepreneurs with a much-needed boost to operationalize continental trade integration and enhance Africa's economic dynamism.

But to take full advantage of the economies of scale and the growth opportunities provided by the AfCFTA - most notably the drastic reduction of risk associated with investing in smaller markets - African entrepreneurs need the support of entrepreneurial states. Fostering business environments that ensure a level playing field for all participants, together with policy coordination at the regional and continental level, would go a long way toward increasing Africa direct investment and stimulating the development of robust regional value chains.

African policymakers must also implement financial reforms to eliminate the credit rationing that has long undermined entrepreneurship. Finance is the lifeblood of business; yet, expressed as a percentage of GDP, domestic credit to the private sector has remained very low across Africa, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa, where it averaged 37.1% of GDP in 2022. By contrast, the GDP share of domestic credit to the private sector in the ten countries that US News and World Report ranked as being the best for entrepreneurship ranges from 83.6% in Germany and 129.5% in Singapore to 175.9% in South Korea and a whopping 216% in the United States.

In addition to providing easy access to capital, the most successful and enterprising countries share other important attributes: technological expertise, highly skilled labor, well-developed infrastructure (both physical and digital), transparent business practices, and comprehensive legal frameworks. They are also globally connected and fully integrated into value chains, often as manufacturing powerhouses.

According to an African proverb, it takes a village to raise a child. Likewise, it will take a host of industrial entrepreneurs and proactive entrepreneurial governments to transform African economies and improve their global engagement with the rest of the world. Supporting local entrepreneurship is the surest path to a more self-reliant and prosperous continent.

# OP-ED

By Yasmine Sherif,  
Gordon Brown

## An Opening in the Fight to Educate Afghan Girls

**E**DINBURGH/NEW YORK - It has now been over two years since the United States military ended its decades-long war in Afghanistan, and the world's attention has predictably shifted to the horrific conflicts in Gaza and Ukraine. But the mess left behind by the chaotic US withdrawal has not been cleaned up - far from it. Since the Taliban returned to power in August 2021, the country's economic and humanitarian crises have deepened and sharpened.

Conditions for Afghan girls and women, in particular, have deteriorated rapidly, shattering their hopes for their personal and professional lives. In edict after edict, the new theocratic government has systematically stripped them of their fundamental human rights, including to an education. As a result, Afghanistan has become the only country in the world where girls are prohibited from attending school beyond the age of 11.

Millions of Afghan girls are being denied a chance to develop their talents and fulfill their dreams, putting a generation at risk of lasting damage and jeopardizing the country's economic future. Worse, those girls and women who fled to Pakistan to continue their education will once again be denied schooling. The Pakistani government recently ordered the expulsion of 1.7 million undocumented Afghans, around 700,000 of whom sought refuge in the country after the Taliban's takeover.

But the Taliban is not a monolith: some government officials seemingly recognize the critical importance of their daughters returning to school. In November, Rangina Hamidi, an education minister before the Taliban's return to power who had just visited Afghanistan, suggested that the Taliban could be convinced to reopen girls' secondary schools.

For that to happen, however, the international community would need to engage much more actively with the Taliban, and help its more moderate voices prevail over the hardliners. Hamidi's experience, and that of others, suggests that there are increasingly apparent internal divisions within the Taliban regime over the education of girls and women.

In this context, Muslim-led delegations should visit Afghanistan and meet with both the Taliban's formal governing cabinet in Kabul and its leadership council - comprising religious leaders - in Kandahar. The aim would be to open lines of communication and express support for reversing the ban on girls' education.

The dire situation in Afghanistan demands urgent action. Even before the Taliban regained power, the country was one of the world's poorest and most underdeveloped. Now, more than two years into Taliban rule, the economy has all but collapsed, and millions of Afghans don't know where their next meal will come from.

The United Nations World Food Program has warned that acute malnutrition is above emergency thresholds in 25 of 34 provinces and is expected to worsen. Moreover, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs estimated that two-thirds of Afghanistan's population - a staggering 28.3 million people - would need urgent humanitarian assistance to survive this year, owing to long-term drought-like conditions and crippling economic decline.

Despite these stark figures, the Taliban's religious leadership has continued to hack away at the rights of girls and women, often to the exclusion of other policy objectives. This systematic discrimination includes not only denying girls and women access to secondary and tertiary education, but also restricting their freedom of movement, expression, and association, and prohibiting them from almost all forms of employment.

The participation of women in public life is heavily constrained, as they often cannot leave their homes without a maharam (male relative). Moreover, the Taliban has effectively removed any possibility for women to seek justice through the judicial system.

After UN experts visited Afghanistan earlier this year, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) concluded in a report that the Taliban's discriminatory and misogynistic policies and harsh enforcement methods constitute "gender persecution and an institutionalized framework of gender apartheid." Richard Bennett, the OHCHR Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Afghanistan, described it as a "crime against humanity."

Diplomatic recognition of the Taliban government, let alone fully normalized relations, is certainly out of the question as long as religious edicts deprive girls and women of their basic human rights. But that does not preclude the international community from taking steps to promote gender equality.

One such step would be developing new channels of communication - possibly through Qatar or the United Arab Emirates - with Taliban officials who understand that Afghanistan needs to educate all young people. The internal divisions within the regime have opened a window, albeit a small one. We must seize this chance to help give the world's most oppressed girls and women the opportunity to realize their potential.

# OPINION

By Pepe Julian Onziema

## Uganda's Anti-Gay Crusade

**K**AMPALA - In the 1990s, as a 15-year-old high-school student in Uganda, I was a member of a "writers' club" that would summarize for our fellow students key articles from the lone copy of the local newspaper our school received each day. One day, I was assigned a "news" article identifying the schools that were suspected of condoning or supporting homosexuality - and the students who were suspected of being gay. As I worked, my stomach ached for all the young people who would be shamed, ostracized, and even beaten by their communities for their sexuality or gender identity. It ached for me, too, because I already knew - but had not said out loud - that I was queer.

Over time, that ache turned into anger, and that anger motivated me to fight back. So, when Uganda's constitutional court begins hearings on the Anti-Homosexuality Act - one of the world's toughest anti-LGBTQ+ laws - I will be there, along with many other activists and allies, as a litigant. The hearings are the next battleground in the fight not only to protect the basic rights of queer Ugandans, but also to discredit non-Ugandan homophobes, such as Scott Lively and Sharon Slater, who have been pouring their resources into perpetuating bigotry around the world.

The Anti-Homosexuality Act, which President Yoweri Museveni signed into law in May, is hardly Uganda's first effort to criminalize same-sex relations. The country already has in place an anti-sodomy law - a legacy of British colonial rule. Moreover, in 2014, Uganda passed anti-homosexuality legislation that effectively laid the foundations for the 2023 law.

The 2014 law was nullified by the courts on technical grounds. But the courts never ruled on the constitutionality of the rights at stake, so these issues are back before the court now. This is particularly important, because the 2023 version takes an even harder line on consensual same-sex relations among adults, introducing both new crimes and harsher punishments.

For example, anyone who engages in the newly established crime of "aggravated homosexuality" - which includes consensual sex with a person with HIV - may face the death penalty. Among other consequences, this will impede the fight against HIV. After all, a vast body of evidence shows that such laws discourage people from revealing their status or even getting tested. At least two people in Uganda have already been charged with this new capital offense.

Another new crime is "promoting homosexuality" - that is, engaging in any advocacy for the rights of LGBTQ+ Ugandans - for which one could face up to 20 years in prison. Under this provision, even public-health workers - Ugandan or otherwise - could face long prison sentences and hefty fines for implementing programs that bolster community health and well-being. As a queer activist, my personal and professional life make me a criminal in my country. In fact, even before the latest law was passed, I was arrested many times for my activism or for just being myself.

But official punishments are only the beginning. A recent report by the Convening for Equality coalition (of which I am a leader) showed that the Anti-Homosexuality Law - and the hateful rhetoric surrounding it - has fueled a surge in human-rights violations against members of the LGBTQ+ community, by both government employees and private citizens. In the first eight months of 2023, we documented more than 300 such violations, including physical and online attacks, forced anal examinations ordered by police, and health-care discrimination.

I understand these assaults all too well. Like many other queer Ugandans, I have been shamed, ridiculed, bullied, beaten, robbed, and even threatened with rape while in police custody. Once, I was beaten so badly that I lost my hearing and had to undergo surgery. In this latest wave of hysteria, I have faced death threats, cyberbullying, impersonation, and blackmail.

Anti-gay sentiment in Uganda runs deep. Many Ugandans adhere to colonial religious values that have, over time, come to be regarded as "traditional" Ugandan values. As a result, homosexuality is spuriously presented as an assault on our country's fundamental cultural and social norms. It does not help that conservative religious groups, particularly American-inspired Christian evangelicals and some Muslim leaders, also actively promote intolerance, discrimination, and, at times, violence.

Yet, as the Anti-Homosexuality Act blatantly illustrates, Uganda's government intends to lead the charge against homosexuality - an effort that threatens our very democracy. Laws that violate fundamental rights - to privacy, freedom of expression, and non-discrimination - weaken the democratic order by defying the commitment to equality that underpins it. They also flout the timeless African concept of Ubuntu, or "humanity to others," which is often understood to mean, "I am what I am because of who we all are." African leaders who call for "African solutions to African problems" - a group that includes Museveni - should recognize what that truly means.

African leaders cannot claim to be devising "African solutions" to our challenges while excluding and attacking minority groups. They cannot purport to be advancing the cause of African self-determination while perpetuating the colonial legacies of dehumanization and disregard for Africans' needs and values. How can we possibly achieve true liberation when we criminalize and punish our citizens for being liberated in their own sexuality and identity?

This is not only an African issue. The liberation of Uganda's LGBTQ+ people is inextricably tied to the liberation of all oppressed groups. That is why anyone who believes that all people are entitled to fundamental human rights should be watching closely as the upcoming constitutional court hearings unfold - and lending their voice to the cause.

I was three years old when I was orphaned; my father was murdered, and his relatives cast my mother from our home. In one of the homes where I spent my formative years, I was lucky enough to find a safe space, where I could be myself. Most queer Ugandans are not so fortunate. If the Anti-Homosexuality Act is allowed to stand, there will be virtually no safe spaces left.

# ARTICLE

# ARTICLE

## Reflection Part Five: The Silent Killers

By Hun-Bu Tulay

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The Silent Killers kill 7 persons per minute globally. This is 3.5 million people annually. The Silent Killers were the cause of the greatest mortality, or the most fatal pandemic recorded in human history causing the death of one-third of the total population of Europe or approximately 75 million deaths in Western Eurasia and North Africa. It is referred to in history as the "Black Plague or Black Death." It started in China in 1334 and spread to Europe and North Africa by trade routes. It entered Europe (London) in 1346 and within seven years (1353) these killers killed 75 million people. No war in human history killed as many people as the Black Death, even the war that lasted for 100 years.



Many of you reading this feature, might not have heard, or read about the Black Plague or the cause of the Black Plague. It is an infectious fever caused by the Bacterium Yersinia pestis. Today scientists who have studied the Black Plague believed it was because of unsafe water supply (poor water supply), poor sanitation and poor hygiene practices. Common diseases associated with these conditions mentioned above are Cholera, Diarrhea, Dysentery, Hepatitis A, Typhoid, Polio, intestinal Worms, Trachoma, and Schistosomiasis. You will agree with us that each of these diseases is deadly.

Our country Liberia was in a similar situation as Eurasia and North Africa in 1948 when there was an epidemic in Monrovia. The situation was so bad that the World Health Organization (WHO) threatened to close the country's sea and airports. In 1948, there were NO PIPE BORNE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWAGE COLLECTION NETWORKS. In 1950 President Tubman launched the country's Five-Year Development Plan and water and sanitation was at the top of the plan with funds allocated and contributions from the USAID.

In 1953 the pipe borne water supply and conventional collection sewage network were commissioned. As the city population was increasing so were the facilities providing the services for example from the first source of water supply which was an infiltration gallery constructed in Point Four, New Kru Town with a capacity of 2 million gallons per day in 1953. Seven years later, a 4 million gallon treated system (Slow Sand Filtration system) in 1960 in White Plains was established. Eight years later, the treatment capacity was increased to 16 million gallons in 1968 and the treatment system changed from Slow Sand Filtration System to Rapid Sand Filtration System.



The sewage collection network originally covered Central Monrovia and Mamba Point in 1953, which was collecting and discharging the RAW SEWAGE into the Atlantic Ocean and nearby water bodies around Monrovia. The collection network was extended to Bushrod Island, Sinkor, and Congo Town up to the Germany Embassy and a conventional treatment (High-Rate Trickling Filter) was commissioned in 1970, stopping the discharge in the Ocean and rivers.

The government of Liberia working with partners, GTZ, USAID and European Union constructed and commissioned between 1971-1985, pipe-borne water supply in eight county capitals excluding Monrovia (Harper-Maryland, Greenville-Sinoe, Buchanan-Grand Bassa, Robertsport-Grand-Cape Mount, Sanniquelle-Nimba, Gbarnga-Bong, Zwedru-Grand Gedeh, and Voinjama-Lofa). All the systems were functioning before the Liberian Civil Crisis. During the period of the senseless Civil Crisis all the equipment were looted, and infrastructures destroyed thereby interrupting pipe-borne water supply to these cities and reducing the water supply to Monrovia by 90%.

The Sirleaf-Boakai Administration taking their Constitutional responsibilities seriously, when it comes to protecting life and restoring dignity to its citizens, was quick to record that WATER IS LIFE AND SANITATION WAS DIGNITY. And in fulfillment of their constitutional responsibilities as per Article 20(a), which reads "Nobody shall be deprived of LIFE", which implies that depriving the citizens and all these residing in the territory borders if they are deprived of water would be equivalent to depriving them of Life, hence, violation of Article 20(a) of the constitution. That administration worked with the partners and restored pipe-borne water supply in seven county capitals (Monrovia, Buchanan, Zwedru, Kakata,



Sanniquelle, Robertsport, and Voinjama).

Working with the partners, they completed feasibility studies for restoring water supply for Gbarnga, Greenville, and Harper. Sirleaf was also working with the partners for water feasibility studies for six urban cities that had no pipe-borne water supply (Fish

Town, Pleebo, Ganta, Bopolu, Tubmanburg, and Foya. The government also completed the feasibility study and design for rehabilitation of the Monrovia Sewer System and its expansion. The Fiama Plant was to be remolded replacing the High-Rate Trickling Filter to Activated Sludge System, rehabilitation of the Monrovia Collection Network (pipes and lift stations) and the construction of two mini-systems (one in Paynesville and the other in Gardnersville at a cost of US\$37,00 Million. The government was informed by the Task Manager for Liberia in November 2017 that the Washington Office has stowed US\$20.00 Million for the Monrovia Sanitation Project.

The Sirleaf and Boakai Administration turned over to the Weah Administration in 2018 100% rehabilitated Water Treatment Plant in White Plains with a treatment capacity of 16 million gallons or 60,000 cubic meters, six functioning outstations water systems, secured United States Dollars 20 million for the Monrovia Sewer rehabilitation, completed feasibility studies and design documents for rehabilitation of three outstation (Harper, Greenville, and Gbarnga) water supply systems, completed the Feasibility study and design of the Monrovia Transmission Pipelines and 75% negotiation for the replacement of the 36" and 16" Transmission Pipeline with 48" and 24" respectively supplying Monrovia with water, completion of two independent water systems for Monrovia (Soul Clinic and New Georgia Communities) and negotiated for feasibility studies for water supply for six cities (Bopolu, Fish Town, Ganta, Tubmanburg, Foya and Pleebo).

The Weah Administration has neglected its constitutional responsibility as stated in Article 20(a) by allowing all water facilities rehabilitated during the Sirleaf-Boakai Administration crumbled except for Voinjama, Sanniquelle and Robertsport.

These continue to function because they are operated by independent private contractors not LWSC. These contracts were signed long before the Weah Administration was inaugurated. This is the height of wickedness. The Weah Administration was trying to return the country to the 1948 situation. It has been two months since the city of Monrovia last received Pipe-borne water supply. Our partners said that the city of Monrovia is the DIRTIEST in West Africa where Solid Waste can be found on every street, Sewage overflow is common in the city's streets and now no water supply. The public health facilities are unable to cope with the pending health crisis associated with lack of safe water supply, poor sanitation, and poor hygiene practices. Majority of Liberians (95%) cannot afford the cost of treatment at private health facilities or faith-based facilities. Most of the diseases that are currently killing Liberians are preventable diseases (Cholera, Diarrhea, Dysentery, Hepatitis A, Typhoid, intestinal Worms, Trachoma, and Schistosomiasis). These diseases can be prevented by the supply of safe water, proper sanitation both solid waste and human wastes and good hygiene practices. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) and UN Water, investing in safe water supply and sanitation interventions results in many benefits which include economic, environmental, quality of life and health.



Every United States Dollar invested in WASH Intervention gives a return of US\$4.30 in the form of reduced health care cost, reduced pollution of water resources and the environment, and gains in quality of life, improved in school attendance, greater privacy, safety, and sense of dignity. The Weah Administration does not understand these. The question is why is the Weah Administration treating the Liberians who voted him this way? The government failed to know that if it does not intervene in WASH, the drivers, security personnel, filing clerks, the low-level workers, the cooks, cleaners who live in communities that lack these facilities will be infected with one or two of these diseases and they will spread them to the rest of the staff, or your children and you might get them from your children. Oh, what a pity!



## GENERAL INFORMATION

1. **SOLICITATION NO:** VA-669-23-000028
2. **ISSUANCE DATE:** December 18, 2023
3. **CLOSING DATE AND TIME FOR RECEIPT OF OFFERS:** January 1, 2024
4. **POINT OF CONTACT:** Executive Officer, email at LiberiaHR@usaid.gov
5. **POSITION TITLE:** Acquisition and Assistance Specialist
6. **MARKET VALUE: \$ 28,052.00 - 44,894.00 FSN- 9**  
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 for the purpose of automatic tax withholding.
7. **PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE:** Five-Year Period of Performance with the possibility to renew in accordance with ADS 309. Personal services contracts are subject to the five-year limitation in accordance with FAR Part 17. In accordance with AIDAR Appendix J, Cooperation Country Personal Services Contracts (CCNPSCs) are of a continuing nature and expected to be part of a series of sequential contracts, each not to exceed the five-year limitation in the FAR. Start date is dependent upon security and medical clearances.
8. **PLACE OF PERFORMANCE:** Monrovia, Liberia.
9. **ELIGIBLE OFFERORS:** This solicitation is available for Cooperating Country Nationals (CCNs). CCNs are individuals who are Liberian citizens or non-Liberian citizens lawfully admitted for permanent residence in Liberia. Non-Liberian citizens must possess a valid Liberian work permit in compliance with host government laws and regulations prior to application. The Embassy cannot sponsor applicants for work permits.  
  
Current employees serving a probationary period with the Mission are not eligible to apply.
10. **SECURITY LEVEL REQUIRED:** Facility access approved by the U.S. Embassy Regional Security Officer at post.

## 11. STATEMENT OF DUTIES

### A. Basic Function of Position

The Acquisition and Assistance Specialist (Trainee) is located in the Office of Acquisition and Assistance of USAID/Liberia. The function of the Office is to provide Acquisition and Assistance (procurement) support to Mission Technical Offices and Development Objective (DO) and Assistance Objective (AO) Teams in the Mission. The primary purpose of this position is to perform a variety of acquisition and assistance duties including writing grants, cooperative agreements, contracts, and other procurement instruments and preparing amendments in support of the Mission. The Specialist (Trainee) reviews and recommends approval or revision of requisitions in the Global Acquisition and Assistance System (GLAAS); reviews and recommends approval or revision of scopes of work (SOW); drafts requests for proposal or quote; performs cost and price analysis; analyzes proposals or quotes received; drafts contracts and contract modifications; analyzes contractor-proposed budgets; recommends revisions to various contract provisions; writes Memoranda of Negotiation; and, prepares other required documentation. The Specialist (Trainee) maintains contract files and records up to date, prepares Contractor Performance Reports (CPRs), and supports award closeouts. The Specialist (Trainee) provides guidance related to administrative award modifications. The Specialist (Trainee) is responsible for carrying out day-to-day activities under the mentorship of more senior Office employees.

This position is a part of an established career ladder, which provides for the potential to progress to the FSN-10 and, subsequently, to the FSN-11 grade level. There is no potential for the Job Holder to become a permanent FSN-09 in this work assignment. Attainment of higher grade levels is contingent upon the Specialist (Trainee) successfully completing required training, meeting agreed-upon objectives and milestones, and performing in a Fully Successful (or equivalent) manner. Promotion to the FSN-10 and to the target FSN-11 grade levels is not mandatory, and failure to achieve those high levels of performance may be the basis for dismissal.

### B. Major Duties and Responsibilities

a. The Specialist (Trainee) is responsible for providing basic project acquisition and assistance support to USAID/Liberia Technical Offices, DO and AO Teams. USAID programs are diverse and multi-sectoral. The Specialist (Trainee) is required to provide basic and limited acquisition assistance to designated Technical Offices, DO, and/or AO Teams, and to support a variety of programs/projects/activities. These programs/projects/activities are implemented through complex Government contracting and grant mechanisms, including but not limited to purchase orders, competitively negotiated technical assistance agreements, contracts, cooperative agreements, Participating Agency Service Agreements (PASA), and sole source contracts, requiring the Specialist (Trainee) to become familiar with the full range of USAID procurement instruments.

b. The Specialist (Trainee) is assigned work in such a manner as to provide training and the basis for independent selection of appropriate procurement instrument types for the situation at hand, and to accurately apply USG procurement laws, regulations, policies, and procedures governing each type of instrument. The developmental nature of the assignment provides exposure to the acquisition of goods and various types of services. The Specialist (Trainee) will become equally familiar with the procedures for acquisition of goods, and for managing personal service and non-personal service contracting actions.

c. The Specialist (Trainee) is expected to work with higher-level Specialists/Officers, and with technical specialists/activity managers in DO and AO Teams throughout the Mission, assisting in the preparation of annual procurement plans, clear and concise statements of work, and supporting documentation. The Specialist (Trainee) will develop the ability to provide authoritative technical guidance to technical specialists/activity managers pertaining to their procurement-related responsibilities and procedures. Specific developmental duties include: Pre-Award Duties – the Specialist (Trainee) participates in meetings on procurement planning; collates data, and prepares and updates tracking tools in order to monitor pending procurements; works with clients to assist in the preparation of justifications, waivers, and other necessary approvals, as needed; and, reviews GLAAS Requisitions (REQs) for completeness and clarity before endorsing them to higher-level Specialists/Officers. Prepares solicitation documents in GLAAS, electronically posts Simplified Acquisitions and Personal Services Contracts; and, works with higher-level Specialists/Officers to ensure compliance with FAR and AIDAR advertisement requirements, including publication of synopses and solicitations, as prescribed. The Specialist (Trainee) works with higher-level Specialists/Officers to prepare Requests for Proposal and Requests for Application. The Specialist (Trainee) assists higher-level Specialists/Officers in pre-award activities for competitive solicitations, and with pre-award assessment surveys of potential contractors or recipients, in order to ensure eligibility prior to an award being made.

Post-Award Duties – the Specialist (Trainee) assists higher-level Specialists/Officers in monitoring performance as required by the terms and conditions of the award, through reviews of performance and reviews of financial reports. The Specialist (Trainee) manages the assigned developmental portfolio, assuring that funding is available when required; and, under the guidance of higher-level Specialists/Officers works with AO Teams/CORs/AORs to assure targets/milestones are set and being met (or that remedial action is taken), and that the overall goals of the program/project/activity are met. As assigned, the Specialist (Trainee) conducts site visits and attends meetings. The Specialist (Trainee) provides guidance to technical personnel, and assists in programmatic duties as required to avoid contractual/legal improprieties, seeking guidance from higher-level Specialists/Officers as required. The Specialist (Trainee) assists in researching and resolving issues that may arise during contract performance, including changes, work stoppages, disputes, implementation problems, defaults, cost overruns, unacceptable performance, and payment problems.

d. The Specialist (Trainee) assists in the conduct of closeouts of contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements after completion. These include ensuring contract audits are conducted in a timely manner, preparing performance documentation, and resolving outstanding issues noted in audits.

Performs other duties as assigned or required.

### • Supervision controls

The Acquisition Specialist (Trainee) works under the general supervision of the Contracting Officer/Regional Contracting Officer and/or his/her designee, or a higher-level Specialist/Officer, who makes assignments in terms of the broad range of developmental procurement actions the Trainee will perform.

The Specialist (Trainee) will independently initiate necessary coordination with requesting Mission CORs/AORs, Technical Offices, and DO and AO Teams, providing basic policy guidance on how to best fulfill requirements, with OFM and RLA as necessary, and with staffs of other agencies, and with awardees. The Specialist (Trainee) will keep the higher-level Specialist/Officer, and/or the Contracting Officer/Regional Contracting Officer, and/or his/her designee, updated through status reports and verbal briefings. Completed work is reviewed closely at this level, in terms of reviewing the procurement approach for results achieved, in meeting delivery schedules, and in the selection of appropriate contract methods.

### • Supervisory Relationship

This is a non-supervisory position.

## 12. PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The work requested does not involve undue physical demands.

## II. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR THIS POSITION

### 1. Education:

Possession of a Baccalaureate Degree or the equivalent of a four-year US college/university (or equivalency accreditation if a non-US institution) degree in accounting, law, business, finance, contracts, purchasing, economics, industrial management, marketing, quantitative methods, and/or organization and management is required.

### 2. Prior Work Experience:

Three or more years of progressively responsible experience in acquisition and assistance, development assistance, or a closely related field is required. One year of this experience must have been gained working in a position equivalent to no less than the next lower level of FSN responsibility in this or a related occupation, within a USG organization the Host Government, the private sector, or within an international or donor organization, in an English-language work environment.

### 3. Work/Residency Permits:

Applicants must have valid work and/or residency permits allowing work in Liberia

- Language Proficiency:**  
Level IV (Fluent) English, both oral and written, is required.

**III. EVALUATION AND SELECTION FACTORS**

The Government may award a contract without discussions with offerors in accordance with FAR 52.215-1. The Contracting Officer (CO) reserves the right at any point in the evaluation process to establish a competitive range of offerors with whom negotiations will be conducted pursuant to FAR 15.306(c). In accordance with FAR 52.215-1, if the CO determines that the number of offers that would otherwise be in the competitive range exceeds the number at which an efficient competition can be conducted, the CO may limit the number of offerors in the competitive range to the greatest number that will permit an efficient competition among the most highly rated offers. The FAR provisions referenced above are available at <https://www.acquisition.gov/browse/index/far>.

The technical evaluation committee may conduct reference checks, including references from individuals who have not been specifically identified by the offeror, and may do so before or after a candidate is interviewed.

Applicants will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Language Proficiency:** Fluent English ability (Level IV Reading, writing, speaking) is required. Short listed applicants will be evaluated through a written test in addition to the in-person or virtual interview. (Pass/Fail)
- Job Knowledge:** Maximum number of points is 40. The applicant must have a general knowledge, or the ability to quickly gain such general knowledge of the position duties as articulated in the required job knowledge essay. Candidates meeting the minimum requirement will receive a maximum of 20 points. Additional points, up to maximum 40 points, will be given to candidates with more extensive, relevant job knowledge as articulated in the following job knowledge essay(s):
  - Provide a comprehensive overview of the Acquisition and Assistance process in a government or organizational context. Include key steps, principles, and the significance of this process in achieving organizational objectives. (250 words max.)
  - Describe various contract types used in Acquisition and Assistance. Compare and contrast fixed-price contracts, cost-reimbursement contracts, and time-and-materials contracts. When is each type most appropriate, and what are the associated risks? (250 words max.)
  - Outline the source selection process in Acquisition. What factors are considered in evaluating proposals? How does the government or organization ensure fair and competitive procurement practices? (250 words max.)
  - Explain the significance of ethical considerations in Acquisition and Assistance. How can potential conflicts of interest be identified and addressed? Discuss the role of transparency and accountability in ethical procurement practices. (250 words max.)
- Skills and Abilities:** Maximum number of points is 60 – Demonstrated skills in the statement of duties as detailed in Section 11 above. Short listed applicants will be evaluated through a skills test in addition to the in-person or virtual interview. Candidates meeting the minimum requirement will receive a maximum of 40 points. Additional points, up to the maximum 60 points, will be given to candidates with more advanced skills and abilities.
- Reference check** - Pass/fail

**IV. SUBMITTING AN OFFER**

- Eligible Offerors are required to complete and submit the offer form [AID 309-2](#) and a detailed, current resume or curriculum vitae not to exceed 3 pages providing email address and a daytime telephone number;
- Offerors must submit a supplemental document in response to the job knowledge essay.
- Offerors must submit four references, two from the current and two from a previous employer. From each employer, one must be a supervisor and the second a peer/coworker, along with their contract information. If not currently employed, all references may come from previous employers.
- Offers must be received by the closing date and time specified in Section I, item 3, and submitted to the Point of Contact in Section I.
- Offeror submissions must clearly reference the Solicitation number on all submitted documents.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Complete the USAID/Liberia Applicant Google form. To get to this form, copy and paste this link into your internet browser <https://forms.gle/V5wWpTmzrRhXYQEK7>

**V. LIST OF REQUIRED FORMS PRIOR TO AWARD**

- The CO will provide instructions about how to complete and submit the following forms after an offeror is selected for the contract award:
  - Background investigation forms
  - Medical clearance forms

- Ensuring Adequate COVID-19 Safety Protocols for Federal Contractors - Please be advised that, upon award, the contractor will be required to follow the Mission policies and/or directives from the U.S. Department of State regarding COVID-19 requirements.

**VI. BENEFITS AND ALLOWANCES**

As a matter of policy, and as appropriate, a CCN PSC is normally authorized the following benefits and allowances:

- BENEFITS:**
  - Foreign Service National Defined Contributions Plan (FSN DCP) – Eligible for the FSN DCP.
  - Annual Leave – PSC is entitled to 15 workdays (120 hours) for the first three years of employment
  - Sick Leave – Sick Leave is granted as needed.
  - Health Insurance.
- ALLOWANCES (as applicable):**
  - Transportation Allowance
  - Miscellaneous Allowance

**VIII. USAID REGULATIONS, POLICIES AND CONTRACT CLAUSES PERTAINING TO PSCs**

USAID regulations and policies governing CCNPSC and TCNPSC awards are available at these sources:

- USAID Acquisition Regulation (AIDAR), Appendix J, "Direct USAID Contracts With a Cooperating Country National and with a Third Country National for Personal Services Abroad," including contract clause "General Provisions," available at <https://www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/300/aidar>
- Contract Cover Page form AID 309-1 available at <https://www.usaid.gov/forms>. Pricing by line item is to be determined upon contract award as described below:

**Line Item**

ITEM NO (A)	SUPPLIES/SERVICES (DESCRIPTION) (B)	QUANTITY (C)	UNIT (D)	UNIT PRICE (E)	AMOUNT (F)
0001	Compensation, Fringe, Benefits and Other Direct Costs (ODSc) - Award Type: Cost - Product Service Code: R497 - Accounting Info. TBD	1	Lot	\$ TBD	\$ TBD at Award after negotiations with contractor

- Acquisition & Assistance Policy Directives/Contract Information Bulletins (AAPDs/CIBs) for Personal Services Contracts with Individuals available at <http://www.usaid.gov/work-usaid/aapds-cibs>
- Ethical Conduct. By the acceptance of a USAID personal services contract as an individual, the contractor will be acknowledging receipt of the "Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch," available from the U.S. Office of Government Ethics, in accordance with General Provision 2 and 5 CFR 2635. See <https://www.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/OGE%20Regulations>.
- PSC Ombudsman**  
The PSC Ombudsman serves as a resource for any Personal Services Contractor who has entered into a contract with the United States Agency for International Development and is available to provide clarity on their specific contract with the Agency. Please visit our page for additional information: <https://www.usaid.gov/work-usaid/personal-service-contracts-ombudsman>.

The PSC Ombudsman may be contacted via: [PSCOmbudsman@usaid.gov](mailto:PSCOmbudsman@usaid.gov)

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

# Français

## Un candidat à la présidence américaine dénonce les sanctions prises contre des responsables Libériens

Le candidat à la présidence américaine, le sénateur Rollan A. Roberts II, a vivement critiqué les

individus », a-t-il poursuivi, « comprennent une interdiction à vie pour eux et tous les membres de leur famille de se rendre aux États-Unis et une interdiction à

Finances a favorisé une entreprise libérienne plutôt qu'une entreprise étrangère, nous devons ruiner leur vie et en faire un exemple pour que les gouvernements futurs fassent ce que nous disons, attribuent des contrats à qui nous disons, et se plient aux caprices et aux souhaits de la puissance étrangère, que ce soit dans l'intérêt de votre nation ou non. Bien que le message ait été envoyé, je peux vous assurer qu'il n'a pas été bien accueilli par les Libériens au Libéria et à l'étranger », a-t-il ajouté.

Le ministre sortant des Finances et de la Planification du développement, Samuel Tweah, réagissant aux sanctions américaines lors d'une récente conférence de presse, a maintenu qu'il avait été sanctionné par le département d'État américain parce qu'il aurait favorisé ArcelorMittal Limited (AML) plutôt qu'une entreprise américaine, High Power Explorations Inc. (HPX).

Tweah relie sa sanction par les États-Unis au prétendu empêchement de HPX d'accéder au rail pour mener son investissement en Guinée à travers le Libéria après avoir versé 37 millions de dollars américains au gouvernement libérien par le biais du budget national en 2019.

Mais réagissant davantage

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



US Presidential Candidate  
Sen. Rollan A. Roberts II

sanctions imposées aux responsables libériens, les décrivant comme « une corruption systématique, institutionnelle et abusive de l'Amérique ciblant une pauvre nation africaine, le Libéria ».

Dans une déclaration publiée sur sa page de campagne, le sénateur Roberts, un républicain de Virginie-Occidentale, a noté : « Juste la semaine dernière, les États-Unis ont sanctionné plusieurs responsables libériens, dont le ministre des Finances du Libéria, Samuel Tweah ».

« Les sanctions contre les

vie d'utiliser le système bancaire financier mondial des États-Unis ».

« Quelle corruption ont-ils commise de si grave qui justifierait de détruire leur vie et celle de leur famille ? » s'est interrogé le sénateur Roberts.

« Le ministre libérien des Finances a favorisé la société libérienne ArcelorMittal Limited (AML) pour un contrat national plutôt qu'une entreprise américaine, High Power Exploration, Inc. (HPX), et a empêché HPX d'utiliser le rail au Libéria pour transporter leur produit en Guinée. Ainsi, parce que le ministre libérien des

## Le Président Weah réagit aux menaces de son expulsion du CDC

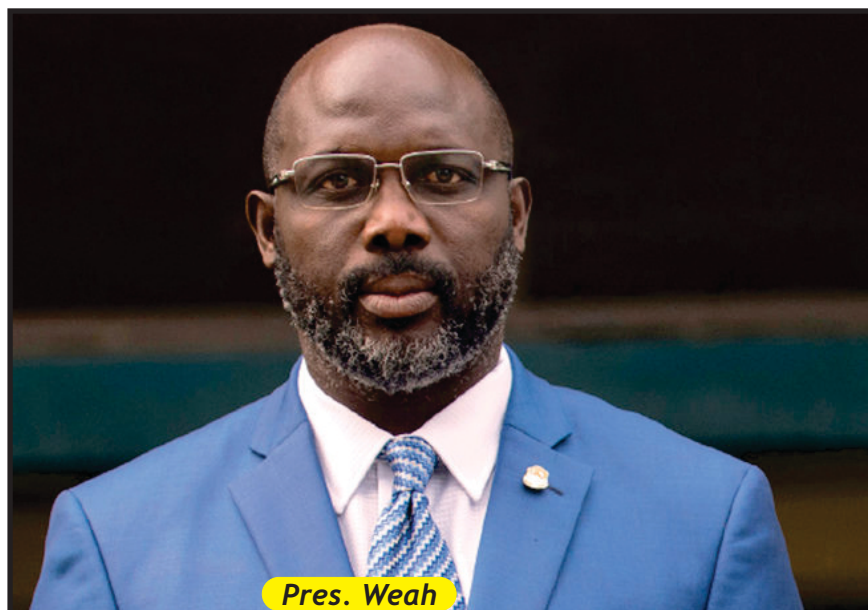
À la suite de sa défaite lors des élections du 14 novembre, le Président George M. Weah, fondateur et soutien financier de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC), a répondu aux spéculations au sein du parti concernant d'éventuels plans visant à l'expulser. Le Président, s'exprimant dans son église dimanche, a rejeté la nécessité d'une expulsion, affirmant que s'il n'était plus souhaité en tant que porte-étendard du parti en 2029, il se retirerait volontiers et servirait en tant que conseiller. Cependant, il a lancé un avertissement sévère selon lequel le peuple libérien rejeterait probablement tout autre candidat présenté par le CDC.

Le Président Weah a articulé sa position, déclarant : "Ce que j'entends à propos de mon expulsion du parti, que je ne serai pas le

porte-étendard... vous n'avez pas besoin de m'expulser du parti. Tout ce que vous pouvez faire, c'est simplement me dire, mon ami, nous ne voulons plus que tu sois le porte-étendard de notre parti, je comprendrai et je servirai en tant que conseiller. Mais vous pouvez amener qui vous voulez et voir si le peuple libérien votera pour cette personne."

Cette réponse fait suite aux remarques critiques du Dr Lester D. Tenny, un responsable du CDC

qui s'est montré très critique envers le Président Weah après l'élection. Le Dr Tenny, lors d'une récente interview avec Spoon FM, a exprimé sa détermination à empêcher Weah de se présenter sur le ticket du CDC en 2029 et au-delà. Il a souligné que le Président Weah ne serait jamais plus le porte-étendard du parti.



Pres. Weah

## Éditorial

### L'hygiène, un mode de vie

Le spectacle des volontaires, parmi lesquels des jeunes hommes, des femmes, et des aînées, qui s'attellent au nettoyage de nos rues ne peut que susciter une profonde émotion, car il incarne un patriotisme ardent.

Cette initiative, orchestrée en prévision des festivités et en préparation de l'investiture imminente du président élu Joseph Nyumah Boakai et du vice-président élu Jeremiah Kpan Koung en janvier 2024, témoigne d'une mobilisation collective sans précédent.

Ces bénévoles massivement engagés dans l'assainissement de la capitale et de ses environs opèrent une véritable révolution dans notre approche de la préservation de notre capitale, démontrant qu'il est temps d'assumer nous-mêmes ce que nous attendons du gouvernement.

Cependant, l'entretien de la ville ne devrait pas être circonscrit uniquement aux périodes de Noël ou d'investiture. Il doit plutôt devenir un mode de vie pour nous, Libériens. Nul besoin d'attendre une occasion particulière pour nettoyer notre cité et son environnement. Il convient d'instaurer une pratique quotidienne, hebdomadaire, voire mensuelle, afin de donner l'exemple à la génération future, tout en démontrant que la propreté n'est pas seulement une question d'hygiène, mais revêt également une dimension spirituelle.

Malheureusement, Monrovia se trouve actuellement jonchée de débris et d'ordures à chaque coin de rue. Même des édifices publics tels que le Capitole et d'autres lieux ne sont pas épargnés par ce fléau. L'herbe a envahi le Capitole, qui souffre du manque d'eau courante et de toilettes fonctionnelles. Il est dès lors compréhensible que le président élu Boakai ait choisi d'organiser son programme inaugural à cet endroit, afin d'assurer une remise en état adéquate.

Une telle situation n'était pas envisageable par le passé, particulièrement durant les ères Tubman, Tolbert, Doe et plus récemment Sirleaf, lorsque les institutions étatiques responsables du maintien de la propreté de la ville étaient pleinement opérationnelles, telles que la Corporation de la Ville de Monrovia et la Corporation des Eaux et Égouts du Libéria.

La CVM est chargée d'appliquer les ordonnances de la ville, tandis que la CLEL assure le bon fonctionnement du système d'assainissement et de l'approvisionnement en eau dans la capitale. Malheureusement, ces institutions ont totalement décliné en raison d'une mauvaise gestion et de la corruption. La CLEL n'est plus en mesure de fournir à la ville des services d'eau courante et d'assainissement, laissant les rues jonchées d'excréments dus à des canalisations d'égouts obstruées.

Parallèlement, la CVM a implosé sous la direction du maire récemment sanctionné, Jefferson Tamba Koijee.

Il est essentiel que l'administration à venir du président élu Boakai maintienne le groupe actuel de volontaires pour contribuer régulièrement au maintien de la propreté de la ville et de ses environs, afin de manifester la fierté libérienne.

En effet, déchets et excréments constituent des foyers de prolifération pour les cafards, les rats, les mouches, les moustiques et autres rongeurs, qui pénètrent directement dans les foyers, contaminant nourriture et eau potable et propageant des maladies telles que le choléra et la diarrhée. Un environnement propre est un environnement sain, favorisant la santé de la population.



# Français

## Starts from page 8 **Un candidat à la présidence**

aux sanctions, le sénateur Roberts a indiqué que la situation avait été portée à son attention par un Libéro-Américain en colère qui détient une double citoyenneté.

Sénateur Roberts : « Mon bureau a été contacté par des Libéro-Américains en colère qui détiennent une double citoyenneté et qui sont prêts à renoncer à leur citoyenneté américaine durement gagnée en raison de la corruption flagrante et de l'avidité affichées par ces sanctions injustifiées. Ils ont honte d'être Américains en ce jour.

Comme je l'ai déjà dit, dans le monde d'aujourd'hui, les sanctions ne sont pas un outil efficace. Le dollar américain n'a plus le pouvoir qu'il avait autrefois, et la croissance et la dépendance à l'égard d'autres devises et alliances (BRICS) dévalorisent davantage l'efficacité des sanctions. Cela éloigne simplement les affaires, la finance, le commerce, la bonne volonté et le capital social loin des États-Unis.

Il n'y a pas de pays parfait. Il n'y a pas de pays où la corruption n'existe pas. Ce qui distingue l'Amérique, c'est qu'elle est le leader mondial et a été présentée comme la norme d'or, la nation chrétienne, le phare de l'espoir et d'un avenir meilleur pour le reste du monde. Mais la corruption américaine n'est plus un acte aléatoire unique ; elle est plutôt intégrée dans le protocole de l'État administratif en tant que procédure standard » a continué le sénateur Roberts.

« En tant que président », a-t-il poursuivi, « je favoriserai les dépenses des contribuables américains avec des entreprises américaines par rapport aux entreprises étrangères. Je favoriserai l'investissement dans les entreprises américaines toutes choses égales par ailleurs. Et je m'attends à ce que chaque président de chaque nation agisse dans l'intérêt de LEUR pays et croie fermement qu'il est MAL d'attendre d'un autre pays qu'il agisse contre son meilleur intérêt. Cela fait du tort aux gens. L'Amérique s'est habituée à ce que nos propres dirigeants n'agissent pas dans l'intérêt de nos citoyens, ce qui semble insignifiant exiger que d'autres dirigeants nationaux fassent de même. La différence est qu'ils sont plus honnêtes au sujet de leur corruption que ne l'est

l'Amérique. La nôtre est la pire espèce. La nôtre est une corruption autoproclamée.

J'éliminerai la corruption américaine partout où je la trouverai en tant que président. Beaucoup des sanctions que nous avons actuellement imposées, je les lèverai immédiatement à l'égard d'individus et de nations dans le monde entier en tant que président.

Nous devons recommencer à agir correctement en tant que nation. Nous avons commis certains des plus grands crimes contre l'humanité et des actes de corruption au nom de l'ordre mondial, du contrôle et de la domination que ce monde ait jamais connus. Cette manipulation du pouvoir et de la pensée est dépassée et inefficace, et les États-Unis ont besoin d'un président et d'une direction qui comprennent cela. Nous n'avons pas besoin de politiciens arrogants et vantards montrant à quel point ils sont forts quand ils sont trop vieux pour attacher leurs propres chaussures ou attacher leur propre couche. Nous avons besoin de dirigeants forts, humbles, sages, gracieux et faits d'acier qui gouvernent dans la crainte de Dieu dans l'intérêt des personnes et de la nation sur lesquelles ils ont autorité. »

Le département d'État américain a déclaré conformément à la Section 7031(c) qu'il a publiquement désigné M. Tweah, le sénateur Albert Chie et le sénateur J. Emmanuel Nuquay, pour leur prétendue implication dans une corruption significative en abusant de leurs fonctions publiques en sollicitant, acceptant et offrant des pots-de-vin. Le gouvernement américain a accusé les principaux responsables libériens d'offrir ou de recevoir des pots-de-vin pour manipuler les processus législatifs et les financements publics, y compris les rapports législatifs et les activités du secteur minier.

Dans le cadre de cette action, les États-Unis ont expliqué que les membres de leur famille immédiate, y compris leurs conjoints Delecia Berry Tweah, Abigail Chie et Ruthoria Brown Nuquay, ainsi que les enfants mineurs de Tweah et Nuquay, sont également désignés.

Plus tôt, le 8 décembre 2023, le département du Trésor américain a désigné le maire de Monrovia et secrétaire général de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC), Jefferson Kojjee.

La sanction de Kojjee est conforme à l'EO 13818 pour avoir été engagé ou avoir été le dirigeant d'une entité qui a été impliquée dans des violations graves des droits de l'homme et de la corruption.

## L'ouverture vers la Chine de Kissinger va hanter la politique américaine en 2024

Par Daron Acemoglu et Simon Johnson

**B**OSTON - Même ceux qui ont d'amères critiques à formuler à l'encontre de Henry Kissinger reconnaissent que la visite du président américain Richard Nixon en Chine en 1972 a changé la géopolitique à tout jamais. Avant que Kissinger n'orchestre cette ouverture diplomatique, les dirigeants américains décrivaient le monde par la formule « capitalisme contre communisme » et quiconque avait des amis communistes risquait d'être étiqueté comme un dangereux « rouge ». Après Kissinger, le contrôle sans limite du Parti communiste chinois a été autorisé à prospérer au sein de l'économie de marché mondiale.

Pourtant si l'on a beaucoup fêté la « réussite » économique de la Chine, on a bien souvent perdu de vue les coûts de la stratégie chinoise de Kissinger aux États-Unis et dans le monde entier. Si Donald Trump redevient président début 2025, cette stratégie va probablement avoir le dessus, mais sous une forme plus dangereuse.

Des décennies durant, Kissinger s'est montré un fervent partisan d'une reprise des relations commerciales avec la Chine, et il a gagné beaucoup d'argent par la réouverture de ces marchés. Cela impliquait, entre autres, d'accorder son soutien à Deng Xiaoping après le massacre de manifestants pacifiques sur la place Tiananmen le 4 juin 1989. Moins de deux mois plus tard, Kissinger écrivait :

« Aucun gouvernement au monde n'aurait toléré que la place principale de sa capitale soit occupée huit semaines durant par des dizaines de milliers de manifestants qui ont bloqué l'entrée du bâtiment principal du gouvernement. En Chine, une démonstration d'impuissance dans la capitale risquait de déclencher le régionalisme et la politique des potentats locaux dans les provinces. Une répression était donc inévitable. Mais sa brutalité a été choquante - sans parler de la propagande et des procès stalinien qui lui ont succédé. »

Cette observation a ensuite été suivie d'un paragraphe contenant la définition la plus claire possible de la realpolitik de Kissinger :

« Pourtant, la Chine reste trop importante pour la sécurité nationale américaine pour risquer de sacrifier cette relation sur l'autel des émotions du moment présent. Les États-Unis ont besoin de la Chine comme contrepoids possible aux aspirations soviétiques en Asie et ont besoin que la Chine reste pertinente aux yeux du Japon comme un acteur clé dans les événements asiatiques. La Chine a besoin des États-Unis comme contrepoids aux ambitions perçues des Soviétiques et du Japon. En retour, la Chine exercera une influence modératrice en Asie et ne défiara pas l'Amérique dans d'autres régions du monde. Ces réalités n'ont pas été modifiées par les événements. »

Cela est devenu le refrain standard parmi les gourous américains de la politique étrangère et les chefs d'entreprise poursuivant des investissements en Chine. L'économie chinoise a décollé dans les années 1990, en grande partie parce que les entreprises basées à Hong Kong, à Taïwan, en Europe et aux États-Unis ont rivalisé d'empressement en construisant des usines visant à employer de la main-d'œuvre chinoise bon marché. Mais une fois qu'une économie commence à croître, les travailleurs veulent tout naturellement (et raisonnablement) des augmentations de salaires, qui peuvent provenir soit de la concurrence sur le marché du travail, soit de l'organisation collective et de l'exigence d'un meilleur salaire.

C'est ce qui s'est finalement passé lors des révolutions industrielles britanniques, européennes et américaines. Alors que les propriétaires d'usine étaient initialement à l'aise avec l'utilisation de la violence pour réprimer les travailleurs (comme dans le massacre de Peterloo de 1819 et la grève de Homestead de 1892), la pression politique a augmenté et des réformes ont été adoptées. Ces changements ont marqué le début d'une prospérité partagée à l'ère industrielle. Les gains de productivité ont commencé à être partagés avec des travailleurs mieux organisés et opérant dans un environnement politique plus démocratique, puis la technologie a commencé à être déployée de manière à créer de nouveaux emplois mieux rémunérés.

Durant des décennies, le marché intérieur de la Chine a été réduit et son principal attrait pour les investisseurs a été son offre essentiellement illimitée de main-d'œuvre bon marché - un atout soutenu par des infrastructures financées par le gouvernement et des politiques conçues pour plaire aux propriétaires d'entreprises. Encouragée par la Maison Blanche, la Chine est devenue le premier emprunteur de la Banque mondiale dans les années 1990, puis a été admise à l'Organisation mondiale du commerce en 2001, à la demande

des investisseurs étrangers et des responsables du G7.

Le boom de la Chine après son accession à l'OMC a été rendu possible par une sous-évaluation délibérée du renminbi (contraire aux règles et normes du Fonds monétaire international) et par une répression continue exercée sur les travailleurs. Cette combinaison a rapidement conduit à une augmentation des importations chinoises bon marché aux États-Unis, accélérant ainsi le déclin industriel dans le Midwest et dans d'autres parties du pays, avec plus de deux millions d'emplois perdus entre 1999 et 2011.

Bien sûr, l'intégration de la Chine à l'économie mondiale lui a permis d'atteindre une croissance rapide du PIB, créant ainsi la classe moyenne la plus importante au monde. Mais les inégalités ont grimpé en flèche et la croissance économique a surtout profité aux professionnels urbains instruits et bien connectés, plutôt qu'aux agriculteurs et aux travailleurs ordinaires, dont les revenus restent réduits. Une voie de développement alternative moins dépendante de la main-d'œuvre bon marché et des exportations subventionnées (comme dans d'autres parties de l'Asie de l'Est) aurait pu être bien meilleure pour la classe ouvrière chinoise.

Quel que soit le vainqueur des élections à présidence américaine en novembre prochain, la Maison Blanche sera confrontée à une Chine de plus en plus agressive, même si les exportations chinoises restent des composantes essentielles de la majeure partie de ce que les Américains produisent et consomment. Bien que Trump parle d'un match important consistant à tenir tête à la Chine, son approche transactionnelle sans principes représente une intensification de la realpolitik cynique de Kissinger. Comme Kissinger, il rejette la nécessité de défendre des valeurs telles que les droits humains et la démocratie.

Mais pour aggraver les choses, la théorie de Kissinger sur l'histoire chinoise s'est avérée totalement fautive. « Les dirigeants chinois doivent réaliser, ou leurs successeurs apprendront, a-t-il averti en 1989, que la réforme économique est impossible sans le soutien de groupes instruits qui ont fourni une partie de la ferveur en faveur du bouleversement et sans celui des travailleurs qui ont fourni une grande partie de la force brute ». Pourtant, en l'occurrence, le Parti communiste chinois a utilisé la réforme simplement comme un instrument pour attirer des capitaux étrangers et de la technologie. Maintenant que la direction du parti se concentre davantage sur sa puissance et sur son statut mondiaux, les réformes dérégulatrices ont été abandonnées - et même inversées.

Tel est l'héritage de Kissinger. Plutôt que de s'appuyer sur celui-ci, les États-Unis et leurs alliés devraient adopter une approche davantage fondée sur des principes aussi bien à l'égard de la Chine que du commerce au sens plus large. Telle était la vision originale des accords de Bretton Woods de 1944, lorsqu'il était entendu que l'accès sans entrave au marché américain ne devait être offert qu'aux pays ayant un engagement fort en faveur des droits humains et de la liberté politique. Alors que les États-Unis redéfinissent leur engagement économique mondial, ils doivent veiller à ce que les politiques nationales d'innovation, d'investissements et d'emploi servent l'objectif d'une prospérité partagée pour tous les travailleurs américains.

La politique chinoise de Kissinger, fondée sur sa conception plutôt étroite de la puissance américaine, n'a pas réussi à prendre tous ces aspects en compte. Trump, lui aussi, ne s'intéresse qu'au pouvoir - son pouvoir à lui. Une deuxième présidence Trump pousserait la mentalité de Kissinger à sa conclusion logique, en bénéficiant à quelques-uns au détriment du plus grand nombre.

Daron Acemoglu, professeur d'économie au MIT, co-auteur (avec Simon Johnson) de *Power and Progress: Our Thousand-Year Struggle Over Technology and Prosperity* (PublicAffairs, 2023). Simon Johnson, ancien économiste en chef du Fonds monétaire international, professeur à la Sloan School of Management du MIT et co-auteur (avec Daron Acemoglu) de *Power and Progress: Our Thousand-Year Struggle Over Technology and Prosperity* (PublicAffairs, 2023).

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Gray wants U.S. sanctions investigated

By Lewis S. Teh

Barley a week after the United States Government sanctioned additional three

personally and that I can vouch for them; they are people with good character”, Rep. Gray says. He threw out the challenge on Tuesday, December 19, 2023 while

Earlier on 8 December 2023, the U.S. Treasury Department designated Monrovia Mayor and ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) secretary general Jefferson Koijee.

The U.S. had earlier sanctioned Margibi County Senator-elect Nathaniel McGill, River Cess County Senator-elect Bill Twehway, and former Solicitor General Cllr. Saymah Syrenius Cephus.

Also sanctioned are Nimba County Senator Prince Y. Johnson and defeated Grand Cape Mount Senator Varney G. Sherman.

But reacting to these sanctions, Rep. Gray says in terms of human rights abuse, to mention Monrovia City Mayor Jefferson Koijee under such category requires further investigation because “I know Koijee and I will never shy away from this.”

He frowns on the U.S. for not sanctioning individuals, who he says work with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), specifically former TRC Chair, Cllr. Jerome Verdier and ex-rebel general now evangelist, Joshua Milton Blayee CKA “Butt Naked.” “I think those individuals who killed our people and who contributed to the mass destruction of innocent citizens, these are people that need to be sanctioned. To be frank with you, to find someone guilty without

## UYPETDL calls on UP administration to leave non one behind

By Naneka A. Hoffman

United Youths for Peace, Education, Transparency and Development in Liberia (UYPETDL) is imploring the incoming administration to ensure that no population is left behind, which it says should be a top priority of President-elect, Joseph Boakai. Speaking at a news conference on Tuesday, December 19, in Monrovia, Executive Timothy Kpeh urged the incoming Boakai administration to commit to implementing a comprehensive social protection plan for all, including robust training program and quality jobs for young people. He says such exercises would address major sectors, including WASH, education, health, agriculture and governance. According to Kpeh, Mr. Boakai must see this as a challenge to utilize his victory to unite Liberia, keep his campaign pledges, and show mercy to his opponents.

“We further call on the Unity Party to make concerted efforts

of West African States (ECOWAS), the European Union (EU), and the African Union (AU), noting that their steadfast backing and dedication to Liberia's democratic process have been crucial in guaranteeing an orderly handover of power.

“We are delighted to congratulate George Manneh Weah, President of Liberia for keeping his promise to the people of this country and the rest of the world to hold free, fair, transparent, and credible elections.”

He also lauds President Weah for not only doing this but also bravely accepting defeat by extending congratulations to the victor, Ambassador Joseph Nyumah Boakai, before the National Elections Commission announced the final results.

However, he cautions President-elect, Boakai to guarantee genuine accountability and transparency in government by instituting a vigorous campaign against corruption, which according to him, is the most



Former Rep. Acarous Moses Gray

top officials of the Government of Liberia for their alleged involvement in corruption, defeated Montserrado County electoral district #8 Representative Acarous Moses Gray has come in strong defense of the sanctioned officials, calling for thorough investigation.

“My take on this entire sanctions saga, I think the United States Government needed to have gone further to investigate some of these issues. Imagine some of the characters mentioned on the sanction list, I know them

visiting students of the Monrovia Demonstration School on Clay Street, Monrovia where he presented One Hundred Thousand Liberian Dollars (LRD100, 000) to both students and the administration, including educational materials in identifying with the school during this festive season.

Recently, the U.S. Government sanctioned three senior officials of the Weah regime for corruption.

Those designated include Finance Minister Samuel Tweah, and Senators Albert T. Chie and Emmanuel Nuquay.

## Gov't pathologist debunks defense pathologist's report

Starts from back page

According to him, Dr. Okaye's conclusion is based on wrong premise and is therefore false, as it was not scientifically possible for him to have used findings from the crime scene to conclude that a male intruder entered the house.

He stresses that the DNA samples that he (Dr. Koule) took from the house could not isolate any male DNA, does not in any way means that no male entered that promise and the presence of DNA from the suspect at the crime scene does not in any way implicate them into the crime from a scientific point of view because the suspect lived in the said home.

“We are all aware that of the four suspects, only one suspect in the person of Getrude Newton is said to have bled from a minor cut on the skin; it is therefore wrong to take blood sample that are clearly not belonging to the suspect to analyze them and arrive at a conclusion because their DNA was in that blood, they are excluded from the crime” he

further argues.

Dr. Koule notes that the DNA evidence provided by Dr. Okaye clearly indicated that there were artifact by the +++ along the line representing yardin also known as the Y chromosome, so the issue of contamination arose on the findings of Dr. Koule.

“My brain is younger; it is sharp, as a Pathologist, I have over the years used my knowledge to provide facts that successfully led to the adjudication of cases”, Dr. Koule brags.

On the other hand, he argues that Dr. Okaye has used his knowledge for example to perform several autopsies, at least four in Liberia, which he testified to in Court, and that one of those autopsies involved 13 years old Angel Togba, who was living with her guardian Hans William and his girlfriend, Mardea, who were subsequently jailed after Angel died.

He recalls that while Hans and his girlfriend were in custody, it was Dr. Okaye, who flew into Liberia, two years after the death of the minor and performed an autopsy on the decayed remains of the deceased and declared that he did not find anything. “You are aware that deceased Charloe Musu is not a biological daughter of these suspects”, Dr. Koule notes.

He recalls that when the late Harry Greaves was invited one evening to R.L.J Hotel, he drove himself to the hotel and was called for a meeting, so he arrived at R.L.J. Hotel around 10:00pm in the night and when he entered that hotel, well and alive, he varnished. “His body was found later on the beach and Dr. Okaye showed up again in a very critical stage, concluded an autopsy and said that Harry Greaves died of drowning; that is the track record of this Nigerian Pathologist Dr. Okaye”, Dr. Koule points. Editing by Jonathan Browne



Timothy Kpeh

to fulfill the promises it made to the country's voters during the campaign and to provide forgiveness to those who may have acted against them.”

He said the UP should remember that all Liberians share in its achievement, it should not be all about itself.

At the same the efforts of the Liberian people should be acknowledged, including the international community for the vital roles they played in preserving the country's peace and advancing democracy.

He adds that various institutions have been instrumental in fostering an atmosphere that supports free and fair elections, including the United Nations (UN), the United States, the Economic Community

crucial instrument required to repair the wounds and promote true peace and reconciliation.

He notes that one crucial tool for accountability is the law requiring public officials to declare their assets, incomes, and liabilities, stressing “It must be strictly adhered to. Before taking office, newly appointed officials are required to disclose their assets, income, and liabilities. In a similar vein, persons quitting their jobs must file their exit reports. To obtain the intended results, the review, validation, and other related procedures must be thorough, reliable, timely, and sincere.” Editing by Jonathan Browne

# HPX US\$37m a gesture of goodwill

The advance payments of US\$37 million by HPX Group into the Liberian Government's Revenue Account at the Central Bank of Liberia in December 2019 and March 2022 were a refundable

engage in good faith negotiations of a concession agreement on terms that would then provide access to government-owned rail and port infrastructure. It added that it was not an agreement for the actual use of

implementation of the concession agreement are not met. As it stands today, the source noted that several of these milestones have been missed and the HPX Group has reserved its rights to seek refund of the upfront payments.

The HPX Group has not done so because of ongoing discussions with the Liberian Government that the HPX Group believes will ultimately result in an agreement beneficial to both Liberia and the HPX Group.

The HPX Group has always been entirely transparent about the fact that the advance payments were made to the Government of Liberia and publicly disclosed them.

It detailed that the HPX remains committed to the development of a world-class infrastructure corridor, owned by the Government of Liberia, and operated under the principles of non-discriminatory, multi-user access with each participant to meet responsible access charges, under the oversight of an independent operator not linked to mining operators.

HPX remains committed to supporting the Government of Liberia to achieve this vision and welcomes full transparency of all transactions and dealings between the Liberian Government mining companies and other concessionaires.

As a US Company, HPX, and its directors and management remain committed to and strongly embrace the highest standards of ethical behavior that are in line with community and government expectations not only in Liberia but internationally and are subject to and committed to fully complying with the laws of Liberia, the United States of America and other jurisdictions governing all such transactions.

# Finance Ministry submits US\$625m draft budget

By Bridgett Milton

31, 2024.

At long last the Minister of Finance and Development Planning has submitted the Draft National Budget to the House of Representatives, totaling US\$625.57 million for fiscal year 2024. The submission comes three months late, when the fiscal instrument was expected.

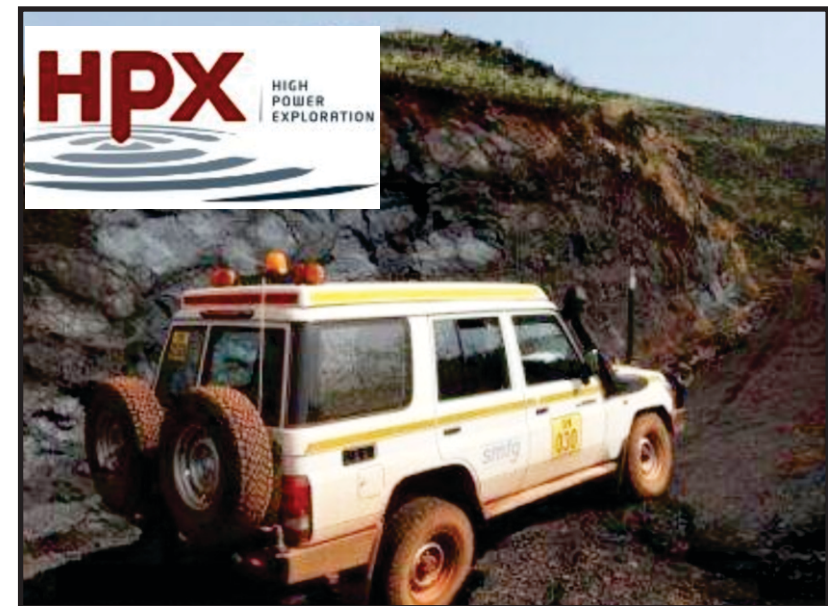
During the presentation here on Tuesday, December 19, 2023, Deputy Minister of Finance for Budget and Development Planning, Tanneh Geraldine Brunson, said the amount of US\$623.14 constituting 99.6 percent is projected as domestic revenue, while US\$ 2.43 million or 0.39 percent, is projected to come from external resources.

According to Deputy Minister Brunson, total proposed expenditure for FY 2024 is US\$625.57 million, in consonance with the projected resource envelope.

Recurrent component of

“Honorable Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives, while this budget is a reflection of the programs and priorities of the outgoing administration, it should not be unexpected that the incoming administration may institute measures to tweak, recalibrate, or even recast the programs and priorities herein to indicate policy change, hopefully in the spirit of continuity in governance”, she adds. At the same time she apologizes for delay in the submission, which she attributes to national preoccupation and distraction associated with the 2023 very competitive elections.

“In the wake of mounting pressures, especially national debt burden and recurrent expenditures, only critical cross-cutting national programs and projects in three sectors have been proposed under the Public Sector Investment Program (PSIP) segment of the budget. Among these is the National Road Fund under the Infrastructure and Basic Services Sector”, the Minister explains. Receiving the budget, Speaker Bhofal Chambers calls for an automatic scheduling of the budget



gesture of goodwill, a government source says.

The Government of Liberia and HPX Group subsidiaries Ivanhoe Liberia and SMFG entered into a Framework Agreement on 20 December 2019. It was subsequently amended on 30 March 2022. The purpose of the Framework Agreement was to set forth the framework for the negotiation of an agreement to secure sufficient rail and port infrastructure in the Yekepa-Buchanan rail and port corridor to be able to evacuate iron ore from HPX's Guinean-Nimba Iron Ore Project.

The Framework Agreement as amended was announced publicly and received strong support from the Government of Liberia. Since 2019, the source said HPX has continued to negotiate with the Government of Liberia on terms and payments that would be payable to the Government of Liberia once the final agreement is signed.

The source argued that the Framework Agreement merely committed the parties to

those assets, and it did not require ratification under Liberian law. According to the source, the payment of the US\$37m was done through the United States Government's Federal Reserve Bank of New York. The government source explained that HPX Group agreed, as a gesture of goodwill, to make refundable advance payments to the Government of Liberia at its official request of some of the anticipated fees and taxes that would be due and payable to Liberia if and when a binding concession agreement came into force. If none did, it said, these advance payments would be refundable to the HPX Group.

These advance payments, which were paid into the Government of Liberia Revenue Account at the Central Bank of Liberia consisted of US\$7 million in December 2019 and US\$30 million in March 2022.

The advance payments are refundable if certain milestones relating to the negotiation and

under Madam Sirleaf three times corrupt, but America did not designate any official of that administration.

Commenting on his silence since the pronouncement of the election results, the outgoing district 8 lawmaker boasts of seeking the interest of the people and the country at large, during his twelve years at the legislature.

“This job belongs to the people; they decide when to give it to you and they decide

when to take it away from you, so I'm gracious to the people of district 8 and the CDC, including President Weah for affording me the opportunity to serve”, he says. Gray notes that henceforth, he now considers himself a member of the opposition and will never shy away from those stands he took while in government as member of the outgoing CDC-led administration. Editing by Jonathan Browne



expenditure is US\$ 594.54 million, or 95 percent of the total proposed expenditure, while the total cost of Public Sector Investment Projects is projected at US\$31.03 million, or 5 percent of the total proposed expenditure.

Minister Brunson explains that first claims on available resources are focused on those obligatory expenditure categories that must be satisfied. In this regard, a total amount of US\$ 594.54 million earmarked for recurrent expenditure has been allocated and guided by the following order of priority: Debt Service (Domestic & External), Compensation for Employees, Grants, Goods and Services for Education and Health Sectors, among others.

She notes that the submission process is in pursuant to Section 17.1 of the Public Financial Management Act, covering the period January 1, 2024, to December

process. “As you know and we accept the apologies, this instrument should have been brought here three months ago, so that we would have carefully looked at the process and ensured diligence”, he says.

Speaker Chambers assures that the Legislature would do the utmost to ensure passage in the interest of the country and its people. He underscores that the body will pay keen attention to the Supreme Court's ruling, instructing the government to settle arrears of former legislators and payment to victims of shipwreck under the review process in maintaining coordination amongst the three branches of government.

The US\$625.57 million draft national budget is the last from the outgoing administration of President George Weah, who lost the 2023 election to main challenger, Ambassador Joseph Nyumah Boakai. Mr. Boakai formally takes office as President of Liberia in January 2024. Editing by Jonathan Browne

# Gray wants U.S. sanctions investigated

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evidence, where does the law of investigation comes in?” He believes the sanctions are targeted at officials of the CDC-led government, questioning why didn't the U.S. Secretary of State issue visa restrictions against individuals in the previous administration headed former President Sirleaf.

He recalls that former Auditor General John Morlu declared the UP government

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## Gov't pathologist debunks defense pathologist's report

By Lincoln G. Peters

in the chest.

"If you look at the conjunctiva of Charloe Musu at autopsy, you can clearly see that she is not just severely pure but she is paper white; to perform an autopsy and DNA analysis and come out with a

deep laceration caused by a sharp knife or sharp edge and is moving from the inner part of the thigh to the outer part of the thigh, tilted towards the head slightly, which indicates that it is not a blunt force injury, but an injury like the one before it caused by a sharp edge, most likely a knife testified to by one of the suspects in person of Getrude Newton.

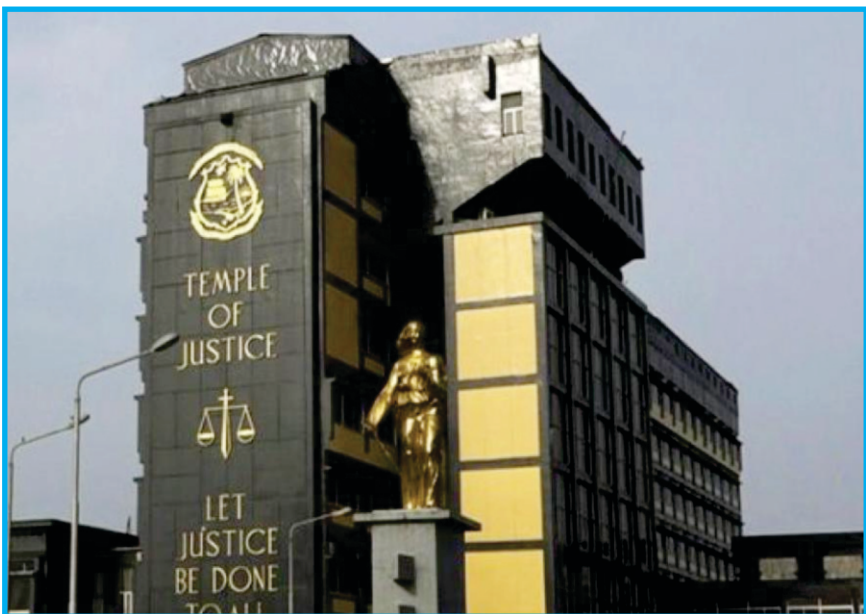
Dr. Koule says Dr. Okaye represents a gross distort of the facts, as his findings lack specifics and cannot be measured, so it is vague and designed to mislead the audience of the public, adding that medical certainly is measured in terms of probability and that probability which is the chances that an event will occur has to be clearly stated.

"If I toss a pad, there is a 50% chance that either the head on the coin or the back will show up and that has to be stated; when we treat sick people with terminal sickness, we give the probability of survivor", he adds.

conclusion that a killer is muscular represents a falsification of facts, science and unimaginable dimensions" Dr. Koule counters.

He maintains that the representation of Dr. Okaye is false, misleading and a complete misrepresentation of the facts, arguing that on the left thigh of the body, there is a

The chief pathologist of the Republic of Liberia, Dr. Benedict B. Koule, while on the witness stand here on Monday, December 18, described to the defense American-based pathologist, Dr. Mathau I. Okaye's



autopsy report as very erroneous. According to Dr. Koule, Dr. Okaye has the callous intent to introduce element of double in the initial true autopsy conducted by him (Koule). The Liberian pathologist notes that in his work, he indicated that the cause of death was hypovolemic shock due to multiple stabbed injuries and there were massive loss of blood

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