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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.

The New Dawn

French Version Inside

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Attention! Attention!
Read GOL Audit Report for June 30, 2015 inside.

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Min. Jerolinmek Matthew Piah



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-US State Department report suggests

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Continental News

Zuma scores court hat-trick over South Africa election

South Africa's battle-scarred former President Jacob Zuma is proving he still has a winning streak - recently scoring a hat-trick in the courtroom. For the

in 1994.

The ANC argued that trademark law had been breached and that the use of the name, which translates as Spear of the Nation, would lead to voter confusion in

massively. "The high court ruling is campaign gold for MK, allowing activists to crow about their victory, even if the governing party says it will appeal against the ruling. But the ruling also shows how much MK relies on the charismatic appeal of Mr Zuma, a former ANC stalwart who once served in its armed wing.

The allegations of corruption he faces, but denies, have not affected his huge popularity in his home province of KwaZulu-Natal. High court judge Mahendra Chetty mainly dismissed the application on the grounds that the ANC had left the legal action too late and should have approached the electoral court, not the high court.

MK was registered as a party in September, but it was only when Mr Zuma came out in support of it in December that the ANC woke up to the threat, said Harper. "The ANC failed the urgency test with their high court application, they created the urgency for themselves," he said. "The judge said this was an electoral matter, not one of trademark and it should have been dealt with by the electoral court."

This is the second loss for the ANC against MK.

At the end of March the electoral court rejected the ANC's argument that the party had not met the official registration criteria. BBC

Could House of the Dragon star change the face of gaming?

"Every story begins at the end of another."

These are the words that greet players when they boot up Abubakar Salim's debut video game - Tales of Kenzera: Zau. It's fitting because the British actor, seen in TV series Raised by Wolves and soon to appear in House of the Dragon, is speaking to BBC Newsbeat just days before its big release.

This is the final chapter of Tales of Kenzera's four-year development cycle - a chapter that begins last December, in Los Angeles. Abu, as he likes to be known, is standing on-stage at The Game Awards, addressing a crowd of 4,000 people in the Peacock Theater. An audience of millions is watching online around the world. Unveiling Tales of Kenzera, he launches into an emotional speech explaining how the game is inspired by the death of his dad Ali 10 years ago.

Like Abu, the game's title character Zau, a young

style, from generation to generation, something Abu experienced first-hand. "It was really inspired by the stories that my father would tell me as a kid," he says. "My grandfather was an Nganga, which is like a traditional spiritual healer." And so my father would share these really cool worlds and ideas. "And because the game is about that journey of grief, that kind of connection between me and my dad, it had to exist in the space." Abu says he chose the setting of Tales of Kenzera, which also gives players the option to play with Swahili dialogue, because it felt like the most authentic way for him to tell his story. But a high-profile video game with a black main character is a rare thing. And one that draws heavily on African mythology is even more unusual. So for a lot of gamers seeing Abu on stage stirs up another set of feelings.

"It was amazing to see him up there," says Annabel Ashalley-Anthony. "We don't get to see that very often." Annabel - the founder



third time in the last month the 82-year-old has thwarted attempts to stop him, or his new party, from contesting the general election at the end of May. His latest victory came on Monday in the Durban High Court, where the governing African National Congress (ANC) tried to force his party, uMkhonto weSizwe (MK), to drop its name and logo. This is because it is named after the now disbanded armed wing of the ANC, which fought against white-minority rule that ended with the election of anti-apartheid hero Nelson Mandela

the upcoming May polls. The judge disagreed. "It's a big victory for MK politically and financially. They would've had to start all over again if they lost. It would've crippled them completely financially," Paddy Harper, the South African Mail & Guardian newspaper's KwaZulu-Natal correspondent, told the BBC. "They launched the manifesto essentially online this last weekend," he says, about the two-page document which is big on headlines and thin on detail. "This tells you that they don't have the money, so starting the campaign with a different logo would've set them back

Dozens die after boat capsizes off Djibouti coast

At least 33 Ethiopian migrants - including an eight-year-old boy - have died after their boat capsized off the coast of Djibouti, officials have told the BBC.

They were among 77 people crossing the Red Sea from Yemen to Ethiopia, the UN's migration agency reported.

Fishermen alerted coastguards to the tragedy on Tuesday after witnessing some of the migrants drowning.

Rescuers managed to save more than 20 people but others remain missing.

The survivors' shock and fear was clear to see as they were brought ashore in Djibouti to the town of Godoria and taken to hospital for treatment. They have since been repatriated to Ethiopia by the UN's migration agency, the IOM.

Isse Iyah, a senior Djibouti coastguard official, said those who were on the capsized boat had left Yemen because life had

been a greater struggle there than in their home country. Ethiopia's ambassador to Djibouti, Berhanu Tsegaye, expressed his condolences over the deaths on X, formerly Twitter.

"Illegal travel from Djibouti to the Middle East countries is extremely dangerous and we are constantly losing the lives of our citizens," he added. People fleeing the aftermath of civil war in landlocked Ethiopia frequently

pass through Djibouti and Yemen towards Saudi Arabia and beyond, in search of better opportunities.

Some get stuck in Yemen, which is also in the grip of war. Tuesday's capsizing comes two weeks after another boat accident in the same waters saw at least 38 Ethiopians die. According to officials, nearly 1,000 people have been recorded as dead or missing in the same area in the past decade. BBC



The boat was carrying 77 people when it capsized just off the coast Djibouti



Abubakar Salim grew up playing games - now he's released his own

shaman, has lost his father.

Unable to accept it, he summons the god of death and goes on a quest to bring his dad back to life. "Truly, at its core, it's about a young boy who's grieving," Abu tells BBC Newsbeat. His heartfelt reveal strikes a chord with many, and the clip of The Game Awards moment goes viral. People seen genuinely impressed by the game's trailer, too. Its colourful graphics, stirring orchestral score and setting prompt many to add it to their wishlists. "The reception has been wild. It's been brilliant, and fantastic," says Abu, who believes the "universal" theme of grief helps his pitch to resonate with gamers. But for some gamers there's another element, also influenced by Ali and Abu's Kenyan heritage, that gets them excited about the game. It draws heavily on myths and legends told by the Bantu peoples - hundreds of different groups who live around Africa. These tales are often passed down, word-of-mouth

of Melanin Gamers, which advocates for more inclusivity in the industry - admits she was already a fan of Abu thanks to his work as main character Bayek in Assassin's Creed: Origins. But the sight of a black creator at The Game Awards - often referred to as "the Oscars of the industry" - resonated with her. "For him to debut there was so important, visibly seeing ourselves represented in such a nice way," she says. "I was like 'this is something that I must play'." When Abu debuted the game, more than a few people made comparisons between Tales of Kenzera and a certain record-breaking movie. Annabelle agrees the parallels are there. "It's definitely the Black Panther of gaming," she says. Surgent Studios, the development company Abu set up to make the game, has acknowledged the influence of the Marvel hit - both have elements of Afro-futurism, the aesthetic that mixes science-fiction and African culture, and the game's soundtrack features the same choir heard in the movie.

EDITORIAL

Boakai's budget downplays education

The first national budget submitted by the Executive to the 55th Legislature for FY2024 leaves much to be desired with education relegated under agriculture, roads, health, and energy.

This means the nation's badly challenged educational system will remain so for a long time. It is quite unfortunate for a President that campaigned with a promise to rescue Liberia in totality.

As we write, Liberia is still hugely indebted to the West African Examination Council (WAEC), the sub-regional body that administers annual exams for students in Liberia, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Ghana and Nigeria. The country has defaulted in paying its dues, which is in the tone of several hundred thousands, if not millions.

This liability is negatively impacting the country's representation at the subregional level with adverse effects on decisions being made for the body.

This is happening so when public universities, colleges and tertiary institutions across the country are beset with serious financial challenges that are negatively impacting not only their operations and programs, but students' learning processes.

For instance, junior lecturers at the State-run University of Liberia refused to return to class at the beginning of the current academic semester in demand of salary and benefits, which delayed resumption of classes.

As if being insensitive, President Joseph Nyuma Boakai's first draft national budget to the legislature prioritizes agriculture, roads, health, and energy, instead. The government is mute on whether it will maintain payment of WASSCE fees for 12th graders across the country, initiated by its predecessor.

Besides, thousands of volunteer teachers in public schools are yet to be placed on by payroll by the Ministry of Education that runs schools in dilapidated structures all over Liberia with students sitting on bare floors to write lessons.

Such poor learning environment, especially public schools are no doubt, some of the contributing factors to dismal performance of students besides dissatisfied and unqualified teachers.

Many Liberians had anticipated thought that the "Rescue Government" would have given equal priority to the nation's education, as it is doing for other key sectors. Unfortunately, this seems not to be the case, as evidence from the draft national budget indicates.

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COMMENTARY

By Jayati Ghosh

The Key to Transforming African Health

NEW DELHI - Despite the relentless stream of bad news from around the world, there are still reasons for optimism. One notable example is the renewed push to localize pharmaceutical production in Africa, demonstrating how even catastrophic events like a pandemic can lead to positive, unforeseen outcomes.

The COVID-19 shock underscored the critical need to fund public-health systems and expand access to essential technologies and preventive and therapeutic drugs, and should have served as a wake-up call for policymakers and publics worldwide. But once the virus was brought under control, wealthy countries reverted to the policies and practices that had made the initial pandemic response so unequal.

No part of the world has suffered more from these extreme global inequalities than Africa. African countries were the last to receive COVID-19 vaccines, having been crowded out by vaccine-hoarding wealthier countries and denied access to the technologies necessary for domestic production. Although Africa accounts for 18% of the world's population, the continent received only 3.3% of all administered vaccines by the end of 2021. By the end of 2022, its share had barely increased to 5.5%.

Even before COVID-19, Africa was already grappling with the global neglect of major epidemics such as Ebola, Zika, and monkeypox, as well as endemic diseases like sleeping sickness. One of the biggest obstacles to tackling these health crises is the continent's dependence on imported drugs. Despite bearing one-quarter of the global disease burden, only 2% of medical research is conducted in Africa, and more than 90% of the continent's vaccines and 70% of its medicines are imported. Moreover, of the roughly 375 pharmaceutical manufacturers operating in Africa, just 15% are locally owned, and most of these companies focus on formulations rather than the active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) crucial for drug production.

Fortunately, the bitter experience of COVID-19 appears to have catalyzed a much-needed policy shift. During the pandemic, the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention laid the groundwork for inter-governmental cooperation by bolstering collective regional responses under extremely difficult conditions. More recently, several African governments and international organizations have launched initiatives to boost local pharmaceutical production and promote innovation across the continent.

The African Pharmaceutical Technology Foundation, backed by the African Development Bank, is a prime example. This initiative aims to bolster the continent's technological capabilities by expanding access to knowledge, building skills, and expanding product pipelines. The Foundation has pledged to invest up to \$3 billion over the next decade to develop pharmaceutical products in Africa, thereby reducing the continent's dependence on imports.

Another example is the Medicine Patent Pool's mRNA technology transfer program, supported by the World Health Organization and the United Nations. The goal of this initiative, which operates from its South African hub at the Cape Town-based biotechnology company

Afrigen, is to develop the necessary technological capacity and technical know-how to enable 15 low- and middle-income countries to manufacture mRNA vaccines. Initially focused on COVID-19 vaccines, the program has since expanded to other diseases prevalent across Africa, as well as more affordable cancer treatments.

These initiatives face significant challenges, especially their reliance on voluntary technology transfers, which have proven to be very limited in scope. To access essential knowledge and force multinational companies (MNCs) to share their technologies, African countries must expand their use of compulsory licensing, in line with their own patent laws and the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement.

Notably, the mRNA hub in South Africa has already faced legal challenges from Moderna, itself a beneficiary of US government subsidies and patent sharing. This underscores the importance of ensuring that the ongoing negotiations for a global pandemic treaty include specific provisions addressing compulsory licensing.

That said, access to knowledge alone is not enough. Given that production processes require specialized expertise, comprehensive education programs and skills training are crucial to establishing a sustainable foundation for innovation and production in Africa. This requires a broader regional effort, which African governments appear to be considering.

Another major obstacle is competition from large pharmaceutical companies. Novartis, which has previously initiated patent disputes in countries like India, has already announced its intention to achieve a fivefold increase in patient outreach in Sub-Saharan Africa by 2025. For localization efforts to succeed, it is crucial to emphasize local ownership and ensure that the benefits are not monopolized by Big Pharma. In any case, MNCs can be unreliable partners, as is evident from Moderna's recent decision to put on hold its planned investment in vaccine production in Kenya because reduced demand makes commercial profitability less likely.

Given that Africa's rich genetic diversity makes it a veritable treasure trove of genomic data, the risk of knowledge and data theft is a pressing concern. While the African CDC's Pathogen Genomics Initiative was celebrated as a major achievement when it was launched in 2019, there are now valid concerns that the pandemic treaty could make these data globally accessible, potentially benefiting large pharmaceutical companies in rich countries without ensuring fair compensation for Africa. Tellingly, foreign powers are already squabbling over who should control access to this invaluable database.

The challenges confronting African countries' efforts to take control of their health-care destiny are immense. Their determination to localize drug and vaccine production is a promising start.

Jayati Ghosh, Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, is a member of the Club of Rome's Transformational Economics Commission and Co-Chair of the Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation.

OP-ED

By Daron Acemoglu
and Simon Johnson

History Already Tells Us the Future of AI

BOSTON - Artificial intelligence and the threat that it poses to good jobs would seem to be an entirely new problem. But we can find useful ideas about how to respond in the work of David Ricardo, a founder of modern economics who observed the British Industrial Revolution firsthand. The evolution of his thinking, including some points that he missed, holds many helpful lessons for us today.

Private-sector tech leaders promise us a brighter future of less stress at work, fewer boring meetings, more leisure time, and perhaps even a universal basic income. But should we believe them? Many people may simply lose what they regarded as a good job - forcing them to find work at a lower wage. After all, algorithms are already taking over tasks that currently require people's time and attention.

In his seminal 1817 work, *On the Principles of Political Economy and Taxation*, Ricardo took a positive view of the machinery that had already transformed the spinning of cotton. Following the conventional wisdom of the time, he famously told the House of Commons that "machinery did not lessen the demand for labour."

Since the 1770s, the automation of spinning had reduced the price of spun cotton and increased demand for the complementary task of weaving spun cotton into finished cloth. And since almost all weaving was done by hand prior to the 1810s, this explosion in demand helped turn cotton handweaving into a high-paying artisanal job employing several hundred thousand British men (including many displaced, pre-industrial spinners). This early, positive experience with automation likely informed Ricardo's initially optimistic view.

But the development of large-scale machinery did not stop with spinning. Soon, steam-powered looms were being deployed in cotton-weaving factories. No longer would artisanal "hand weavers" be making good money working five days per week from their own cottages. Instead, they would struggle to feed their families while working much longer hours under strict discipline in factories.

As anxiety and protests spread across northern England, Ricardo changed his mind. In the third edition of his influential book, published in 1821, he added a new chapter, "On Machinery," where he hit the nail on the head: "If machinery could do all the work that labour now does, there would be no demand for labour." The same concern applies today. Algorithms' takeover of tasks previously performed by workers will not be good news for displaced workers unless they can find well-paid new tasks.

Most of the struggling handweaving artisans during the 1810s and 1820s did not go to work in the new weaving factories, because the machine looms did not need many workers. Whereas the automation of spinning had created opportunities for more people to work as weavers, the automation of weaving did not create compensatory labor demand in other sectors. The British economy overall did not create enough other well-paying new jobs, at least not until railways took off in the 1830s. With few other options, hundreds of thousands of hand weavers remained in the occupation, even as wages fell by more than half.

Another key problem, albeit not one that Ricardo himself dwelled upon, was that working in harsh factory conditions - becoming a small cog in the employer-controlled "satanic mills" of the early 1800s - was unappealing to handloom weavers. Many artisanal weavers had operated as independent businesspeople and entrepreneurs who bought spun cotton and then sold their woven products on the market. Obviously, they were not enthusiastic about submitting to longer hours, more discipline, less autonomy, and typically lower wages (at least compared to the heyday of handloom weaving). In testimony collected by various Royal Commissions, weavers spoke bitterly about their refusal to accept such working conditions, or about how horrible their lives became when they were forced (by the lack of other options) into such jobs.

Today's generative AI has huge potential and has already chalked up some impressive achievements, including in scientific research. It could well be used to help workers become more informed, more productive, more independent, and more versatile. Unfortunately, the tech industry seems to have other uses in mind. As we explain in *Power and Progress*, the big companies developing and deploying AI overwhelmingly favor automation (replacing people) over augmentation (making people more productive).

That means we face the risk of excessive automation: many workers will be displaced, and those who remain employed will be subjected to increasingly demeaning forms of surveillance and control. The principle of "automate first and ask questions later" requires - and thus further encourages - the collection of massive amounts of information in the workplace and across all parts of society, calling into question how much privacy will remain.

Such a future is not inevitable. Regulation of data collection would help protect privacy, and stronger workplace rules could prevent the worst aspects of AI-based surveillance. But the more fundamental task, Ricardo would remind us, is to change the overall narrative about AI. Arguably, the most important lesson from his life and work is that machines are not necessarily good or bad. Whether they destroy or create jobs depends on how we deploy them, and on who makes those choices. In Ricardo's time, a small cadre of factory owners decided, and those decisions centered on automation and squeezing workers as hard as possible.

Today, an even smaller cadre of tech leaders seem to be taking the same path. But focusing on creating new opportunities, new tasks for humans, and respect for all individuals would ensure much better outcomes. It is still possible to have pro-worker AI, but only if we can change the direction of innovation in the tech industry and introduce new regulations and institutions.

As in Ricardo's day, it would be naive to trust in the benevolence of business and tech leaders. It took major political reforms to create genuine democracy, to legalize trade unions, and to change the direction of technological progress in Britain during the Industrial Revolution. The same basic challenge confronts us today.

OPINION

By Laurence Boone
and Nicu Popescu

Europe's Red Tape Is Helping Russia

PARIS - The European Union's spending rules and public-procurement processes are plainly inadequate to the threat posed by Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. If the World War II Allies had been subject to such strictures, they would have been unable to buy landing boats for the invasion of Normandy for a landing in 1944, equip General Charles de Gaulle's Free French Army, or issue war bonds in time. The EU's regulations undermine its capacity to mitigate the war's effects on Europe itself, weaken its ability to protect itself from a broad range of hybrid attacks, and prolong Russia's military aggression against Ukraine.

That is why some European leaders have increasingly called for the EU to put its economy on a war footing. French President Emmanuel Macron, for example, has rallied a coalition of countries to increase support for Ukraine. But while such a shift is urgently needed, efforts to this end have so far mostly been confined to the military sphere, leaving both Ukraine and the bloc vulnerable in other domains.

For example, the procedure for financing and building a new electricity interconnector to Ukraine - which might become increasingly essential as Russia intensifies its strikes on energy infrastructure - would probably not differ from the pre-war procedures. Now as then, a project that could be built in, say, one year, can easily take several more years, owing to bureaucratic barriers.

Consider that in autumn 2022, when Russia began destroying Ukraine's electricity-generation capacity, Romania requested funds for an electricity interconnector to Moldova - which had started experiencing blackouts as well - from NextGenerationEU, the bloc's pandemic-recovery program. After nine months of preliminary work, the EU reached the obvious conclusion that the project made little economic sense. While correct from the criteria for financing projects under the NextGenerationEU and from a profit-maximizing perspective, such an assessment ignores the broader risks of Russia's brutal war on the EU and candidate countries.

Similar issues arise with other types of infrastructure spending. Today, if Poland or Estonia needs to build a road or bridge for security purposes - to boost its capacity to deploy military assets along the border or to some hard-to-reach border village, for example - it would be difficult to access or fast-track funding from international financial institutions, the EU's Cohesion Fund, or NextGenerationEU, let alone the World Bank, the European Investment Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, or the Council of Europe Development Bank. But what may be fiscally unsound in normal times takes on new meaning in a war economy. Indeed, all member states would benefit from improving the ability of the EU's frontier countries to move troops and defense equipment.

While diplomatically firm, Europe is still wobbly when it comes to committing resources. The situation is comparable to the first years of the multi-year eurozone debt crisis that began in 2009 - at least until then-European Central Bank president Mario Draghi delivered his famous vow in 2012 that the ECB would "do whatever it takes" to save the euro. The EU has yet to commit to "do whatever it takes" to deny Russia's victory. The contrast between the bloc securing €750 billion (\$798 billion) for the pandemic-recovery fund and struggling to raise even €100 billion for Ukraine's existential struggle in the continent's largest war since 1945 reflects Europe's aversion to common projects beyond the economic sphere.

The EU must change - and fast - to mitigate the Russian security threat. That means providing more aid to Ukraine, devising an emergency plan for ramping up domestic military production, and adopting a European Defense Production Act (DPA).

First, the EU should consider supporting Ukraine with a lend-lease program, similar to the one that the United States used to supply the Allies with military equipment, food, and other material resources before officially entering WWII. The US dispensed around \$50 billion (roughly \$800 billion today), worth of goods, deferring payment.

Most of these debts were repaid in "joint action" toward the creation of a liberalized economic order, but some were eventually reimbursed - the United Kingdom paid its final loan installment in 2006. The EU could use common borrowing to finance such a program, like the pandemic-recovery fund before it. The threat posed to the bloc by the Ukraine war is arguably greater than that of COVID-19.

Second, European policymakers must devise contingency plans for military emergencies, including the conversion of civilian factories into defense plants. After all, Ford began assembling B-24 bombers and Chrysler shifted to manufacturing tanks during WWII.

Lastly, a European DPA would help mitigate the effects of hybrid aggression against the EU by hostile powers, including on electricity infrastructure, gas supplies, and telecommunications equipment. It would also establish a robust framework for addressing military and security shortages, with guidelines for fast-tracking acquisitions, expanding industrial sites, managing contracts, introducing trade controls, and securing supply chains.

This new legislative framework should be modeled on the US DPA, which was enacted in 1950 and allows the president to expedite and expand the supply of materials and services needed to promote national defense, broadly defined, by regulating - or even commandeering - private industries. For example, during the COVID-19 crisis, companies were mandated under the DPA to assign the highest priority to government contracts for medical supplies and equipment. In addition to direct purchases and purchase commitments, the DPA authorizes the use of other financial incentives, such as loans and guarantees, to enhance domestic preparedness, which includes funding research and development.

A European DPA would establish a framework for addressing hybrid - and possibly more conventional - threats by hostile powers acting and help fast-track processes for public procurement and spending, while still preserving institutional checks and balances.

ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

How racism has kept Liberia poor and underdeveloped

In his 2020 article "What Racism Cost Us All," written for the International Monetary Fund, Joseph Losavio bemoaned the significant economic cost associated with racism.

"Systemic racism is a global problem. It is real, and a robust moral argument for addressing it exists. However, one factor that is often ignored in this critical conversation is the broader economic dimension.

Because it prevents people from making the most of their economic potential, systemic racism carries significant economic costs. A less racist society can be an economically stronger one." Mr. Losavio wrote.

This is exactly the situation Liberia is facing. The country's racist clause enshrined in its 1986 Constitution has made many non-negros or persons of non-negro decent rethink their investment in the country.

It is non-debatable that Liberia has been and remains a racist country since its independence in 1847, at least according to Article 27 (b) of its Constitution, which excludes non-black or anyone who does not have a black ancestry from becoming a citizen.

Article 27 (b) states that: "To preserve, foster and maintain the positive Liberian culture, values, and character, only persons who are Negroes or of Negro descent shall qualify by birth or by naturalization to be citizens of Liberia."

The law discriminates based on race. To say that only persons who are "Negro" (black), regardless of whether they were born on Liberian soil, jus soli, or abroad to Liberian parents, jus sanguinis, "shall qualify by birth or by naturalization to be citizens of Liberia," is racist- plain and simple.

According to Wikipedia, "Racism is discrimination and prejudice against people based on their race or ethnicity." It further explained that racism can be present in social actions, practices, or political systems that support the expression of prejudice or aversion in discriminatory practices."

Unlike Western countries, Liberia's racism is institutional because it is written boldly in its constitution. It perpetuates discrimination against non-negros and people of non-negro descent on the basis that they are not black or have no black ancestry. Legal institutions and systems do this.

This not only discourages non-negros or persons of non-negro descent who have lived all their lives in the country from making significant investment decisions but also prevents non-negros who were born here and have no other place as a home from becoming citizens.

These individuals, despite their strong family and economic ties with Liberia, would rather choose to invest in countries that are more welcoming and embracing than Liberia for fear that their descendants will always be denied the right to succeed them because they are not citizens.

Today, neighboring Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone, and others have opened their countries, granting citizenship to non-negroes in their pursuit of economic growth and development, while Liberia lies at the bottom due to its racist laws.

From its early foundation, the clause was inserted into the Liberian constitution by the colony's founding fathers as a refuge for free people of color and, later, former slaves to prevent economically powerful communities from obtaining political power.

However, today, this law has no significance, but it remains in place to protect a privileged few while impoverishing the entire country.

In 2022, the law was amended to remove discrimination in granting citizenship to children born outside Liberia. However, the amended law retained the statutory attribution of citizenship to every child born in Liberia (if of "negro descent"); the 1986 Constitution, meanwhile, provides explicitly for attribution of citizenship at birth only if either the father or mother is a Liberian citizen.

This law intends to prohibit dual citizenship for adults at all costs. A referendum to amend the Constitution to permit dual citizenship in all cases (among other propositions) failed in 2020. However, many blame the past regime for not doing much to publicize the proposition.

The 2022 amendments to the law allow a Liberian citizen who acquires another citizenship to retain Liberian citizenship. This amendment follows a 2019 Supreme Court decision that ruled that the statutory provision for automatic loss of citizenship was unconstitutional.

However, in the case of a person with one Liberian and one foreign parent, the Constitution requires the person to renounce the other citizenship when he or she turns 18 to retain his or her Liberian citizenship.

Starts from back page

VP Koung, others boycott poll

The Vice President had voted at the Ganta YMCA Polling Center#2 twice as a Representative candidate and then as candidate for the senate before becoming VP, bringing along 20 of his followers, who did not show up yesterday.

The 20 followers are local executives of the ruling UP in Nimba, who are said to be unhappy with the leadership of the Party and the MDR over job allocation. Vice President Jeremiah Koung has been using community radio stations in the county to campaign for Unity Party Senatorial Candidate Nya D. Twayen, Jr. Few days back, he met with chiefs and elders of Nimba and reportedly dished out cash as inducement to vote for the UP, like they did during the 2023 elections.

The NEW DAWN gathered that if the UP were to win the just-ended by-election in Nimba, it could offset the influence of Kingmaker Senator PYJ, who dubbed himself as godfather of Nimba politics.

On the other hand, if Representative Samuel G. Kogar wins the polls, another by-election would be in the making to fill his seat in the House, but pundits say Vice President Jeremiah Koung, who has his eyes fixed on the Presidency for 2029, might rally fellow members of his Mano tribe not to elect another Gio-speaking person, though the latter outnumbered them.

After Tuesday's by-election ethnicity will be another hot topic for discussion in the county that is, if District#5 Representative Samuel G. Kogar wins the seat for the senate, which will see the county setting another record by electing two persons from the same tribe and region in the Liberian Senate.

Meanwhile, several voting centers covered by The NEW DAWN during Tuesday's senatorial by-election indicated low turnout.

"Since voting started at 8am up to 2pm prior to the falling of rain that started from 3pm, there has been no voter coming out to vote; some of them say they have not received money from candidates to come out and vote", a local staff of the National Elections Communication explains.

Several local and international observers, including the Election Coordinating Committee (ECC), Democracy International, EISA alongside with the Liberian media observed the polls. The ruling Unity Party and the People Unification Party both sent observers in the field.

Candidates Thomas S. Grupee and Armstrong Gobac Selekpoh did not have representatives at polling centers.

From 3pm to 5pm yesterday, various polling centers were virtually empty, with no voter coming out to vote.

Addressing journalists at Radio Kergheamahn 94.5 FM, the Chairperson of the National Elections Commission, Davidetta Browne Lansanah, urged Nimbaians to come out and vote, stressing that doing so will give them the power to elect the best person to represent them in the 55th Legislature, particularly in the senate.

"One problem we are gathering is that some voters are complaining about not being able to get money before they can vote; don't vote for cash. This is your future and the future of the children and the country", she cautions.

Asked whether the poor turnout could be attributed to lack of civic voter's education, Chairperson Browne Lansanah says there was huge awareness carried out through community radio stations in the county prior to the polls, so the issue of awareness should not be the problem.

The National Elections Commission conducted one senatorial by-election in Nimba County and one representative by-election in Grand Gedeh County, respectively on Tuesday.

Details of the polls in Grand Gedeh are still coming in and fresh update may surface subsequently. Editing by Jonathan Browne

JUDICIAL BRANCH
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

20TH DAY JURY SITTING
 SEPTEMBER TERM, A.D. 2023
 OCTOBER 12, 2023

BEFORE HIS HONORABLE: **J. KENNEDY PEABODY**, RESIDENT CIRCUIT JUDGE PRESIDING

THE PETITION OF **KESSELY FAVOR KOLLIE**, PETITIONER, BY AND THRU HIS LEGAL COUNSEL, PRAYING THIS HONORABLE COURT FOR A DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME TO BE CHANGED, REGARDED, CALLED AND KNOWN AS "KESSELY FAVOR TENTY".

COURT'S DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME 00012545

The Petitioner filed a Petition requesting this Honorable Court to order the Change of his name from **KESSELY FAVOR KOLLIE** TO "KESSELY FAVOR TENTY".

During the hearing, the Petitioner testified that the Change of his name requesting this Honorable Court is intended to reflect his true given family name and rendering his identity more explicit and absolute to be true in line with that of his Legal Biological Parents.

After conducting the necessary interrogations requested by law in these proceedings, the Court observed that the intention is just and legal and that there is no objection to the change of his name proposed by him.

That the Petitioner having shown with justification and satisfaction that he was born on the 31ST DAY OF MARCH, A.D. 2004, in Montserrado County, Republic of Liberia, unto **MR. ARTHUR S. TENTY, SR. AND MADAM HELENA MASSAQUOI**, and that the Change of his name will substantially promote his interest in all of the understandings and help to establish his just identity more timely, and being satisfied that he has met all legal requirements for the Change of his name in this jurisdiction, it is therefore **DECREED** as follows:

That the Petition having been heard, same is hereby ordered granted and we now render that the name **KESSELY FAVOR KOLLIE**, be changed to "KESSELY FAVOR TENTY", beginning this 12TH Day of **OCTOBER, A.D. 2023**.

THIS DECREE shall be registered in the Office of the Registrar of DEEDS and other Official Documentations within (10) days from this date and also be published twice in any recognized Newspaper operating in the Republic of Liberia within twenty (20) days from this date. **AND IT IS HEREBY SO ORDERED.**

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN OPEN COURT, THIS 12TH DAY OF **OCTOBER, A.D. 2023**.

J. KENNEDY PEABODY
 RESIDENT CIRCUIT JUDGE PRESIDING
 SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, CIVIL LAW COURT

COURT SEAL:

REGISTERED ACCORDING TO LAW IN VOLUME 04-024 PAGE(S) 00012545

REGISTRAR, NATIONAL ARCHIVES CENTER/MONT. CO, R.L.

FIVE (\$5.00) DOLLAR REVENUE STAMP AFFIXED TO IT ORIGINAL

RECEIVED FOR NATIONAL ARCHIVES ON 11/02/2023 AT 2:08 PM

RECEIVED FOR NATIONAL ARCHIVES RECORDS AGENCY ON 11/02/2023

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Senator seeks US\$3m to combat fire outbreaks

Senator Saah Joseph is one of few top Liberian officials who have survived fire tragedies that have destroyed homes and, in some cases, killed other victims across the country.

By Ethel A. Tweh

Monrovia, April 24, 2024: Through the Liberian Senate, Montserrado County Senator Saah Joseph is seeking the approval of the Legislature for

the help of some community people, narrowly survived a raging fire incident that destroyed his house.

Following that, House Speaker Fonati Koffa also became another senior official

He recalled that in recent months, Montserrado County has been engulfed by a series of devastating outbreaks of fire resulting in the significant loss of lives and properties.

As custodians of public welfare and governance, he suggested that the Legislature address these incidents.

The lawmaker noted that there is fire every day in the country, and as leaders, they need to step in now before the worst happens.

If all the districts have their fire trucks, Senator Joseph believes that they can be able to fight fire collectively.

He noted that if one fire truck runs out of water, another fire truck from the next district can be a help.

He detailed that first it was the citizens [often victimized by fire outbreaks], secondly, it was him, and now the Speaker was next.

Having outlined these incidents, Joseph stated that nobody knows who is next when it comes to a fire disaster.

According to him, the discussion is not just leaving at the level of the Senate, but he will also write the President of Liberia to meet him and have discussions and tell him about the need for the money to fight the continuous fire disaster in Montserrado.

After they have sorted out the fire trucks, he said they will be advocating for the opening of the roads so that when the trucks enter, they can have access.



an emergency budgetary allotment of US\$3m to combat fire outbreaks.

In justifying his request, Mr. Joseph explained that the money, when approved, will be used to purchase 17 fire trucks for the 17 electoral districts in Montserrado County.

"Our ordinary citizens are the victims of fire every day and some of them cannot even afford [one] meal per day, but their homes and properties get damaged and also some of them lost their lives that we don't hear about," he said.

Recently, Mr. Joseph, with

whose property was destroyed by fire.

In all these incidents, the Liberia National Fire Service did not appear to be prepared to respond and save the victims from the losses they incurred.

This state agency which is charged with dealing with fire incidence continues to be one of the poorly funded and ill-equipped state institutions to date.

Mr. Joseph believes that it is necessary to augment the strength of the Liberia Fire Service in fighting fire disasters within Montserrado County.

China donates solar power to Posts and Telecommunications

In continuation of continuous bilateral ties with the Government of Liberia, the Government of China has donated solar power to boost Liberia's postal infrastructure.

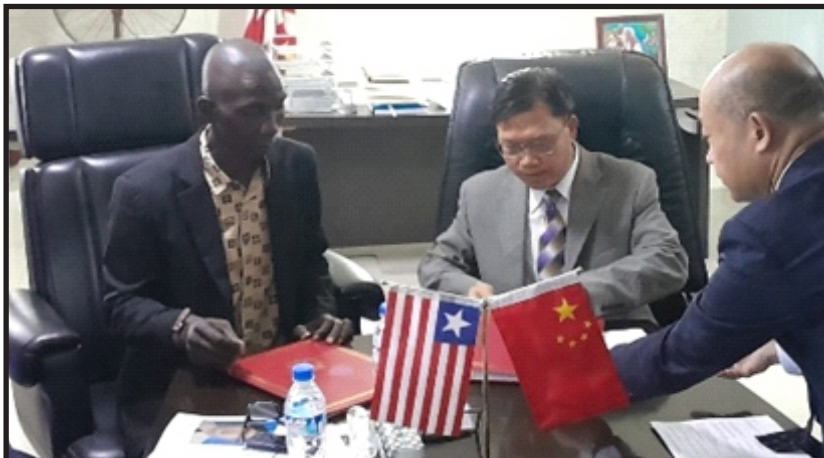
By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, Liberia, April 24, 2024 - The People's Republic of China has begun boosting the communication infrastructure and social economic development of eight of Liberia's fifteen Counties. On Tuesday, April 23, 2024, the People's Republic of China's through its Embassy in Liberia donated solar power project to the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Posts & Telecommunications.

The implementation of the project will provide a stable and reliable, clean and green power supply for central office and Post Offices in eight counties. The counties include, Montserrado, Bomi, Magibi, Bong, Nimba, Grand Gedeh, and Grand Bassa.

The program was graced by the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, Sekou M. Kromah; Deputy Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, Augustine S. Karpeh; Director General of Posts, Paul W. Thomas; the Director General of the

Cabinet, Nathaniel T. Kwabo, among other distinguished officials and media representatives. The donation ceremony brought together representatives from the Chinese Embassy in Liberia, headed by Ambassador Yin Chengwu. Officially turning over the equipment to the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, Ambassador YIN described the Solar Power Project as a boost for Liberia's local communication infrastructure.



He said the solar power project is an important achievement of practical cooperation between China and Liberia, assuring that China is committed to helping Liberia achieve economic and social development. Ambassador Yin said he was honored to attend the handover ceremony for the donation of the solar power project, adding that China will continue to work with the Government and People of Liberia to strive for greater development of practical cooperation in all fields between the two countries and make positive contributions to building a China-Liberia community with a shared future.

Police and motorcyclists sign MoU for restricted zones

-Violators risk fine of LD\$2,000, others

The MoU between the police and motorcyclists seeks to provide public safety awareness regarding road safety measures as well as vehicle and traffic regulations.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, April 24, 2024: The Liberia National Police (LNP) and the National Federation of Motorcyclists and Tricycle Association of Liberia (NAFOTAL) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to avoid major routes considered no-go-zones.

The parties signed the agreement Tuesday, 23 April 2024 at the LNP Headquarters in Monrovia, and the enforcement and compliance are scheduled for 15 May 2024 on major streets.

The signing of the MoU brought together several officials and members of the union.

The MoU seeks to provide public safety awareness regarding road safety measures

of Central Monrovia except Broad and Carey Streets.

He indicated that in the MoU, they also agreed that from Robert Field to ELWA Junction, Tubman Boulevard, and Paynesville through the Japanese Freeway to Freeport, will be playable by kekeh and motorcyclists.

The Deputy Police Inspector also disclosed that kekeh will use Jallah Town, Capitol Bye-Pass, and go back to town as far as Benson Street.

Speaking on the fines and penalty for violators, Mr. Freeman noted that those will violate the MoU and the restrictions will be dealt with in line with the legal instrument.

"Anyone that violates the MoU we have punishment for them. The first step is your motorcycle will be impounded by the police and brought [to] the headquarters," he



as well as vehicle and traffic regulations (Traffic Light).

Signing on behalf of the Inspector General of Police, Deputy Police Inspector for Operations Col. Nelson Freeman said that on 2 April 2024, the LNP and NAFOTAL entered an MoU to foster public safety.

"Today is the signing of an MoU between the LNP and NAFOTAL. This MoU is intended to foster the culture of public safety ahead of the LNP no-go zone or restrictions which is slated for May 15, 2024," Col. Freeman noted.

Accordingly, they have jointly agreed in the MoU to make Freeport to Central Monrovia and all parts of central town a no-go zone or restricted area for motorcyclists.

However, he pointed out that tricycles or kekeh will go to town, using Clara Town, Vai Town, and the Old Bridge through Waterside and the rest

said. "Additionally, we will fine you or give you [a] ticket not more than two thousand Liberian dollars. Also, if your bike is not registered or insured, we will make sure that it's insured before you leave the police custody," he concluded.

For his part, NAFOTAL president Mr. John A. F Kenyor expressed excitement over the signing of the MoU, saying that it has the potential to mitigate road accidents and increase public safety measures.

"I want to express my thanks and appreciation to the LNP for this joint MoU. We remain committed to this MoU. We will work with the LNP in line with this MoU to ensure that there is public awareness. We are doing this because the lives and safety of our members matter a lot," he said.

According to him, the MoU is intended to ensure the safety of motorcyclists, saying it also gears toward a culture of safety.

Auditor General's Report

GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA

Report on the Annual Consolidated Fund Account for the Financial Year Ended June 30, 2015

STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2015
-RECEIPTS BY TYPE AND PAYMENTS CLASSIFICATION BY NATURE

Account Title/Description	NOTES	For The Financial Year Ended June 30 th 2015		For The Financial Year Ended June 30 th 2014	
		RECEIPTS/ PAYMENTS CONTROLLED BY ENTITY	PAYMENTS BY EXTERNAL PARTIES	RECEIPTS/ PAYMENTS CONTROLLED BY ENTITY	PAYMENTS BY EXTERNAL PARTIES
		US \$'000	US \$'000	US \$'000	US \$'000
RECEIPTS					
TAX RECEIPTS	9	381,765	-	395,927	-
Taxes on Income and Profits		146,787		161,458	
Property Taxes		4,357		4,124	
Taxes on Goods and Services		50,116		63,904	
Taxes on International Trade		167,753		155,200	
Other Taxes		12,752		11,240	
OTHER RECEIPTS: NON - TAX RECEIPTS	4	49,861	-	74,563	-
Other Receipts		49,861		74,563	
EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE	10	60,140	46,601	36,358	43,343
Grants from Multilateral Agencies		60,140	38,311	36,358	42,808
Grants from Bilateral Agencies			8,290		535
BORROWING	3	146,148	-	10,350	-
Borrowings from Multilateral Agencies		95,487		10,350	
Borrowings from Bilateral Agencies					
Other Borrowings (Un-Budgeted)		45,662			
Other Borrowings (Domestic)		5,000			
CONTINGENT REVENUE	11	5,300	-	-	-
Contingent Tax Revenue					
Contingent Other Revenue		2,000			
Contingent Other Revenue (Un-Budgeted)		3,300			
TOTAL RECEIPTS		643,215	46,601	517,197	43,343

GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA

Report on the Annual Consolidated Fund Account for the Financial Year Ended June 30, 2015

STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2015
-RECEIPTS BY TYPE AND PAYMENTS CLASSIFICATION BY NATURE

Account Title/Description	RECEIPTS/ PAYMENTS CONTROLLED BY ENTITY		PAYMENTS BY EXTERNAL PARTIES		RECEIPTS/ PAYMENTS CONTROLLED BY ENTITY		PAYMENTS BY EXTERNAL PARTIES	
	US \$'000	US \$'000	US \$'000	US \$'000	US \$'000	US \$'000	US \$'000	US \$'000
PAYMENTS								
Operations	439,319	30,237	363,503	17,587				
Wages, Salaries and other Employee Benefits	239,600	15,157	206,835	2,019				
Supplies and Consumables	199,718	15,080	156,668	15,568				
Transfers	94,653	-	110,345	1,090				
Grants	94,653		110,145	1,090				
Other Transfer Payments			200					
Capital Expenditures	54,929	12,793	24,891	19,971				
Purchase/Construction of plant and equipment	54,929	12,793	24,891	19,971				
Interest and Loan Repayments	30,856	-	30,866	-				
Repayment of borrowings	22,754		26,114					
Interest payments	8,103		4,752					
Other payments	1,240	-	1,077	-				
Social Benefits	1,240		1,077					
Total payments	607,512	43,030	530,682	38,648				
Increase/(Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	35,702	3,571	(13,485)	4,695				
Cash and Cash Equivalents at 1st July	(13,485)							
Foreign Currency translation Difference	(670)							
Ending Cash as at June 30th	21,547	3,571	(13,485)	4,695				

***Beginning Balance of (US \$ 13,485) Million from Fiscal Year 2013/14 was paid off in Fiscal Year 2014/15. This amount is included in the Total Expenditure payments of US \$621.67 Million.)

GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA

Report on the Annual Consolidated Fund Account for the Financial Year Ended June 30, 2015

STATEMENT OF COMPARISON OF BUDGET AND ACTUAL AMOUNT

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2015
-RECEIPTS BY TYPE AND PAYMENTS CLASSIFICATION BY NATURE
-Budget Approved on the Cash Basis

ACCOUNT TITLE/DESCRIPTION	For the Financial Year Ended 30 June 2015						FY2013/14 Actual Amounts
	Actual Amounts	Final Budget	Original Budget	Difference: Final Budget and Actual	Percentage Variance		
	US \$'000	US \$'000	US \$'000	US \$'000	%	US \$'000	
CASH INFLOWS							
TAX RECEIPTS	381,765	364,463	339,171	17,302	5%	395,927	
Taxes on Income and Profits	146,787	157,751	149,457	(10,963)	-7%	161,458	
Property Taxes	4,357	2,948	5,002	1,409	48%	4,124	
Taxes on Goods and Services	50,116	43,756	45,424	6,361	15%	63,904	
Taxes on International Trade	167,753	147,378	126,577	20,375	14%	155,200	
Other Taxes	12,752	12,631	12,711	121	1%	11,240	
OTHER RECEIPTS: NON - TAX RECEIPTS	49,861	63,952	62,567	(14,090)	-22%	74,563	
Other Receipts	49,861	63,952	62,567	(14,090)	-22%	74,563	
EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE	60,140	61,516	109,361	(1,376)	-2%	36,358	
Grants from Multilateral Agencies	60,140	56,516	104,361	3,624	6%	36,358	
Grants from Bilateral Agencies		5,000	5,000	(5,000)	-100%		
BORROWING	146,148	147,159	108,637	(1,011)	-1%	10,350	
Borrowings from Multilateral Agencies	95,487	96,497	98,637	(1,011)	-1%	10,350	
Borrowings from Bilateral Agencies							
Other Borrowings (Additional Resource)	45,662	45,662		(0)	0%		
Other Borrowings (Domestic)	5,000	5,000	10,000				
CONTINGENT REVENUE	5,300	5,300	15,500	-	0%	-	
Contingent Tax Revenue							
Contingent Other Revenue	2,000	2,000	15,500				
Contingent Other Revenue (Additional Resource)	3,300	3,300					
Total Receipts	643,215	642,391	635,236	824	0%	517,197	

GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA

Report on the Annual Consolidated Fund Account for the Financial Year Ended June 30, 2015

STATEMENT OF COMPARISON OF BUDGET AND ACTUAL AMOUNT

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2015
-RECEIPTS BY TYPE AND PAYMENTS CLASSIFICATION BY NATURE
-Budget Approved on the Cash Basis

ACCOUNT TITLE/DESCRIPTION	For the Financial Year Ended 30 June 2015						FY2013/14 Actual Amounts
	Actual Amounts	Final Budget	Original Budget	Difference: Final Budget and Actual	Percentage Variance		
	US \$'000	US \$'000	US \$'000	US \$'000	%	US \$'000	
CASH OUTFLOWS							
Public Administrative Services Sector	237,278	242,680	224,173	5,402	2%	187,295	
Municipal Government	28,166	30,808	71,491	2,643	9%	27,120	
Transparency And Accountability	29,206	30,386	37,022	1,181	4%	27,321	
Security And The Rule Of Law	87,113	89,378	77,425	2,265	3%	78,923	
Health	69,844	72,829	67,758	2,985	4%	55,105	
Social Development Services	9,107	9,790	11,479	683	7%	11,669	
Education	68,251	70,529	68,134	2,278	3%	70,993	
Energy And Environment	14,394	15,804	13,688	1,410	9%	14,032	
Agriculture	5,531	5,690	5,695	159	3%	5,711	
Infrastructure And Basic Services Sector	55,540	56,637	28,142	1,097	2%	32,551	
Industry And Commerce Sector	17,240	17,860	30,230	620	3%	19,964	
Total payments	621,667	642,391	635,236	20,723	3%	530,682	
NET CASH FLOW	21,547	-	(0)	(21,547)	-	(13,485)	

GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA

Report on the Annual Consolidated Fund Account for the Financial Year Ended June 30th2015

The numbered notes that follow relate directly to the content of the **Financial Statements** and are numbered accordingly.

1. General Information and Accounting Policies

The Consolidated Fund Account presented above reflects the Cash Receipts and Payments of the Government of Liberia for the Financial Year Ended 30th June 2015 on the basis of monies received by, held in or paid out of the Consolidated Fund during the period under review. The Government, through the Office of the Comptroller and Accountant General, operates a centralized treasury function that administers cash expenditures on behalf of all Ministries and Agencies (M&As) during the financial year. The amounts appropriated to line Ministries and Agencies are not expended directly by these Ministries and Agencies, but are disbursed on their behalf by the Office of the Comptroller and Accountant General on presentation of appropriate documentation and authorization.

The Annual Consolidated Fund Account is for the Government of Liberia and encompasses the financial transactions of the Consolidated Fund relating to Government Ministries and Agencies. There are constitutionally established and other statutory institutions that receive cash transfers, but whose annual accounts are not included. Also, all forms of external assistance provided through the Consolidated Fund (direct budgetary support) have been captured for the financial year ended 30th June 2015.

These are the specific principles, bases, conventions, rules and practices adopted by the Government of the Republic of Liberia in preparing and presenting the Consolidated Fund Account. The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements therein are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented, unless otherwise stated.

(a) Basis of Preparation

The Consolidated Fund Account has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Public Financial Management (PFM) Act, 2009 and complies with the Cash Basis International Public Sector Accounting Standard (Cash Basis IPSAS). The measurement basis applied is the historical cost, except where otherwise stated in the accounting policies below. The accounting policies adopted have been consistently used throughout.

(b) Reporting Entity

The Consolidated Fund Account is for the central Government of Liberia and encompasses the financial transactions on the Fund relating to Government Ministries and Agencies.

GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA

Report on the Annual Consolidated Fund Account for the Financial Year Ended June 30th2015

(c) Reporting Currency and Translation of Foreign Currencies

i. Functional and Presentation (or Reporting) Currency

The Republic of Liberia operates a dual currency regime comprising the Liberian Dollar (L\$) and the United States of America Dollar (US\$), both of which are legal tenders. The attendant Financial Regulations to the PFM Act of 2009 states that:

"The monetary unit of Liberia for all government agency accounting and financial reporting shall be the Liberian Dollar. The United States Dollars may also be used for financial reporting purposes, but the Liberian Dollar is the base currency."

Hence, for the purpose of the Consolidated Financial Statements being submitted, the United States Dollar is used as the reporting currency, which is permitted under the attendant Financial Regulations to the PFM Act of 2009.

ii. Translation of Transactions in Foreign Currency

Foreign currency transactions and transactions in Liberian Dollars are translated into United States Dollars using the exchange rates prevailing at the dates of the transactions. Closing monetary balances are translated into the reporting currency using the closing rates. Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from the settlement of such transactions and from the translation at year-end exchange rates of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are recognized in the statement of financial performance.

(d) Reporting Period

The reporting period for these financial statements is the financial year of the Government, which runs from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015.

(e) Receipts

Receipts represent cash received by the Government and paid into the Consolidated Accounts during the financial year, comprising Taxes on Income and Profit, Property Taxes, Domestic Taxes on goods and services, Maritime Revenue, Taxes on International Trade, Grants, Borrowings and Non-Tax Receipts. Many services and benefits are provided by the Government to the public, but these do not necessarily give rise to revenue to the Government. Equivalently, payment of tax and other dues do not necessarily result in an entitlement to the taxpayer to receive the equivalent value in services or benefits, because there is no explicit relationship between payment of taxes and other dues, and receipt of goods and services from the Government. Receipts are recognized as follows:

i. Taxes

Taxes are recognized when they are received and under the control of Government.

ii. Grants

Grants are recognized when received. Similarly, grants and transfers to other entities of Government are recognized when disbursement is made.

iii. Non-Tax Receipts

These are fees or charges collected and proceed from sales of designated services by Government. Sales of services are recognized in the period in which the payment for the service is received and not necessarily when the service is rendered. Non-Tax Receipts, whether directly collected by the Government or collected by another entity on its behalf, are recognized when received.

(f) Expenses

All expenses are recognized in the statement of Cash Receipts and Payments when paid out. However, expenses relating to domestic arrears, interest expense and other liabilities are accrued by inclusion in the Statements of Financial Performance and Financial Position.

(g) Property, Plant and Equipment (Physical Assets or Fixed Assets)

Property, Plant and Equipment principally comprises land, buildings, plant, vehicles, equipment, highways, specialist military equipment and any other infrastructure assets; but does not include regenerative natural resources such as forests and mineral resources. Under the Government's cash basis of accounting, purchases of Property, Plant and Equipment are expensed fully in the year of purchase. Proceeds from disposal of Property, Plant and Equipment are recognized as non-tax receipt in the period in which they are received.

(h) Inventories

Consumable supplies are expensed in the period in which they are paid for.

i. Employee benefits

Employee benefits include salaries, wages, allowances, pensions and other employment related costs. Employee benefits are recognized when they are paid. No provision is made for accrued leave or reimbursable duty allowances.

(i) Contingencies

Contingent liabilities are recorded in the Statement of Contingent Liabilities (on memorandum basis) when the contingency becomes evident and under the cash accounting method. They are recognized only when the contingent event occurs and payment is made. Contingent assets are neither recognized nor disclosed.

(ii) Commitments and Guarantees

Long term Commitments, including operating and capital commitments arising from non-cancellable contractual or statutory obligations as well as guarantees made by the Government, will be reported as Notes to the Financial Statements.

Français

Brutalité policière mortelle: la famille exige la justice

Un homme est mort à la suite de violences policières dans la 72e communauté de Paynesville. La famille de M. Austine Yarkpawolo Freeman, 46

l'hôpital ELWA de Paynesville, après les coups brutaux infligés par la police. Le tragique incident s'est produit dans la 72e communauté, près de l'école chrétienne internationale bilingue de l'ONACE, à proximité

a rapporté au NEW DAWN que M. Austine Yarkpawolo Freeman aurait été maltraité par sept officiers de police non identifiés du commissariat du district 9 de Jacob Town, à Paynesville.

Hawa explique que le 17 avril à 2 heures du matin, alors qu'ils dormaient, sept agents de la police nationale libérienne auraient fait irruption au domicile de M. Freeman, situé derrière l'école internationale chrétienne ONACE de la 72e communauté. Ils auraient battu sans raison M. Freeman et son neveu James Boima, avant de menotter James et de l'emmener à moto au commissariat du district 9, laissant Austine gisant impuissant sur le sol.

Elle précise que son oncle, toujours souffrant après le départ de la police, leur a raconté en larmes, à elle et à d'autres membres de la famille, y compris des voisins, que c'était parce qu'il avait accueilli James chez lui que la police les avait battus. Selon elle, M. Freeman aurait expliqué avant sa mort que James Boima, alias "Papay", était arrivé tôt le mercredi matin, frappant à sa porte pour passer la journée

ans, décédé des suites de violences policières à Paynesville, réclame justice. Selon des informations, M. Freeman n'aurait commis aucun crime mais aurait été battu sans pitié par sept policiers, succombant à ses blessures le mercredi 17 avril 2024. Son décès est survenu à

du carrefour de la 72e à Paynesville. M. Freeman était l'oncle d'un homme nommé James Boima, plus connu sous le nom de "Papay", qui s'était réfugié chez lui après une dispute avec sa petite amie, Ruth David, le mercredi 17 avril 2024, à 2 heures du matin.

Hawa Boima, nièce du défunt,

▶ **CONT'D page 9**

Déforestation : la Côte d'Ivoire exporterait du cacao du Liberia

Une enquête menée par une ONG ivoirienne, l'IDEF, suggère que la loi de l'Union européenne sur la déforestation doit être mise en œuvre de toute urgence afin de renforcer significativement les mécanismes de traçabilité de la chaîne d'approvisionnement. BRUXELLES, 22 avril 2024 - Lors d'un événement majeur qui s'est tenu le lundi 22 avril 2024 à Bruxelles, les auteurs d'une enquête révèlent que les entreprises qui s'approvisionnent en cacao de Côte d'Ivoire favorisent la destruction des forêts au Liberia voisin. Les conclusions de l'enquête de terrain présentée par Bakary Traoré, représentant de l'IDEF, soulignent que les mécanismes de traçabilité utilisés par ces entreprises sont défaillants et ne respectent pas le nouveau règlement anti-déforestation publié le 9 juin 2023 au Journal officiel de l'Union européenne. Les enquêteurs plaident pour leur remplacement par le système national de traçabilité robuste et transparent

désormais en place en Côte d'Ivoire.

"Des travaux sont actuellement en cours en Côte d'Ivoire pour mettre en place un système national de traçabilité. Dans ce système, toutes les parcelles de Côte d'Ivoire seront géolocalisées et les producteurs enregistrés. Une carte des producteurs, incluant un système de codes-barres, indiquera également ce que les exploitations individuelles sont capables de produire et permettra de suivre leurs ventes. Notre enquête montre l'importance d'accélérer le

travail entamé par les autorités ivoiriennes", explique Bakary Traoré, directeur général de l'ONG ivoirienne (IDEF) et principal auteur du rapport.

"Les systèmes de traçabilité actuels ont été mis en place par les chocolatiers et sont contrôlés par eux. Ils ne sont pas transparents, et notre enquête les a trouvés défaillants. Pour résoudre le problème et se conformer aux nouvelles réglementations européennes, les négociants en matières premières

▶ **CONT'D page 9**



Éditorial

Le budget présidentiel relègue l'éducation au second plan

Le premier budget national soumis par l'Exécutif à la 55ème législature pour l'exercice 2024 laisse beaucoup à désirer.

L'éducation se retrouve reléguée derrière l'agriculture, les routes, la santé et l'énergie.

Cela signifie que le système éducatif national, déjà en difficulté, le restera pendant longtemps. C'est regrettable pour un président qui a fait campagne en promettant de sauver le Liberia dans son intégralité.

À l'heure actuelle, le Liberia est toujours lourdement endetté envers le West African Examination Council (WAEC), l'organisme sous-régional qui administre les examens annuels des élèves du Liberia, de la Sierra Leone, de la Gambie, du Ghana et du Nigeria. Le pays n'a pas payé ses cotisations, qui s'élèvent à plusieurs centaines de milliers, voire à des millions de dollars.

Ce passif a un impact négatif sur la représentation du pays au niveau sous-régional, avec des effets néfastes sur les décisions prises par l'organisme.

Cela se produit alors que les universités publiques, les collèges et les établissements d'enseignement supérieur du pays sont confrontés à de graves difficultés financières qui affectent non seulement leur fonctionnement et leurs programmes, mais aussi l'apprentissage des étudiants.

Par exemple, les jeunes professeurs de l'Université du Liberia, gérée par l'État, ont refusé de reprendre les cours au début du semestre en cours, exigeant un salaire et des avantages sociaux, ce qui a retardé la reprise des cours.

Comme s'il était insensible, le premier projet de budget national du président Joseph Nyuma Boakai à la législature donne la priorité à l'agriculture, aux routes, à la santé et à l'énergie.

Le gouvernement ne se prononce pas sur la question de savoir s'il continuera à payer les frais du WASSCE pour les élèves de terminale dans tout le pays, initiative lancée par son prédécesseur.

En outre, des milliers d'enseignants volontaires dans les écoles publiques n'ont pas encore été intégrés à la liste de paie par le ministère de l'Éducation, qui gère des écoles en ruines dans tout le Liberia, où les élèves s'asseyent sur le sol nu pour suivre les cours.

Ce piètre environnement d'apprentissage, en particulier dans les écoles publiques, est sans aucun doute l'un des facteurs qui contribuent aux mauvais résultats des élèves, outre le mécontentement et le manque de qualification des enseignants.

De nombreux Libériens s'attendaient à ce que le "gouvernement de salut national" accorde une priorité égale à l'éducation du pays, comme il le fait pour d'autres secteurs clés. Malheureusement, cela ne semble pas être le cas, comme le montrent les preuves contenues dans le projet de budget national.

Nous appelons la nouvelle administration à reconsidérer ses priorités, alors qu'elle entame sa première année de mandat visant à apporter des résultats concrets au peuple libérien, l'éducation n'étant pas une exception.

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Français

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Brutalité policière mortelle :

avec lui car il y avait un conflit entre lui et sa petite amie, Ruth David. "Nous dormions quand les policiers sont arrivés à 2 heures du matin. En entendant le bruit, quelques personnes sont sorties, don't moi, qui ai entendu du bruit à la porte de mon oncle. Avant que je puisse quitter ma chambre pour aller voir, la police est repartie à moto avec mon frère menotté, et mon oncle, M. Freeman, gisait sans pouvoir bouger", raconte-t-elle. Hawa poursuit qu'au lever du jour, M. Austine Yarkpawolo Freeman leur a dit, à elle et à d'autres voisins, qu'il souffrait terriblement à cause des coups de la police et qu'il devait être emmené à l'hôpital. "C'est à ce moment-là qu'il a recommencé à respirer un peu. Nous l'avons emmené d'une clinique à l'autre : d'abord à la clinique Afro-médicale, puis à la clinique Lofa Eyes à Jacob, à l'hôpital Benson à Duport Road,

mais ils l'ont tous refusé. Nous l'avons donc emmené à l'hôpital ELWA où il a été déclaré mort à son arrivée." "Ils l'ont tué, il est mort d'une hémorragie interne, avec des vapeurs qui sortaient de son nez. La police est mauvaise et cruelle. Ils ont tué un innocent, et nous voulons la justice", se lamente-t-elle.

Fatu Boima, la mère du défunt, sans voix, a déclaré aux journalistes : "Journalistes, vous voyez, n'est-ce pas ? La police a tué mon fils. Qu'a-t-il fait pour mériter d'être tué ?" Ils l'ont battu à mort. Oh mon Dieu, mon fils. Justice, oh, justice."

Le porte-parole de la police, Moses Carter, a confirmé l'incident et a déclaré que la police nationale libérienne (LNP) enquêtait sur la situation.

M. Carter n'a pas fourni de détails sur les agents impliqués, mais a réfuté l'affirmation selon laquelle il s'agissait de sept policiers du commissariat de Jacob Town.

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Déforestation : la Côte d'Ivoire

devront changer leur approche."

La demande de fèves de cacao est en plein essor dans le monde entier. Avant de pouvoir être transformées en chocolats à la feuille d'argent ou d'or pour le plaisir de milliards de consommateurs, elles doivent passer par un marché complexe composé de divers intervenants jouant le rôle d'intermédiaires entre les petits producteurs de cacao mal payés et les détaillants.

Ce monde a longtemps été impénétrable, avec une conséquence majeure : des milliers d'hectares de forêt ont été détruits pour faire place à des plantations de cacao.

Désormais, l'UE a pris une mesure décisive avec l'adoption en juin 2023 du Règlement de l'Union européenne sur la déforestation (REDUE) pour les produits liés à la déforestation et à la dégradation des forêts. À partir de décembre 2024, il sera illégal d'importer et de commercialiser des fèves de cacao qui, après 2020, auront été récoltées sur des parcelles défrichées pour créer des plantations.

Ce règlement représente une occasion unique de s'attaquer aux problèmes historiques de déforestation dans le secteur du cacao, que l'industrie et les systèmes de certification n'ont jamais pu résoudre sur une base volontaire.

La Côte d'Ivoire est le

premier producteur mondial de cacao (source : FAO), avec 75 % de sa production absorbée par l'Europe, son unique consommateur privilégié, don't 90 % des importations françaises et 70 % des importations allemandes.

Cependant, pendant des années, les plantations de cacao se sont développées au détriment des forêts, contribuant de manière significative à leur destruction.

À mesure que les terres deviennent moins productives, les agriculteurs défrichent une autre zone de forêt pour la replanter de cacaoyers. Les chiffres parlent d'eux-mêmes : avec 16 millions d'hectares au début du 20e siècle (source : REDD+), les forêts ivoiriennes n'étaient plus que de 7,85 millions d'hectares en 1986. En 2020, lorsque le gouvernement a pris des mesures radicales, il ne restait plus que 2,9 millions d'hectares. ## Enquête révèle : la déforestation se poursuit par la migration des producteurs ivoiriens au Liberia Une enquête récente révèle que la situation difficile en Côte d'Ivoire pousse les producteurs de cacao à migrer vers les terres fertiles du Liberia voisin, qui abrite plus de la moitié des forêts tropicales restantes de l'Afrique de l'Ouest.

L'enquête s'est concentrée sur trois villages libériens. Les habitants ont déclaré que cette migration a entraîné l'installation d'au moins "183 producteurs ces dernières années, don't 60 entre décembre 2023 et janvier 2024 seulement".

COMMENTARY

Par Jayati Ghosh

La clé de la transformation de la santé sur le continent africain

NOUVELLE DELHI - Malgré l'inéluctable flot de mauvaises nouvelles provenant du monde entier, il y a encore lieu d'être optimiste. Un exemple notable est l'effort renouvelé pour localiser la production pharmaceutique en Afrique, démontrant comment même des événements catastrophiques comme la pandémie peuvent mener à des résultats positifs inattendus.

Les répercussions de la COVID-19 montrent à quel point il est fondamental de financer les réseaux de santé publique et d'étendre l'accès aux technologies ainsi qu'aux traitements préventifs et essentiels. Les responsables politiques et les sociétés civiles du monde entier auraient dû en prendre conscience. Mais dès que le virus a été maîtrisé, les pays nantis sont revenus aux politiques et aux pratiques qui ont rendu les interventions initiales de la pandémie si inégales.

Aucune région du monde n'a autant souffert de ces inégalités mondiales extrêmes que l'Afrique. Les pays africains furent les derniers à recevoir les vaccins contre la COVID-19, ne recevant que les miettes des pays mieux nantis qui ont mis la main sur les stocks de vaccins et se voyant refuser l'accès aux technologies nécessaires à une production intérieure. Même si l'Afrique compte pour 18 % de la population mondiale, le continent n'a reçu que 3,3 % de tous les vaccins administrés à la fin de 2021 et à la fin de 2022, cette part ne dépassait pas 5,5 %.

Même avant la COVID-19, l'Afrique subissait déjà le désintérêt général pour de très graves épidémies comme Ebola, le Zika et le virus de la variole simienne ainsi que pour les maladies endémiques comme la maladie du sommeil. L'un des plus grands obstacles pour venir à bout de ces crises sanitaires est la dépendance du continent sur les importations de médicaments. Malgré le fait que l'Afrique supporte le quart du fardeau mondial des maladies, seulement 2 % de la recherche médicale est menée en Afrique et plus de 90 % des vaccins du continent et 70 % de ses médicaments sont importés. Qui plus est, des quelque 375 sociétés pharmaceutiques exerçant leurs activités en Afrique, seulement 15 % sont la propriété d'Africains et la plupart d'entre elles se consacrent à des formulations plutôt qu'à des ingrédients pharmaceutiques actifs (IPA) essentiels pour la production de médicaments.

Heureusement, l'expérience éprouvante de la COVID-19 semble avoir joué le rôle de catalyseur dans une réorientation indispensable des politiques. Durant la pandémie, les Centres africains pour la surveillance et la prévention des maladies ont jeté les bases d'une coopération intergouvernementale en étayant les interventions collectives régionales dans des conditions extrêmement difficiles. Plus récemment, plusieurs États africains et organisations internationales ont lancé des initiatives pour stimuler une production locale de produits pharmaceutiques et promouvoir l'innovation dans tout le continent.

La Fondation africaine pour la technologie pharmaceutique, financée par la Banque africaine de développement, en est un excellent exemple. Cette initiative vise à renforcer les capacités technologiques du continent par l'élargissement de l'accès aux connaissances, l'acquisition de compétences et le développement de filières de produits. La Fondation s'est engagée à investir jusqu'à 3 milliards de dollars pour la prochaine décennie pour mettre au point des produits pharmaceutiques en Afrique, réduisant ainsi la dépendance du continent sur les importations.

Un autre exemple est le programme de transfert de la technologie ARNm du Medicine Patent Pool, financé par l'Organisation mondiale de la santé et les Nations Unies. Le but de cette initiative, qui rayonne depuis l'Afrique du Sud par l'entremise de la société de biotechnologie Afrigen, sise au Cap, consiste à développer les capacités technologiques et le savoir-faire technique nécessaires pour permettre à 15 pays à revenu faible et moyen de produire des vaccins à base d'acide ribonucléique messenger. Visant initialement la production de vaccins contre la COVID-19, le

programme s'est depuis élargi aux autres maladies qui prévalent en Afrique, ainsi qu'à des traitements abordables contre le cancer.

Ces initiatives doivent s'attaquer à des problèmes importants, particulièrement le fait d'être tributaire de transferts de technologie volontaires, qui se sont avérés d'une portée très restreinte. Pour accéder aux connaissances essentielles et forcer des multinationales à transférer leurs technologies, les pays africains doivent recourir davantage aux concessions de licence obligatoire en vertu de leurs propres lois des brevets et de l'Accord sur les aspects des droits de propriété intellectuelle liés au commerce (APDIC).

Notamment, le pôle de recherche sur l'ARNm en Afrique du Sud a déjà fait l'objet de poursuites juridiques de Moderna, une pharmaceutique qui reçoit elle-même des subventions du gouvernement américain et qui bénéficie de transferts de données. Ceci met en relief l'importance de veiller à ce que les négociations en cours pour un traité mondial sur la pandémie comprennent des mesures spécifiques de concessions de licences obligatoires.

Cela étant, à lui seul, l'accès aux connaissances ne suffit pas. Puisque ces processus de production exigent une expertise spécialisée, des programmes complets d'enseignement et d'acquisition de compétences plus poussées sont essentiels pour établir des bases durables pour l'innovation et la production en Afrique. Ceci nécessite une initiative couvrant un plus vaste territoire, et il semble que beaucoup d'États africains l'envisagent.

La concurrence des grandes entreprises pharmaceutiques est un autre obstacle majeur. Novartis, qui a entamé dans le passé des poursuites en matière de brevet dans des pays comme l'Inde, a déjà annoncé son intention de multiplier par cinq le nombre de patients traités en Afrique subsaharienne d'ici 2025. Pour que les efforts de localisation donnent les résultats escomptés, il est essentiel de mettre l'accent sur la propriété locale et de veiller à ce que les bénéfices ne soient pas monopolisés par les grandes sociétés pharmaceutiques. De toute manière, les multinationales peuvent s'avérer des partenaires imprévisibles, comme le montre la décision récente de Moderna de suspendre son investissement planifié dans la production de vaccins au Kenya, où la demande réduite aurait diminué la probabilité d'un rendement commercial.

Sa vaste diversité génétique fait de l'Afrique un véritable trésor de données génomiques, le risque de vol de connaissances et de données est donc une importante préoccupation. Même si l'Initiative de génomique des pathogènes des Centres africains pour la surveillance et la prévention des maladies a été saluée comme une réalisation majeure lors de son inauguration en 2019, des préoccupations actuelles légitimes gravitent autour du fait que le traité sur la pandémie pourrait rendre ces données accessibles mondialement, dont les grandes entreprises pharmaceutiques des pays nantis pourraient tirer avantage sans dédommager équitablement l'Afrique. Il est révélateur que les puissances étrangères soient déjà en train de se battre pour le contrôle de l'accès à cette banque de données d'une valeur inestimable. Certes, les efforts des pays africains pour prendre en main leur destinée en matière de santé rencontrent d'immenses difficultés. Mais leur détermination à localiser la production de médicaments et de vaccins est un début prometteur. Traduit de l'anglais par Pierre Castegnier

Jayati Ghosh, professeure d'économie à l'Université du Massachusetts à Amherst, est membre de la Commission de l'économie transformationnelle du Club de Rome et coprésidente de la Commission indépendante pour la réforme de la fiscalité internationale des entreprises.



USAID LIBERIA

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

GENERAL INFORMATION

- SOLICITATION NO:** VA-669-24-00002
- ISSUANCE DATE:** April 22, 2024
- CLOSING DATE AND TIME FOR RECEIPT OF OFFERS:** May 21, 2024 at 11:59 pm
- POINT OF CONTACT:** Executive Officer, email at LiberiaHR@usaid.gov
- POSITION TITLE:** Energy-Infrastructure Specialist
- MARKET VALUE:** \$45,350.00 - \$ 72,566.00, FSN- 11
In accordance with AIDAR Appendix J and the Local Compensation Plan of USAID Final compensation will be negotiated within the listed market value. Note that all U.S. Embassy Locally Employed Staff are expected to observe and fulfill all tax obligations imposed by the Government of Liberia and you will be required to provide a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) before employment for the purpose of automatic tax withholding.
- 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 pending security and medical clearances.
- PLACE OF PERFORMANCE:** Monrovia, Liberia.
- 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.
- 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 Energy-Infrastructure Specialist will report to the Infrastructure Team Lead of the Economic Growth Office (EGO) at USAID/Liberia on administrative and management issues; and as a senior-level advisor and technical expert, he/she will exercise significant independent judgment on matters of policy and technical direction and will make decisions to ensure successful program implementation. Moreover, he/she may be required to provide policy analysis and options on energy, infrastructure, service delivery, and utility management issues as requested by senior Mission management and other US Government officials through Mission management.

The Energy-Infrastructure Specialist will also represent USAID, as requested and appropriate, at meetings with senior Liberian officials and technical counterparts donors, non-governmental organizations, and implementing partners.

Infrastructure and utility service delivery in general, and energy supply in particular, is a binding constraint to social and economic development in Liberia, as such, service delivery is critical to achieving the Mission's development objectives. The Energy-Infrastructure Specialist must be a proactive, forward-leaning, results-oriented professional that will actively work across Mission technical teams to provide leadership and technical input on energy and infrastructure needs to achieve the Mission development objectives and strategic vision. The position will provide technical expertise and support policy dialogue and coordination for the USAID/Liberia technical offices and Mission leadership. This includes providing requested technical advice in energy and infrastructure sector development issues and policies in Liberia to the Mission Director, Deputy Mission Director, and other Office Directors, as requested. The position will support the Team in maintaining a comprehensive knowledge of current energy and infrastructure sector issues as well as maintaining professional working relationships with Government of Liberia (GOL) officials, the United States Government (USG) interagency, other donors, key implementing partners, and local leaders.

The Energy-Infrastructure Specialist will be asked to assimilate, analyze, and respond to rapidly changing circumstances and help guide the implementation of Agency and Mission strategies, and will serve as the lead on the Mission's Power Africa activities to achieve optimal results. He/she will be expected to bring state-of-the-art technical practices to Liberia's country-specific development context.

B. Major Duties and Responsibilities

Project Management: 50% of Time

The Energy-Infrastructure Specialist position serves as a project management specialist on key energy and infrastructure activities, and will:

- Undertake duties of Contracting or Agreement Officer's Representative (COR/AOR) or Activity Manager as needed. Provide input/advice regarding all matters pertaining to proposed, planned, and ongoing activities. Undertake infrastructure and engineering oversight activities as assigned by the Supervisor and/or the Contracting Officer. Provide technical direction to the Implementing Partner (IP) and technical review and concurrence of IP deliverables to the Contracting or Agreement Officer (CO/AO) and keep administrative files and records of these activities.
- Conduct regular site visits for quality assurance/quality control to monitor the progress and implementation of energy and infrastructure activities. Provide field trip reports, both written and photographic, as required to monitor progress and to ensure work is progressing in accordance with established contract requirements, specifications, and engineering practices. Monitor the Implementing Partners' adherence to USAID regulations and requirements, including environmental and safety considerations, as well as branding and marking requirements.
- Prepare performance reports, briefing papers, concept papers, and other periodic documentation for the Mission, USAID/Washington, the interagency as required, and coordinate site visits for high-level visits.
- Liaise with GoL institutions and organizations, including the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC), the Ministry of Mines and Energy, the Ministry of Public Works, the Liberia Water and Sewage Corporation (LWSC), and other stakeholders implicated in the implementation of USAID energy and infrastructure programs, updating stakeholders on the implementation and progress of USAID/Liberia and Power Africa activities, and soliciting stakeholder feedback and buy-in as appropriate.
- Review and approve activity reports, vouchers, and payment requests related to assigned activities, noting discrepancies in documentation, and reporting such discrepancies to the Economic Growth Office supervisor and/or Mission authorities.
- Attend required meetings, scheduled events, and conferences related to assigned program and project activities. This may involve interacting with national, county, and district community officials regarding project implementation or completion and modification issues, including inspection, security, maintenance, operations, and logistical support requirements. Frequent interactions with high-level government officials may be required.
- Ensure compliance with USAID 611e requirements by assessing the host country recipient organizations' technical and financial capacity to manage and operate infrastructure constructed by USAID, and work closely with the Mission Environmental Officer to ensure that Mission supported construction projects are in compliance with Regulation 216 requirements.
- Prepare technical documentation including Request for Applications (RFAs), Request for Proposals (RFPs), Statements of Work, Independent Government Cost Estimates (IGCEs), approval memos and other project design and procurement documents as required to develop and approve energy and infrastructure projects and activities, obligate funds, and award grants and contracts in accordance with USAID procurement regulations.
- Serve as the chair or member of various Technical Evaluation Committees (TECs) or Selection Committees to evaluate partner applications and proposals, or evaluate potential candidates for employment.

Program Management: 25% of Time

The Energy-Infrastructure Specialist position serves as an expert on energy and infrastructure development for the Mission and will incorporate service delivery considerations into Mission strategy documents and plans, performing the following functions:

- Lead in developing a comprehensive strategy for USAID interventions in energy and infrastructure.
- Incorporate infrastructure priorities into the Embassy's Integrated Country Strategy (ICS), the USAID Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS), and other UGS strategy documents and agendas to ensure that the Mission is able to accomplish programmatic objectives.
- Work with USAID/Liberia Technical Teams to determine energy and infrastructure needs, incorporating key activities and components into project designs that address critical infrastructure gaps to achieve sector goals; and advise technical offices on USAID Policy and Guidance on the implementation of Energy and Infrastructure activities.
- Design programs and activities which support and improve the management of the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC), the Liberia Water and Sewage Corporation (LWSC), and other service delivery institutions, including the development of public-private partnerships (PPPs) to improve the provision of energy and infrastructure services in Liberia.
- Assist in the preparation of the relevant sections of the Economic Growth Office (EGO) specific Portfolio Reviews, Mission Performance Plan and Reports, and the Operational Plans, as well as, other relevant program documents and reports as needed.

Knowledge Management and Relationship Development: 25% of Time

The Energy-Infrastructure Specialist will also serve as the primary point of contact (POC) for the Mission on energy and infrastructure-related topics, building relationships with GOL, donor community, and private sector counterparts. As the Mission POC on energy and infrastructure sector issues, the Energy-Infrastructure Specialist will perform the following functions:

- Serve as the Mission's representative on the Energy Sector Steering Committee meetings and other donor or national dialogues on the energy or infrastructure sectors, and present USAID activities, priorities, and accomplishments.
- Advise GOL counterparts in the development of Liberian regulatory institutions, as needed, and helps them to effectively carry out their mandate; also provides advice to the GOL on energy sector reform, including appropriate models for private sector participation to improve utility management and operations, and development of an enabling legal and regulatory framework.
- Facilitate dialogues between GOL authorities, USG stakeholders, donors, and partners to reach consensus on energy and infrastructure-related activities and transactions; prepare and present reports pertinent to performance monitoring and evaluation, identifying, tracking, and monitoring milestones to evaluate progress.

- Manage outreach efforts with USAID's Development Outreach Coordinator and the State Department's Public Affairs Officer that may include public events, press releases, and close coordination with other USG partners.
- Liaise with other donors and institutions on energy and infrastructure sector policy reform, brief USAID and Embassy management on issues and discussions, and prepare necessary documents, including USAID's position, and talking points for meetings.
- Develop and maintain close professional contacts and active dialogue with energy and infrastructure sector peers in other country donor agencies, and various GOL offices which engage in the policy reform issues.
- Review policies of the GOL that affect the energy and infrastructure sector development including planned or proposed energy infrastructure, energy sector policy reforms, energy tariffs and revenues, and the management of the Liberia Electricity Corporation; provide information on implications of these policies and agreements for Liberia and on the effective implementation of USAID energy and infrastructure sector programs.

- Supervision controls: None

12. PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The work requested does not involve undue physical demands.

II. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR THIS POSITION

- Education:** A Bachelor's degree from an accredited university in the field of engineering, utility management, business or public administration, energy and/or environmental management, international development, or other related degree.
- Prior Work Experience:** A minimum of five years of prior work experience in project management positions analyzing and coordinating programs in the field of energy or infrastructure development, or related areas, such as public-private partnerships, utility management or operations, or energy sector policy.
- Work/Residency Permits:** Valid work and/or residency permits allowing work in Liberia (if applicable)
- Language Proficiency:** Level IV (Fluent) English, both oral and written.

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 offerors. 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:

- Education:** (10 points) Points will be given to candidates with advanced formal education in the required areas, for specialized education in the target areas, and/or for specialized training pertinent to position requirement.
- Prior Work Experience:** (20 points) Points will be assigned for prior experience greater than five years, and/or for experience in the energy sector or infrastructure development, public-private partnerships, utility management or operations.
- Language Proficiency** (pass/fail): Fluent English ability (Level IV Reading, writing, speaking) **will be evaluated through a written test in addition to the in-person or virtual interview.**
- Job Knowledge:** (35 points) Demonstrated knowledge, or the ability to quickly gain such knowledge, of utility and infrastructure management, and service delivery. Demonstrated understanding of the Liberian energy sector, including matters related to rural electrification, renewable resources, donor investment, public-private partnership, and government policy.
- Skills and Abilities:** (35 Points) Demonstrated analytical reasoning skills, proficiency in working with Microsoft suite and other computer applications. Demonstrated ability to communicate technical information in concise written and oral form, and to work effectively with governmental and non-governmental stakeholders and private sector counterparts.
- Supplemental Documents:** Please provide a supplement to the application addressing the following areas:
 - USAID representatives must be adept at building productive working relationships and working effectively in teams to accomplish goals. This includes communicating and collaborating with USAID staff, senior government officials, and other stakeholders to address challenges. Please describe an instance where you cultivated a constructive partnership with diverse stakeholders with differing opinions to accomplish a specific objective.
 - The Energy Infrastructure Specialist will design, implement, and oversee USAID programs. Please provide your prior experiences and responsibilities in program design and development. Please detail your involvement in situational or problem analysis and how you determined the best course of action or approach.
- Reference check** - pass/fail

IV. SUBMITTING AN OFFER

- Eligible Offerors are required to complete and submit the offer form [AID 309-2](#), detailed current resume or curriculum vitae not to exceed 3 pages providing email address and a daytime telephone number;
- Offerors must submit supplemental documents.
- Offerors must submit three references who are not friends or family members, along with their contact information.
- 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 or late applications will not be considered.

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 CCNPSC is normally authorized the following benefits and allowances:

- BENEFITS:**
 - Foreign Service National Defined Contributions Plan (FSN DCP) – Eligible for this Department of State pension program.
 - Annual Leave – a total of 15 work days (120 hours) for the first three years of employment
 - Sick Leave – Sick Leave is granted as needed.
 - Health Insurance. Is provided under a U.S. Embassy-managed health plan.
- ALLOWANCES** (as applicable):
 - Transportation Allowance
 - Miscellaneous Allowance

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

USAID regulations and policies governing CCNPSC 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:

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/OGES%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

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.

Govt' defends retirement of 200 EPS agents

The Unity Party-led government alleges that its predecessor hastily recruited the agents into the EPS without proper recruitment procedures.

By Kruah Thompson

Monrovia, April 24, 2024: Liberia's Information Minister Jerolinmek Matthew Piah has defended as 'necessary,' the retirement of some agents of the elite presidential guard Executive

Director Mr. Sam Gaye dismissed 200 EPS Agents.

Since their dismissal, the affected agents have made efforts to involve legislators, leading to clashes between the police and the former EPS agents over the weekend.

On 22 April 2024, the affected agents petitioned

"So when the Boakai administration came into office and considering the significant growth of the EPS with over 800 employees, we had to assess whether all enrolments and enlistments were consistent with these requirements," he explained.

"This led to a thorough review to ensure all enrolments and enlistments adhered to the specified criteria," he continued. It was discovered that several officers did not meet the established requirements, with some even presenting falsified certificates.

Many of the retired agents' certificates were found to be fake, according to the Information Minister.

As a government spokesperson, he emphasized his responsibility to stay informed about matters concerning the government.

Though he acknowledged hearing some EPS officers claiming their dismissal was illegal, Piah stressed that only a court of law can determine the validity of their concerns.

He encouraged affected officers to pursue lawful avenues to address their grievances rather than resorting to threats or resistance.

He clarified that EPS officers are only armed during operational assignments and emphasized the temporary nature of their possession of firearms. He warned that any threats made while in possession of these weapons are taken seriously, as demonstrated by the subsequent arrests and detention of those involved.

He urged affected officers to seek recourse through legal channels and cautioned against further threats or intimidation tactics. He emphasized the importance of upholding professionalism and adherence to the law within the EPS, stating, "How can someone who speaks of such actions be fit to serve in proximity to the President?"

Liberia's human rights records remain terrible

The report claims that there were harsh and life-threatening prison conditions, serious problems with the independence of the judiciary, and serious restrictions on freedom of expression, among others.

Monrovia, April 24, 2024: The United States Department of State has released the Liberia 2023 Human Rights Report, which found no significant changes in the human rights situation in the country during the year.

The report says significant human rights issues included credible reports of arbitrary or unlawful killings, including extrajudicial killings; and torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment by the government or on behalf of the government.

The damaging 2023 report reflects the U.S. records of the immediate past Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC)-led government which handed over power on 22 January 2024 to the ruling Unity Party (UP).

It detailed harsh and life-threatening prison conditions and serious problems with the independence of the judiciary.

The report also unveiled serious restrictions on freedom

On January 20, the U.S. Department of State said an officer of the Armed Forces of Liberia, Abu Konneh, allegedly arrested, tortured, and killed Abraham Hanson Wleh after he allegedly burglarized a private residence.

Konneh, along with several unidentified accomplices, remained at large at year's end, the report indicated.

It noted that there were no reports of disappearances by or on behalf of government authorities. It acknowledged that Liberia's Constitution and law prohibited torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, but there were credible reports of government officials employed

"The law provided criminal penalties for excessive use of force by law enforcement officers and addressed permissible uses of force during arrest or while preventing the escape of a prisoner from custody."

According to the report, there were reports government authorities physically abused peaceful civilians, including persons in custody or



Min. Jerolinmek Matthew Piah

Protection Service (EPS).

Piah alleged that the former Weah-led regime hastily brought agents into the EPS without proper recruitment procedures that fall in line with the code and ethics of the EPS.

Minister Piah told a press conference on Wednesday, 23 April 2024 that EPS Director Sam Gaye made the right decision in dismissing over 200 EPS Agents. Reports suggest that the agents were removed from their positions due to allegations of their perceived loyalty to former President George Manneh Weah.

With the recent controversy surrounding their retirement, Minister Piah suggested that it was necessary to reduce the overcrowding of the EPS with agents who were hastily brought into the entity by the Weah regime without proper recruitment procedures.

Under President Joseph Nyumah Boakai's administration, the new EPS

lawmakers to intervene by summoning Director Gaye to explain to the 55th Legislature why they were unlawfully dismissed.

While the house has yet to respond to agents' call, Minister Piah, in a press conference held on Tuesday, stated that the Boakai government sought to investigate the overcrowding of the EPS from 2017 to the present. Through the investigation, Piah said it was noted that over 200 agents violated the agency's employment law.

According to him, the law states that to join the EPS, you must be a Liberian citizen, aged between 18 to 35, and have a high school diploma or higher education.

Additionally, he explained that those who do not meet these requirements must possess technical and specialized skills. But Piah revealed that the retired EPS Agents lacked these requirements.



of expression and media freedom, including violence or threats of violence against journalists and censorship.

It further detailed serious government corruption, and extensive gender-based violence, including domestic or intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and female genital mutilation/cutting.

Additionally, the U.S. Department of State observed that there are laws criminalizing "consensual same-sex conduct between adults," which were enforced.

It said the government did not take credible steps to identify and punish officials who may have committed human rights abuses.

"There were several reports the government or its agents committed arbitrary or unlawful killings, including extrajudicial killings, during the year," it stated.

seeking protection.

"There were also reports of rape and sexual abuse by government agents. In February, the Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency suspended Maryland County Commander Sergeant Targeddine following allegations of a sexual assault brought against him," the report noted.

According to a police report, Targeddine allegedly sexually assaulted a girl, age 16, in Harper, Maryland County, but the suspect remained free pending trial at year's end.

It said impunity was a significant problem in the security forces, including the Liberia National Police's (LNP) Emergency Response Unit the Police Support Unit, and the Executive Protection Service in the form of soliciting bribes, disregard for rules and regulations, abuse of authority, making physical and verbal threats against unarmed civilians, and other forms of intimidation.

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VP Koung, others boycott poll

-Amid low turnout in senatorial by-election

Liberia's Vice President Jeremiah Koung and followers were visibly absent during Tuesday's senatorial by-election held in his native Nimba County.

By Thomas Domah, Nimba County

Nimba, Liberia, April 24, 2024 - Amid low turnout in Tuesday's senatorial by-election in Nimba County, Vice President

Tarpeh and others were in Nimba County on Saturday, to close the campaign of Candidate Nya D. Twayen, Jr. But the conspicuous absence of Vice President Koung from the county on

Party (PUP) Candidate, Representative Samuel G. Kogar on the basic of tribe. Kingmaker PYJ, from the Gio tribe, had rallied members of the Gio ethnic group, who are the largest tribe in Nimba, to instead, vote for Representative Kogar, a fellow kinsman against the ruling UP's Nya D. Twayen, Jr.

The Nimba senatorial by-election was held on April 23, 2024, across the county with four candidates participating, including former Senator Thomas G. Grupee.

VP Koung, who usually casts his ballot at the Young Men Christian Association (YMCA) in Ganta City, was visibly absent. However, his wife Madam Koung and an aide voted at the same Polling Center#2 in Ganta.

There have been no reasons provided for the President's absence, who is apparently caught between the scissors, struggling whether to please President Boakai or his political leader, Senator PYJ.

Besides, the VP, about 20 UP partisans from Nimba did not cast their ballots in Tuesday's by-election.



Jeremiah Kpan Koung, who has been campaigning for the ruling Unity Party Candidate Nya D. Twayen, Jr., didn't show up to vote, including about 20 UP partisans from the county. However, ruling UP national chairman, Rev. Luther

polling day is raising eyebrows among Nimbiains especially, those from the Rescue Team of President Boakai so much so when the Vice President's own MDR party, led by Senator Prince Yormie Johnson supported People Unification

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