

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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2022	L\$153.2510/US\$1.00	L\$154.9114/US\$1.00

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

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P11

The Ellen factor in 2023

Madam Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf Pres. Weah Mr. Cummings Mr. Boakai

NEC raises concerns

P11

-As voters' registration may delay

MTN MoMo

MoMo WAYSAY-WASA! BIGGER & BETTER!!

Dial *156#

Lonestar Cell | **MTN**



Continental News

Boko Haram crisis: The women walking miles to save their children's lives

He has difficulty breathing and looks extremely emaciated. A fly perches on his gaunt cheek.

From his size, you would think he is about two years old. But his mother says he is

food and medical care.

Dwindling funds are to blame for people's hunger, say aid workers, as Nigeria's government relies on support from aid agencies and the UN who in turn are more focused on crises in Ukraine and elsewhere.

Camps for internally

And when it comes to government funding in the wider north-east, the malnutrition crisis comes second to fighting the region's insurgents.

Aid workers predict that an estimated 1.74 million children under the age of five could suffer from acute malnutrition in north-east Nigeria in 2022 - a 20% increase from the previous year - and 5,000 could die in the next two months.

Ms Usman says her son caught measles, followed by diarrhoea.

"I got some medicines to give to him, but his condition didn't improve. For 37 days he has been having diarrhoea."

As his health deteriorated, she rushed him to the hospital in Damaturu, the main city in Yobe state in north-eastern Nigeria.

"I brought him here two days ago," she says.

Five of her children had already died before this crisis - he is one of four who are still alive.

The 34-year-old mother is worn out and traumatised.

She fled attacks by militant Islamist group Boko Haram in the small town of Maino in Yobe, and moved into

a camp for internally displaced people (IDP) five years ago.

"We couldn't even take our belongings, not even food," Ms Usman says.

The spike in malnutrition has been worsened by outbreaks of disease including cholera, and disruption to farming because of attacks by militants.

Ms Usman's husband works as a Muslim cleric, but he does not live with the family.

She tries to earn a living by sometimes helping neighbours sew their torn clothes in exchange for food. But the neighbours are also victims of the insurgency and have fled their homes, depending mainly on

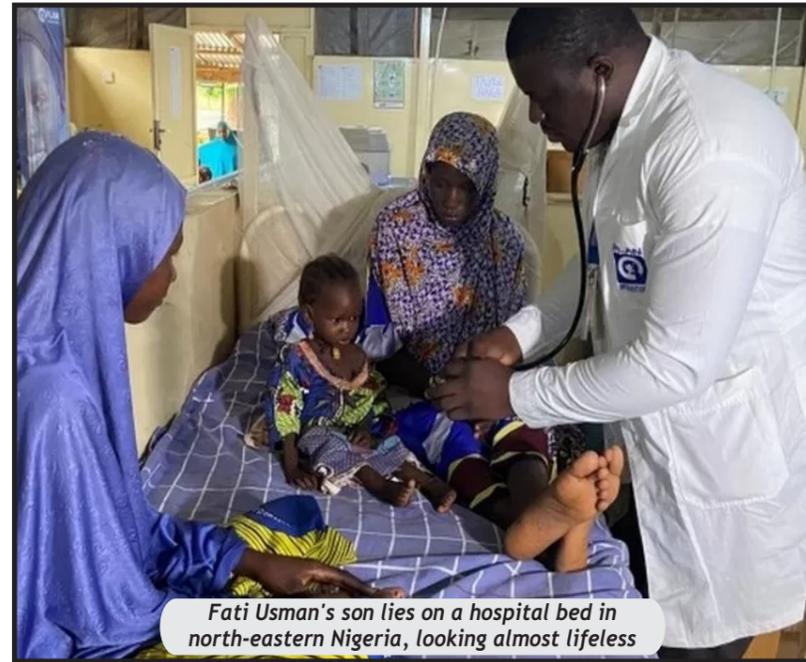
handouts from aid agencies and the government.

With plenty of mouths to feed, there are not enough food supplies to sustain the children and many become sick.

"This is the epicentre, so most of the cases that come here are severe ones," Dr Japhet Udokwu, the coordinator of the centre, tells the BBC.

Like many doctors and humanitarians, he fears a disaster. Dr Udokwu is working around the clock, admitting at least 40 severely malnourished children every week for treatment.

According to him, some families travelled more than 100km (62 miles) from remote communities where there was no access to medical care. BBC



Fati Usman's son lies on a hospital bed in north-eastern Nigeria, looking almost lifeless

actually five.

He is just one of several million people caught up in a massive humanitarian crisis that an Islamist-led insurgency has caused in north-east Nigeria, leaving families in desperate need of

displaced people (IDPs) are a last resort for millions of vulnerable Nigerians, yet Borno state, one of the worst affected, decided to close all such camps last year - labelling them slums and paying \$200 (£175) to each family forced to leave.

Ethiopia Rejects UN Report Warning of Crimes Against Humanity in Tigray

Ethiopia on Tuesday rejected a report by U.N. investigators that accused Addis Ababa of possible ongoing crimes against humanity in its war-torn Tigray region, including using starvation as a weapon.

The Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia said it had found evidence of widespread violations by all sides since fighting erupted in Tigray nearly two years ago.

This included the government of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, a Nobel laureate, and its allies who were "intentionally causing great suffering" by denying aid to Tigray, a region of 6 million.

Kaari Betty Murungi, one of the commission's three independent rights experts, and its chair, said the denial of food, medicine and basic services was "having a devastating impact on the civilian population."

"We have reasonable grounds to believe it amounts to a crime against humanity," she said on Monday following

the release of the report, the commission's first.

"We also have reasonable grounds to believe that the federal government is using starvation as a method of warfare," she added.

Ethiopia's permanent representative to the U.N. in Geneva, Zenebe Kebede, said the commission was "politically motivated" and its conclusions were "self-contradictory and biased."

"There is not any single evidence that shows the government of Ethiopia used

humanitarian aid as an instrument of war," the envoy told AFP, describing the report as "a mockery" and "rubbish."

"Therefore, we have no other option but to reject this report."

He said investigators had ignored atrocities by the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), which ruled Ethiopia for decades before Abiy came to power in 2018, and which Addis Ababa considers a terrorist group. VOA



Members of the Ethiopian military march in downtown Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Nigeria court remands Chinese man over girlfriend's killing



The case has sparked outrage in Nigeria

A Magistrates' Court in the northern Nigerian city of Kano has remanded in custody a Chinese businessman who is accused of killing his Nigerian girlfriend.

The suspect, Geng Quanrong, allegedly forced himself into the young woman's family house, attacked her and slit her throat with a knife last weekend.

The killing sparked public outrage across Nigeria - with social media users and the victim's family calling for justice.

Mr Geng, 47, was arraigned on Wednesday and government prosecutors accused him of murder.

But they asked the court to grant them time to

prepare proper charges. The suspect has not yet entered a plea.

A spokesperson for the judiciary in Kano state told the BBC the case had been adjourned to 13 October.

The victim, Ummukulthum Sani Buhari, 22, was taken to a local hospital after the stabbing. Doctors confirmed she was dead on arrival.

The suspect was arrested as he attempted to flee the scene - after residents raised the alarm. Since then he has been in police custody.

It is unclear what exactly triggered the incident on Friday night, but residents and family sources say the estranged lovers had started having problems when the deceased indicated she was no longer interested in marrying the Chinese man. BBC

EDITORIAL

Beneath the recall of Ambassador George W. Pattern

PRESIDENT GEORGE MANNEH Weah last week Thursday, 15 September took a decision that shock the entire country, particularly Liberia's diplomatic missions abroad with the recall of Ambassador George W. Pattern from Washington, D.C., the United States - Liberia's traditional partner.

PRESIDENT WEAH TOOK the decision just as he was headed to the United Nations General Assembly to address the 77th Session of that body. But critics say the President's action left a serious stress on staff at the country's diplomatic mission in Washington, though he immediately nominated another ambassador to the Mission.

IT IS THE TIMING of the action that has attracted public concern, which coincides with the 77th Session of the UN General Assembly in New York and his presence there along with a high-level delegation when staff at the Liberian Mission are expected to be on their heels, busy moving back and forth to ensure the President's visit to the United States is well executed as planned without problem that has been greeted with the abrupt recall of Ambassador Pattern, who was posted to Washington, DC, since Mr. Weah's ascendancy to the Presidency in 2018.

PRESIDENT WEAH HAS nominated Mr. Jeff Gongoer Dowana as Liberia's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the United States of America with concurrent Non-Resident Accreditation to Canada and Mexico, the Executive Mansion in Monrovia says.

AMBASSADOR DOWANA is said to be a career diplomat who previously served at several postings, in London, New York, Washington, DC, Paris, and his current assignment as Ambassador Plenipotentiary and Extraordinary to Kuwait.

HOWEVER, THE PRESIDENT'S action taken in Washington, D.C. comes at a time diplomatic engagements between the Government of Liberia and the Government of America are stormy with the recent designation of three officials of the Weah administration by the U.S Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) under the Global Magnitsky Act for significant ongoing public corruption.

IT SEEMS THAT Ambassador Pattern did very little, if anything at all, as it is expected of an ambassador posted in such strategic country as the United States in forewarning President Weah about the sanctions that came like a tsunami on the government, taking the President totally off balance and striking three of his key officials.

BESIDES, SPECULATIONS ABOUND in Monrovia that more officials of the government are to be designated amid ongoing effort and lobby by the administration to improve relations with the United States and get the ears of President Joe Biden that President Weah desperately desires.

THE ENTIRE COUNTRY IS unease with words of war between the government and the opposition over governance lapses and massive corruption, especially as Liberians gear up for elections next year in which President Weah is seeking a second term.

THEN PRESIDENT WEAH'S Minister of Foreign Affairs Dee Maxwell Kemayah, currently traveling with the President to the United States, carries a restricted visa that reportedly bars him from entering New York, for alleged sexual harassment. He has since denied the allegation. But Minister Kemayah had been previously posted to New York as Liberia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations where the alleged act was committed against a female staff at the Liberian Mission.

IT IS NOT clear whether President Weah would remove Foreign Minister Kemayah, who has clearly become an excess baggage for his government with Ambassador George Pattern, but analysts say it presents a unique opportunity and possibility to, once and for all, clean the face of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that engages with governments across the world on behalf of the Government of Liberia.

COMMENTARY

By Daron Acemoglu

The End of Real Social Networks

CAMBRIDGE - Not only are billions of people around the world glued to their mobile phones, but the information they consume has changed dramatically - and not for the better. On dominant social-media platforms like Facebook, researchers have documented that falsehoods spread faster and more widely than similar content that includes accurate information. Though users are not demanding misinformation, the algorithms that determine what people see tend to favor sensational, inaccurate, and misleading content, because that is what generates "engagement" and thus advertising revenue.

As the internet activist Eli Pariser noted in 2011, Facebook also creates filter bubbles, whereby individuals are more likely to be presented with content that reinforces their own ideological leanings and confirms their own biases. And more recent research has demonstrated that this process has a major influence on the type of information users see.

Even leaving aside Facebook's algorithmic choices, the broader social-media ecosystem allows people to find subcommunities that align with their interests. This is not necessarily a bad thing. If you are the only person in your community with an interest in ornithology, you no longer have to be alone, because you can now connect with ornithology enthusiasts from around the world. But, of course, the same applies to the lone extremist who can now use the same platforms to access or propagate hate speech and conspiracy theories.

No one disputes that social-media platforms have been a major conduit for hate speech, disinformation, and propaganda. Reddit and YouTube are breeding grounds for right-wing extremism. The Oath Keepers used Facebook, especially, to organize their role in the January 6, 2021, attack on the United States Capitol. Former US President Donald Trump's anti-Muslim tweets were found to have fueled violence against minorities in the US.

True, some find such observations alarmist, noting that large players like Facebook and YouTube (which is owned by Google/Alphabet) do much more to police hate speech and misinformation than their smaller rivals do, especially now that better moderation practices have been developed. Moreover, other researchers have challenged the finding that falsehoods spread faster on Facebook and Twitter, at least when compared to other media.

Still others argue that even if the current social-media environment is treacherous, the problem is transitory. After all, novel communication tools have always been misused. Martin Luther used the printing press to promote not just Protestantism but also virulent anti-Semitism. Radio proved to be a powerful tool in the hands of demagogues like Father Charles Coughlin in the US and the Nazis in Germany. Both print and broadcast outlets remain full of misinformation to this day, but society has adjusted to these media and managed to contain their negative effects.

This argument implies that a combination of stronger regulation and other new technologies can overcome the challenges posed by social media. For example, platforms could provide better information about the provenance of articles; or the same platforms could be discouraged from algorithmically boosting items that might be incendiary or contain misinformation.

But such measures fail to address the depth of the problem. Social media is not only creating echo chambers, propagating falsehoods, and facilitating the circulation of extremist ideas. It also may be shaking the very foundations of human communication and social cohesion, by substituting artificial social networks for real ones.

We are distinguished from other animals mostly by our advanced ability to learn from our community, and to accumulate expertise by observing others. Our most profound ideas and cherished notions come not in isolation or from reading books, but by being embedded in a social milieu and interacting through argumentation, education, performance, and so forth. Trusted sources play an indispensable role in this process, which is why leaders and those with bully pulpits can have such outsize effects. Earlier media innovations capitalized on this, yet none of them modified the very nature of human networks the way that social media have.

What happens when platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, or Reddit start manipulating what we perceive as our social network? The worrying truth is that nobody knows. And though we could eventually adapt to this change and find ways to neutralize its most pernicious effects, that isn't an outcome that we should count on, given the direction the industry has been heading.

Social media's most corrosive effects are starting to look exactly like what the cultural critic Neil Postman anticipated almost four decades ago in his landmark book *Amusing Ourselves to Death*. "Americans no longer talk to each other, they entertain each other," he observed. "They do not exchange ideas, they exchange images. They do not argue with propositions; they argue with good looks, celebrities, and commercials."

Comparing George Orwell's 1984 to Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*, Postman then added that, "What Orwell feared were those who would ban books. What Huxley feared was that there would be no reason to ban a book, for there would be no one who wanted to read one. Orwell feared those who would deprive us of information. Huxley feared those who would give us so much that we would be reduced to passivity and egoism. Orwell feared that the truth would be concealed from us. Huxley feared that the truth would be drowned in a sea of irrelevance."

Whereas Postman was worried more about a Huxleyan future than an Orwellian one, social media have been ushering in both at the same time. While governments acquire the means both to manipulate our perceptions of reality and to reduce us to passivity and egoism, our virtual "friends" are increasingly policing our thoughts. One now must continuously signal one's virtue and call out people who deviate from prevailing orthodoxy. But "virtue" is whatever one's artificial online social circle says it is; and in many cases, it is based entirely on lies.

Hannah Arendt, another prescient twentieth-century thinker, warned about where this can lead. "If everybody always lies to you, the consequence is not that you believe the lies, but rather that nobody believes anything any longer." At that point, social and political life become impossible.

Daron Acemoglu, Professor of Economics at MIT, is co-author (with James A. Robinson) of *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity and Poverty* (Profile, 2019) and *The Narrow Corridor: States, Societies, and the Fate of Liberty* (Penguin, 2020).

O-PED

By Aideé Saucedo Dávila

A Faster Route to Greener Shipping

LONDON - Delegates from over 190 countries recently gathered in Lisbon for the United Nations Ocean Conference, the most important event on this issue this year. Opening the meeting, UN Secretary-General António Guterres urged governments “to raise their level of ambition for the recovery of ocean health.”

Governments must heed that entreaty. Climate change has become a constant factor in the ocean’s decline. Rising sea levels, coral reef degradation, and more severe coastal weather events suggest a bleak future for an ecosystem that spans almost three-quarters of our planet.

But if one thing was obvious in Lisbon, it is that a growing number of governments - from Fiji to the United States - are starting to crack down on a sector that relies exclusively on the dirtiest and most polluting fossil fuels: the international shipping industry. The Marshall Islands, the US, Kenya, and Denmark called for immediate action to achieve zero-emission shipping by 2050, while the UN secretary-general pressed the sector to “present credible plans” to achieve this goal.

Shipping is the most efficient mode of transport for most goods, moving around 80% of all traded products every year. It is here to stay. But global shipping emits more than one billion tons of carbon dioxide annually, equivalent to the emissions of 243 coal-fired power plants. Recent projections show that the problem could get even worse, with shipping emissions reaching 90-130% of 2008 levels by 2050 if we fail to act.

The International Maritime Organization, the specialized UN agency that regulates maritime transport, must play a key role in reducing shipping-related emissions and improving the industry’s energy efficiency. The IMO is currently revising its 2018 climate strategy, which aims to reduce shipping emissions by at least 50% by mid-century. Encouragingly, a growing number of IMO member states favor aligning the sector with the 2050 zero-emissions target set by the 2015 Paris climate agreement. The US, the United Kingdom, and 12 other countries raised this issue at last year’s UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow, bringing more global attention to shipping than ever before - at least as far as UN climate summits go.

But setting a distant decarbonization deadline is not enough, given climate scientists’ repeated warnings that global warming is on course to reach 1.5° Celsius, relative to pre-industrial levels, by 2037 - not 2050. The IMO must listen to the scientists and seek to secure an agreement among member states during the current negotiations to eliminate shipping emissions well before mid-century.

In addition, countries need to set gradually increasing emissions-reduction targets for key economic sectors, with modest goals for as early as 2025 followed by more ambitious objectives for 2030 and 2040. For example, researchers have suggested cutting shipping emissions by at least 34% by 2030 in order to reach zero by 2050.

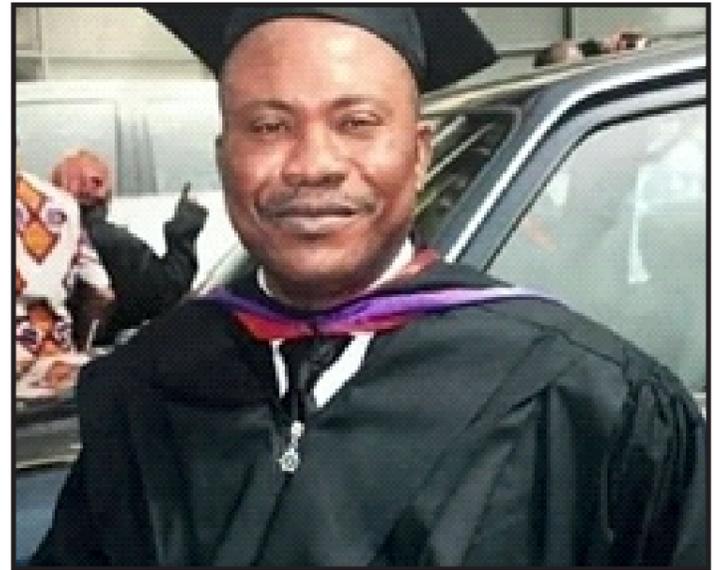
A concrete, step-by-step decarbonization pathway at the global level will nudge countries to move the industry progressively away from hydrocarbons and toward clean and sustainable fuels. The European Union is already embarking on this path by proposing to include shipping emissions in its carbon market and by setting sustainability targets for marine fuels.

A truly ambitious IMO climate strategy could drive a wave of green innovation in the shipping industry. Firms would have to invest their multibillion-dollar profits in the development and uptake of clean fuels such as green hydrogen, green ammonia, and battery technologies, and in replacing their fossil-fuel-powered fleets with zero-emission vessels. Along the way, they should improve their fleets’ energy and operational efficiency, which is one of the fastest ways to cut shipping’s climate pollution.

For many people around the world, whether the world sets clear targets for clean shipping and manages to limit global warming to 1.5°C, rather than 2°C or higher, is an existential issue. Small island states already on the front line of the climate crisis are most at risk of a global temperature rise above these levels, as a recent report by the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change highlighted. Limiting global warming to 1.5°C rather than 2°C can reduce sea-level rise this century by ten centimeters - meaning ten million fewer people will be at risk of coastal flooding.

The UN Ocean Conference declaration stated that the IMO must urgently align its climate ambition with the Paris agreement’s global-warming targets and set “clear interim goals” to start reducing the shipping industry’s greenhouse-gas emissions “as soon as possible.” This is a welcome if long-overdue step. Governments and shipping firms, working with the IMO, must now translate this ambition into firm targets and concrete measures.

Tribute to the late Philip N. Wesseh



A true master member of the inky fraternity. PNW. Gone home

He lived and believed in the search for the facts that make the news. The truth requires earnest labour to arrive at.

In the 1980's the young Philip Wesseh wore his badge of honor as a proud pressman or journalist working with this new independent and very respectable paper called the Daily Observer.

He began his professional media journey under the repressive regime of strong man General (Samuel) Doe who converted from military to become a civilian ruler following a multiparty election in 1985.

Now, it would take one full semester for the young minds to understand the media context under the government of Master Sergeant Doe. Further lectures would be needed to undertake a regression analysis of the media under the Doe regime at the time. But this was the regime under which Philip (the Gina) began his media journey wearing his badge with P n D as a young man.

By that time many of us who lived and loved the search for news and facts and laboured for the truth were leaving country and giving a shy goodbye to the journalism profession.

But the media terrain would slump further down the abyss when the civil war broke out. The crisis brought its own interruptions and there were various attempts at peace. This is not the subject matter under discussion though.

But what is at bar is the young man Philip N Wesseh returned, or he never left. The philosopher will ask did he come, or did he go.? The Kru Brabbie, papay, giant of a media at heart, surfaced and this time with the new kid on the block. THE INQUIRER.

As true to the inky fraternity as he could be, he kept his paper just focused on getting factual news and hard news.

Many other papers came along; The New Democrat, the Observer returned. FrontPage Africa, The Analyst, Heritage, Plain Truth, Chronicle, New Dawn, the New Republic among several others.

I have not been in the classroom for a while to refresh my notes, but one thing is and was certain is that Philip Wesseh's Inquirer was steadfast independent and most importantly factually reliable. That is old school.

When Prof Wole Soyinka wrote "The Man Died: Prison Notes of Wole Soyinka" published in 1971 he may not have had PNW in mind. Philip in this instance was the man. The man had died when they disassemble or disembodied his news paper. They took away his best it was said. They paid them more money and they had them to rival his establishment. The man died then.

Today we come to bow our heads not in shame but in praise that though they may have attempted to hack his soul, the butcher missed him. The diabetes kicked in. Attempts were made to restore the health of the physical, but the man and his identity had died. We salute the courage the man had when he persevered to stay. How many years in the market????..only God knows how many people, government and private sector owed the institution debt for news paper ads.

The man persevered and went to Law School at the University of Liberia and became an Attorney at Law. He used his knowledge of the Law and media practice to elevate the conversation many days with Tmax Jlateh on 50/50 or the Truth FM or ELBC super morning show many mornings before radio multiplied on nearly every spectrum on the frequency modulation of our radio sets.

Here was my krarpee, the man was a staunch Methodist and enjoyed his Kru songs. Saw him one day at Trinity United Methodist Church. In the heart of Kru ville...I believe it was his church...he actually told me...he knows God spoke Kru ...cause the hymns were more beautifully rendered in Kru.

He said to me once, “your ma was Kru woman why you did not learn Kru?” I asked him if he knew my ma. One big laugh and he said, “ I must not lie, I only heard you say her name was Mleda, so that much I know.”

So, we will allow the popoliopo to go on and the giant gissefankoh of the media. Philip N Wesseh to exit the stage as Shakespeare said. All life is but a stage. They say they tried to kill you ...but you would not die. We will not let them kill your name. You will have and have had your spot well carved out...write on bro.

Did the man die. He lives. Sleep and take your rest.

By: Amb. Medina A. Wesseh

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Paulita campaigns to head NPA?

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

Deputy Minister for Urban Affairs at the Ministry of Internal Affairs and former Montserrado county senatorial candidate Paulita C.C Wie, is said to be secretly lobbying to replace former Managing Director of the National Port Authority (NPA), Bill Tweahway, who resigned his position along with two other government

National Port Authority (NPA) Bill Tweahway already tipped to contest in Margibi and Rivercess counties, respectively in next year's elections.

However, the social media is flooded with photography of Deputy Internal Affairs Minister for Urban Affairs Paulita C.C Wie as preferred option to replace the former Managing Director of the NPA, Bill Tweahway.

ruling CDC but lost to Senator Abraham Darius Dillon despite President Weah personally lifting her hand in public endorsement.

Sources in the corridor of the President hinted the NEW DAWN that Paulita is President Weah's preferred option for the position after series of debates in the President's inner circle on who becomes the next managing director of the NPA.

They note that Madam Wie, who has been in close proximity of President Weah over the years, has won the President's heart to take over the entity.

When contacted whether or not she has interest in being the next managing director for the National Port Authority as being hugely speculated, Madam Wie didn't deny nor confirm, but said these are social media rumors.

If appointed and subsequently confirmed by the Liberian Senate, she will be the third Managing Director of the lucrative NPA, dubbed as "Gateway of the Liberian Economy."

She will also be the second female MD following Madam Celia Cuffy Brown, now a Bishop.

Bishop Brown served during the early inception of the Weah administration, but was later demoted to deputy managing director when her reign at the Port was marred by constant internal wrangling between management and employees whom she accused of attempting to bewitch her in a bid to get her out of the system. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

A social media group, Voice of the Voiceless (VOV) and Liberians are recommending that President Weah should appoint Madam Wie as the next NPA Managing Director.

The position was left vacant following the suspension and subsequent resignation of Bill Tweahway in the wake of crippling sanctions from the U.S. Government.

Madam Wie came to limelight when she contested for the senate in Montserrado in 2019 via the



officials, after the U.S. Department of Treasury designated them for significant ongoing public corruption.

Intensive lobby has commenced in Monrovia after top shots in the Weah's government resigned earlier this month, due to U.S. sanctions.

Some of the designated ex-officials are now aspiring for elected posts in 2023 with former Minister Nathaniel McGill, and former Managing Director of the

Lone Star in Cairo for 2 friendlies

By: Naneka A. Hoffman

A 26-man delegation of the nation's pride the Lone Star, including six (6) local players is in Cairo, Egypt to honor two friendly matches with Niger and host Egypt.

Lone Star left here Tuesday, 20 September are expected to play Niger on Sunday, 25 September at the Cairo International Stadium before closing the international break with host Egypt next Tuesday, 27 September at the same venue.

The delegation includes head of delegation and executive committee member Tickly Monkoney, deputy minister for sports Andy Quamie, ministry of youths and sports

representative Kesselle Kanneh; Civicus Barsi-Giah, and football writer, Yusuf Sheriff.

The backroom staff of the Lone Star delegation also includes Acting head coach Thomas Kojo, assistant coach Robert Lartey, goalkeeper trainer

Nathaniel Sherman, and trainer George Gebro.

Also, on the delegation are: administrative manager Sabastian Collins, team doctor Lawuohbah Gbozee, masseur Emmanuel Foko, kit manager Tommy Johnson, and kit man Abraham Kaba.



Acting head coach Thomas Kojo

Starts from page 11

NEC raises concerns

direct service providers and/or original equipment manufacturers, which enables the partners to immediately begin the processes and deliver to the Commission within the timelines required. Moreover, the terms of the contract, as PPCC is aware, will supersede and each member of the joint venture is held individually and severally responsible/liable."

PPCC Observation 2: "As per NEC's Bid Evaluation Report, bidders were also evaluated and inspected on key demonstrations of required functionalities and criteria. The PPCC kindly requests videos of the indicated vendors' demonstrations; and both hard and soft copies of PowerPoint presentations".

NEC Response: "The NEC wishes to inform the PPCC that

the presentation of vendors was done physically before the Bid Evaluation Panel of which there were only physical demonstrations, no video recording was done, and the Bid Evaluation Panel did not request any PowerPoint presentations be turned over to it. Photos were taken during the presentation and said photos were submitted to the PPCC on September 2, 2022."

PPCC Observation 3: "That the Joint Venture (JV) Ekemp/Palm Insurance Ltd./INITS Agreement is not notarized".

NEC Response: "The NEC wishes to inform the PPCC that the standard bidding document did not require bidders to notarize their joint venture agreement."

Starts from page 11

Citizens flag

According to her, suppliers complained of high tariff, so they resort to pegging rice along with other commodities.

"K & K is not selling now, only SWAT, Fouani are our main dealers, so we have to go by their order", Madam Flomo continues.

The situation is the same in Paynesville, another commercial hub.

Alpha Barry, a local businessman in Paynesville told the NEW DAWN, he has stopped or suspended selling rice due to difficulties in getting the commodity, and hike in the price.

"I am not selling rice for almost two weeks now, because I can't get rice to sell. If you go buy, they tell you, you must buy 50 bags, and I don't have money for that one; even if I buy it, pay transportation, and bring it, no profit. I sell for profit my brother" Barry explains.

The current scarcity comes few months after President George Weah approved US\$14 Million to key rice importers in the country as subsidy for the continued availability of the country's staple in the wake of high cost of freight.

The money was approved after importers requested an increment in price on the local market, citing a hike in the cost of freight for shipment of goods worldwide.

Between 2020 and 2021, there was a large swing in containerized trade flows, which was met with supply-side capacity constraints, including containership carrying capacity, container shortages, labor shortages, COVID-19 restrictions across port regions, and congestion at ports.

This mismatch between surging demand and de facto reduced supply capacity led to record container freight rates on

practically all container trade routes, a situation that prompted Liberian rice importers to request an increment in the price of the commodity on the local market. They claimed the high cost of freight was hurting their businesses.

They expressed fears that there would have been a shortage of rice on the market if there was no increment in the price, something that led President Weah to hold a meeting with Rice Importers Association months ago.

In the meeting, which was attended by major importers, including UCI, SWAT, Fouta, K and K, and Fouani, President Weah insisted that government would not allow an increase in the price of the commodity and therefore, pledged his government's commitment to underwrite the extra cost in the freight.

At the time, the President requested the ministries of Commerce and Finance to work with importers and experts in government to find out how much it would cost to cover the additional charges to ensure unhindered supply of rice to Liberia.

However, investigation found out that without dealing with the experts and not doing a proper analysis of the issue, the Ministers of Finance Samuel Tweah, Commerce Marwein Diggs and Nathaniel McGill, then Minister of State, unilaterally imagined the US\$14 Million figure.

According to documents seen by Journalists, rice importers are defaulting on meeting the one million bags reserved in their warehouses as required by government, while some have not even imported any consignment.



I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. **SOLICITATION NO:** VA-669-22-000016
2. **ISSUANCE DATE:** September 16, 2022
3. **CLOSING DATE AND TIME FOR RECEIPT OF OFFERS:** September 30 2022, 11:59 pm Local Time, Monrovia, Liberia
4. **POINT OF CONTACT:** Executive Officer, email at LiberiaHR@usaid.gov
5. **POSITION TITLE:** Project Management Specialist (Public Sector)
6. **MARKET VALUE:** \$51,630 – \$82,612 FSN- 12
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.
7. **PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE:** This contract will be for up to five years depending on programmatic needs, funding availability, and satisfactory performance. This is considered a permanent position and employment under any contract issued under this solicitation is of a continuing nature. Its duration is expected to be part of a series of sequential contracts; all contract clauses, provisions, and regulatory requirements concerning availability of funds and the specific duration of the contract shall apply.
8. **PLACE OF PERFORMANCE:** Monrovia, Liberia with possible travel as stated in the statement of duties.
9. **ELIGIBLE OFFERORS:** Individuals who are Liberian citizens or non-Liberian citizens lawfully admitted for permanent residence in Liberia. Current employees serving a probationary period with the mission are not eligible to apply.
10. **SECURITY LEVEL REQUIRED:** Facility access
11. **STATEMENT OF DUTIES**

Basic Function of Position

The Public Sector Specialist will serve as a program manager to the Mission, providing expertise and analysis on public sector and civil service reforms, including fiscal, administrative and political decentralization; public financial management; concessions management; tax policy and administration; rule of law; anti-corruption; and land reform issues in Liberia. He/she will also be a key liaison between USAID and Liberian government and civil society representatives, including but not limited to the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Governance Commission, Liberia Revenue Authority, Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission, and Liberia National Bar Association, among others. The selected candidate will play a key role within the Office of Democracy, Rights and Governance (DRG), serving as Team Lead for the Good Governance Team and supervising between one and two team members with responsibilities for overseeing a multi-million dollar governance portfolio and other activities as assigned. The position will be under the supervision of the DRG Office Director or his/her designate.

Major Duties and Responsibilities

- A. Program Management, Technical Oversight** 50%
 1. Serves as Good Governance Team Lead, responsible for providing oversight and setting direction for the entire portfolio of Good Governance activities. Serves as the primary point of contact for DRG Office and Mission management, in addition to partner government, civil society and donor counterparts on USAID/Liberia's high profile programs, partnerships and budgets related to domestic resource mobilization, decentralization, public administration, rule of law, anti-corruption, land governance, and other components of government effectiveness. Provides input into Mission-wide reporting and documentation, including annual Operational Plan (OP), Performance Plan and Report (PPR), and others.
 2. Serves as the Contract/Agreement Officer's Representative (C/AOR) or Alternate C/AOR for DRG activities as assigned by the DRG Office Director. As C/AOR, s/he is responsible for all technical and administrative aspects of all activities managed, including activity design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and learning. This includes: actively managing activities by monitoring performance through periodic site visits; identifying challenges or enablers to performance; ensuring Mission cross-cutting priorities are incorporated into programming; coordinating closely with partners to adapt activities and plans, as necessary, in light of changing circumstances; answering a broad range of implementation questions; and preparing and receiving official communications with assigned partners. S/he maintains up-to-date knowledge of USAID policies, procedures, and best practices and activity management, and reports to the DRG Office Director, advising on progress and challenges.
- B. Reporting and Analysis** 30%
 1. Identifies and analyzes democratic and economic governance developments related to public sector reform that are of strategic importance and with implications for US Government interests in Liberia. Maintains expert knowledge on best practices in public sector reform and on USAID policy and guidance on DRG broadly and economic governance in particular.
 2. Prepares relevant informational materials for use by the DRG team, the Mission, and the wider Embassy, and provides written or oral reports to the DRG Director, other USAID offices, or Mission or Embassy leadership as requested on developments in the sector, emphasizing the policy implications for DRG program implementation and any overlapping implications for other sector programs, including Economic Growth.
 3. Tracks developments in key GOL ministries, agencies, and commissions, public corporations, local government, civil society/media, and regional organizations, and the private sector, as relevant to issues of public sector reform, and provides analysis and recommendations for DRG actions and technical assistance. Provides technical guidance and expert advice to Mission officers on implications of public sector reform on design and implementation of activities.
 4. Represents the DRG Office and Mission in engagements with host-country officials, civil society organizations, private sector representatives, and bilateral and multilateral donors on USAID priorities, activities and progress in the sector.
 5. Liaises with other bilateral donor governments and international organizations to exchange information on shared priorities and coordinate efforts related to DRG programs and activities.
- C. Supervision** 20%

Serves as Good Governance Team Lead with responsibility for providing guidance and direct supervision to one to two team members serving as C/AOR or Alternate C/AOR for DRG programs. Provides feedback to team members on all aspects of performance, including delivery of assignments, written and oral communication, teamwork, etc and completes formal annual evaluations for each supervised staff member.

Supervision Controls: Supervises one to two members of the Good Governance Team.

Supervisory Relationship: Position supervised by the DRG Team Leader and/or her/his designee.

12. PHYSICAL DEMANDS
The work requested does not involve undue physical demands.

II. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR THIS POSITION

1. **Education:** Minimum of master's degree in public administration, public policy, Development Studies, Economics, Political Science, Law, or other relevant social science is required.
2. **Prior Work Experience:** Minimum of five (5) years of experience in public sector reform, such as civil service reform, public financial management, land governance or administration, concessions management, or fiscal and political decentralization is required. At least four (4) years of experience in public sector governance related project design, management and evaluation in Liberia, including the design and implementation of public sector capacity building training programs is required.
3. **Work/Residency Permits:** Applicants must have valid work and/or residency permits allowing work in Liberia.
4. **Language Proficiency:** Level IV (fluent) spoken and written English proficiency is required. Excellent English language communication skills, both written and oral, including public speaking skills are essential, as is demonstrated ability to communicate effectively through oral presentations and briefings, written reporting and analysis, and information technology tools.

III. EVALUATION AND SELECTION FACTORS

The Evaluation Factors listed below will be the basis for evaluating and ranking applicants for the position. Applicants will be scored based on the documentation submitted within the application. Applicants must submit a supplemental document outlining their responses to the evaluation factor(s) in order to be considered.

1. Selection Process

After the closing date for receipt of applications, a committee will convene to review applications that meet the minimum requirements and evaluate them in accordance with the evaluation criteria. As part of the selection process, the most qualified candidates will be interviewed. Reference checks will be made only for applicants considered as finalists. The applicant's references must be able to provide substantive information about his/her past performance and abilities.

2. Evaluation Factors

Those applicants who meet the minimum education and experience qualifications will be evaluated based on the content of their application as well as on the applicant's writing, presentation, and communication skills. Applicants should include their name and the announcement number at the top of each additional page. Failure to specifically address the Evaluation Factors will result in the applicant not receiving full credit for pertinent experience.

FACTOR #1: Experience in good governance and related programming.

In 500 words or less, describe your experience in project management or contract administration for USAID or other donor-funded programming in public sector and civil service reforms, including fiscal, administrative and political decentralization; public financial management; concessions management; tax policy and administration; rule of law; anti-corruption; and/or land reform issues in Liberia. Experience can include providing input into project design and implementation; work planning; monitoring performance; coordinating with partners to adapt activities and plans in light of changing circumstances; communicating with partners to answer implementation questions; or tracking events and changes in the operating context that might impact implementation or results.

FACTOR #2: Relationship Management and Donor Coordination

In 500 words or less, describe your experience in developing and maintaining contacts with government and/or donor-community counterparts in good governance related programming. Experience should include knowledge sharing and coordination of activities.

3. Basis of Rating

Applicants determined to be competitively ranked will also be evaluated on their interview performance and satisfactory professional reference checks. The Applicant Rating System is as follows:

Evaluation Factors 40 points

Factor #1 20 points
Factor #2 20 points

Interview Performance 60 points

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

- Describe their experience, knowledge, and qualifications related to public sector and civil service reforms, including fiscal, administrative and political decentralization; public financial management; concessions management; tax policy and administration; rule of law; anti-corruption; and land reform issues in Liberia
- Communicate Effectively

Total Possible Points 100 points

IV. SUBMITTING AN OFFER

Applications must be submitted electronically by email with the subject line **VA-669-22-000016–Project Management Specialist (Public Sector)** LiberiaHR@usaid.gov.

Applicants may submit an application prior to the closing date and time specified in Section I, item 3 mentioned above unless revised.

Qualified applicants must submit the following documents or their applications will not be considered for this position:

1. A current curriculum vitae (CV) or resume, not to exceed 3 pages.
2. A minimum of three (3) professional references who are not family members or relatives, with working telephone and email contacts. The applicant's references must be able to provide substantive information about his/her past performance and abilities. At least one reference provided should be a current or former supervisor.
3. A supplemental document with a written response to the Evaluation Factors.

Candidates who are applying for this position must fully meet the education requirement (graduated and degree and/or diploma already received) as specified. Candidates must also meet the full work experience requirement and demonstrate in their application that they are an eligible offeror as required in I.9 above. There is no exception to these requirements.

Short-listed candidates may be requested to provide educational documents such as transcripts for degrees, diplomas, certificates, and other pertinent documents as needed.

Any attachments provided via email must be compatible with Microsoft Word or PDF and not zipped. Note that attachments to email must not exceed 25 MB. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

The Agency retains the right to cancel or amend the solicitation and associated actions at any stage of the recruitment process.

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



I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- SOLICITATION NO:** VA-669-22-000017
- ISSUANCE DATE:** September 16, 2022
- CLOSING DATE AND TIME FOR RECEIPT OF OFFERS:** September 30, 2022, 11:59 pm Local Time, Monrovia, Liberia
- POINT OF CONTACT:** Executive Officer, email at LiberiaHR@usaid.gov
- POSITION TITLE:** Project Management Specialist (Economic Governance)
- MARKET VALUE:** USD \$35,104 – \$56,160 FSN- 10
In accordance with **AIDAR Appendix J** and the Local Compensation Plan of USAID Final compensation will be negotiated within the listed market value. Note that all U.S. Embassy Locally Employed Staff are expected to observe and fulfill all tax obligations imposed by the Government of Liberia and you will be required to provide a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) before employment.
- PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE:** This contract will be for up to five years depending on programmatic needs, funding availability, and satisfactory performance. This is considered a permanent position and employment under any contract issued under this solicitation is of a continuing nature. Its duration is expected to be part of a series of sequential contracts; all contract clauses, provisions, and regulatory requirements concerning availability of funds and the specific duration of the contract shall apply.
- PLACE OF PERFORMANCE:** Monrovia, Liberia with possible travel as stated in the statement of duties.
- ELIGIBLE OFFERORS:** Individuals who are Liberian citizens or non-Liberian citizens lawfully admitted for permanent residence in Liberia. Current employees serving a probationary period with the mission are not eligible to apply.
- SECURITY LEVEL REQUIRED:** Facility access
- STATEMENT OF DUTIES**

Basic Function of Position

The USAID Project Management Specialist (Economic Governance) will serve as a technical program analyst and program manager to the Mission, providing expertise and analysis on good governance, public financial management, tax policy and administration, concessions management, economic policy and regulatory reform, and civil service reform in Liberia. He/she will be a member of the Good Governance Team within the Democracy, Rights, and Governance (DRG) Office and play a key role helping to manage and administer good governance programming. The Specialist will also engage with key Government of Liberia (GOL), civil society, donor, and implementing partner stakeholders and provide technical, managerial, and oversight input into activity-level and strategic planning processes. Supervised by the Good Governance Team Lead, he/she will be well-versed in the political and economic complexities of governance reforms in post-conflict and fragile states, and have a high degree of understanding of the development issues affecting Liberia, in particular. The Specialist will provide high quality and timely analysis, both written and oral, for input into programming and policy decisions. He/she may also function as the Agreement or Contracting Officer's representative for parts of the governance portfolio.

Major Duties and Responsibilities

A. Program/Project Management and Administration 70%

The incumbent will play a key role within the DRG Office, helping to manage and administer multi-million-dollar economic governance programs. Specific duties will include the following:

- Serve as the Contracting Officer Representative (COR) or the Alternate COR for the DRG Office's Good Governance Activity and/or other governance activities as assigned. In fulfilling this duty, the incumbent will work closely with the DRG Office's Good Governance Team Lead and the USAID/Liberia Office of Economic Growth to provide management leadership in the areas of domestic resource mobilization, decentralization, budget transparency, and other areas as delegated.
- Conduct analysis and design work for future procurements in areas of good governance.
- Ensure that activity components and subcomponents achieve their intended results and that implementing partners meet their deliverables and report performance quarterly and annually in accordance with USAID regulations.
- Conduct assessments and site visits to monitor the program and implementing partner, stakeholder, and counterpart progress in the implementation of activities at the national and subnational levels.
- Provide technical advice to implementing partners and other stakeholders as authorized and warranted.
- Collaborate with GOL and civil society stakeholders, along with other development partners to ensure coordination of programs, particularly in the areas of domestic resource mobilization, decentralization, and public financial management.
- Assist in management of financial matters related to program activities, such as providing administrative approvals of vouchers, planning and preparing for annual incremental funding amendments, and other financial administrative activities as needed, to ensure that fiscal needs of the recipient, the GOL, the U.S., and local contractors are met in a timely manner.
- Advise on the development of the office program-funded budget as related to economic governance; work with technical advisors and senior management to determine funding needs and uses; provide close supervision of mortgages, pipelines, and funding requirements for the economic governance portfolio.
- Prepare and submit the annual evaluation of contractor performance for inclusion in the central database that tracks contractor performance.
- Help to manage the DRG Office's project design, procurement planning, implementation, and evaluation processes to ensure that all office procurement actions are properly identified, scheduled, developed, and implemented.

B. Technical Leadership in Strategic Planning, Program Implementation, Policy Development and Coordination 20%

As technical lead for economic governance, the incumbent will engage proactively with other USAID/Liberia technical offices and with external partners to provide technical input on matters related to public financial management, domestic resource mobilization and public sector reform in Liberia. Specific duties will include:

- Liaise with relevant GOL ministries, agencies and commissions (e.g., Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Liberia Revenue Authority, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Civil Service Agency, Public Procurement and Concessions Commission, Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, and others), other international partners, and civil society organizations supporting public financial management, domestic revenue mobilization and civil service reform initiatives in Liberia, and represent USAID in discussions with these stakeholders. Serve as a resource person to Mission and Embassy personnel with answering technical questions and providing guidance related to economic governance.
- Preparing briefing materials and written and oral status reports on the sector in general and with regards to specific USAID-funded programs in general as required and assigned. Prepare technical reports, trip reports, partner status reports, meeting summaries, and analysis of pertinent documents from implementing partners, the Government of Liberia, and other donors. Produce appropriate briefing papers for USAID leadership and official visitors (e.g., congressional delegations, senior-level USAID officials).
- Prepare major documentation in support of the budgeting and programming of USAID resources for relevant programs. This will include preparing appropriate sections of the Congressional Budget Justification, the annual Operational Plan, the Performance Monitoring Plan, Portfolio Reviews, and semi-annual activity implementation reports, etc.
- Represent USAID in relevant working groups, such as the Public Financial Management Donor Coordination Group, and in conferences, workshops, and other relevant fora on economic governance.
- Undertake monitoring and evaluation functions for all assigned programs and activities.
- Incorporate broader Mission cross-cutting priorities across the Good Governance portfolio as appropriate and feasible.

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) 10%

Works with the Program Office on Mission-wide M&E-related assignments and supports the DRG Office in undertaking its assigned M&E tasks, such as developing, updating and revising the DRG Office portion of the Mission's Performance Monitoring Plan, as well as other M&E plans.

Provides performance management support and assists DRG team members in carrying out M&E functions such as the review of activity Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning plans, data quality assessments (DQAs), evaluations, etc.

Supports DRG Team members in ensuring that site visit reports are tracked and filed appropriately and serves as DRG's custodian of M&E-related documents on guidance and compliance.

Coordinates with AORs/CORs for the entry and certification of performance data in the Development Information Solution (DIS).

Supervision Controls: This position has no supervisory responsibilities.

Supervisory Relationship: Position supervised by the DRG Team Leader and/or her/his designee.

12. PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The work requested does not involve undue physical demands.

II. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR THIS POSITION

- Education:** A Master's degree in economics, political science, international relations, law, or public policy and administration is required.
- Prior Work Experience:** Minimum of 5 years' professional experience in:
 - Applied experience in at least 3 of the following economic governance subject areas: public financial management; domestic resource mobilization; adoption of information and communication technology in public sector reform, concessions management, fiscal and political decentralization; central bank reform; civil service reform; and anti-corruption.
 - Experience in design and implementation of capacity building in the public sector and training programs.
 - Progressive experience in project design and development.
 - Professional knowledge of economic governance issues specifically, and development assistance issues and approaches in general.
 - Demonstrated technical skills related to the design, management, and evaluation of development projects within Liberia.
- Work/Residency Permits:** Applicants must have valid work and/or residency permits allowing work in Liberia.
- Language Proficiency:** Level IV (fluent) spoken and written English proficiency is required. Excellent English language communication skills, both written and oral, including public speaking skills are essential, as is demonstrated ability to communicate effectively through oral presentations and briefings, written reporting and analysis, and information technology tools.

III. EVALUATION AND SELECTION FACTORS

The Evaluation Factors listed below will be the basis for evaluating and ranking applicants for the position. Applicants will be scored based on the documentation submitted within the application. Applicants must submit a supplemental document outlining their responses to the evaluation factor(s) in order to be considered.

1. Selection Process

After the closing date for receipt of applications, a committee will convene to review applications that meet the minimum requirements and evaluate them in accordance with the evaluation criteria. As part of the selection process, the most qualified candidates will be interviewed. Reference checks will be made only for applicants considered as finalists. The applicant's references must be able to provide substantive information about his/her past performance and abilities.

2. Evaluation Factors

Those applicants who meet the minimum education and experience qualifications will be evaluated based on the content of their application as well as on the applicant's writing, presentation, and communication skills. Applicants should include their name and the announcement number at the top of each additional page. Failure to specifically address the Evaluation Factors will result in the applicant not receiving full credit for pertinent experience.

FACTOR #1: Experience in good governance and related programming.

In 500 words or less, describe your experience in project management or contract administration for USAID or other donor-funded programming in good governance, public financial management, tax policy and administration, concessions management, economic policy and regulatory reform, and/or civil service reform in Liberia. Experience can include providing input into project design and implementation; work planning; monitoring performance; coordinating with partners to adapt activities and plans in light of changing circumstances; communicating with partners to answer implementation questions; or tracking events and changes in the operating context that might impact implementation or results.

FACTOR #2: Relationship Management and Donor Coordination

In 500 words or less, describe your experience in developing and maintaining contacts with government and/or donor-community counterparts in good governance related programming. Experience should include knowledge sharing and coordination of activities.

3. Basis of Rating

Applicants determined to be competitively ranked will also be evaluated on their interview performance and satisfactory professional reference checks. The Applicant Rating System is as follows:

Evaluation Factors 40 points

Factor #1 20 points

Factor #2 20 points

Interview Performance 60 points

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

- Describe their experience, knowledge, and qualifications related to good governance, public financial management, tax policy and administration, concessions management, economic policy and regulatory reform, and/or civil service reform in Liberia.

- Communicate Effectively

Total Possible Points 100 points

Total Possible Points 100 points

IV. SUBMITTING AN OFFER

Applications must be submitted electronically by email with the subject line **VA-669-22-000017–Project Management Specialist (Economic Governance)** LiberiaHR@usaid.gov.

Applicants may submit an application prior to the closing date and time specified in Section I, item 3 mentioned above unless revised.

Qualified applicants must submit the following documents or their applications will not be considered for this position:

- A current curriculum vitae (CV) or resume, not to exceed 3 pages.
- A minimum of three (3) professional references who are not family members or relatives, with working telephone and email contacts. The applicant's references must be able to provide substantive information about his/her past performance and abilities. At least one reference provided should be a current or former supervisor.
- A supplemental document with a written response to the Evaluation Factors.

Candidates who are applying for this position must fully meet the education requirement (graduated and degree and/or diploma already received) as specified. Candidates must also meet the full work experience requirement and demonstrate in their application that they are an eligible offeror as required in I.9 above. There is no exception to these requirements.

Short-listed candidates may be requested to provide educational documents such as transcripts for degrees, diplomas, certificates, and other pertinent documents as needed.

Any attachments provided via email must be compatible with Microsoft Word or PDF and not zipped. Note that attachments to email must not exceed 25 MB. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

The Agency retains the right to cancel or amend the solicitation and associated actions at any stage of the recruitment process.

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

Français

Cummings dément la fausse vidéo et pointe du doigt le gouvernement

Le leader politique de la Collaboration des partis politiques (CPP), une coalition de l'opposition a réfuté les accusations selon lesquelles il serait l'auteur de la vidéo controversée qui fait circuler des allégations sauvages contre le gouvernement.

« Donc, je n'ai pas produit la vidéo. En fait, on pourrait dire que le gouvernement, en fait pour des raisons de propagande pour détourner l'attention des gens de la réalité, a produit la vidéo », a allégué M. Cummings.

S'exprimant sur une radio locale Truth FM à Paynesville le mardi 20 septembre 2022, M. Cummings s'est demandé ce que le président George Manneh Weah et le ministre de la Justice Frank Musa Dean attendent pour répondre aux allégations contenues dans la vidéo, au lieu d'accuser les autres.

Une récente vidéo controversée qui fait le tour des réseaux sociaux accuse le pouvoir libérien d'avoir mis sur pied un plan pour truquer les élections présidentielle et législatives de 2023.

La vidéo qui met en exergue également la faible capacité militaire du Libéria, a fait état des milices pro-gouvernementales parrainées avec des millions de dollars. Une autre vidéo serait sortie alors que les inquiétudes concernant la première restent toujours élevées.

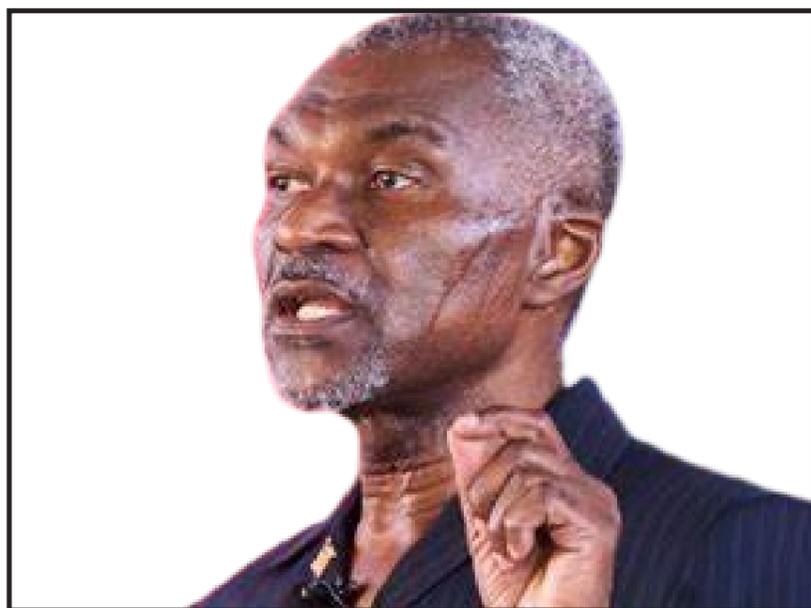
Dans sa tentative de rejeter la faute sur le régime, M. Cummings a fait valoir qu'il n'a pas de studio d'enregistrement, contrairement au président Weah qui en a un.

Il a donc demandé au public de dire lesquels d'entre eux peut potentiellement faire une vidéo « aussi vite qu'ils l'ont fait? »

« Ils semblent y avoir trop de coïncidences. Le président va aux Nations Unies, il a des problèmes de sanctions... cette vidéo apparaît, puis rapidement une autre apparaît, puis ils me blâment », a déploré Cummings.

« Donc, je n'ai produit aucune vidéo. Mais il faut

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Mali: Poutine salue l'attitude de Goïta et se tourne vers l'Afrique en pleine tension avec la France

Abordant les relations entre la Russie et le Mali, Vladimir Poutine a salué l'attitude des dirigeants maliens pour l'édification de partenariats stratégiques à long terme et le développement de liens mutuellement bénéfiques. « Au cours d'une longue conversation téléphonique en août avec le président de la transition [Assimi] Goïta, nous sommes convenus de poursuivre les efforts

conjointes dans la lutte contre le terrorisme international et l'extrémisme religieux », a déclaré le dirigeant russe, assurant que Moscou continuerait de fournir au peuple malien le soutien nécessaire, y compris la fourniture de denrées alimentaires essentielles, d'engrais et de produits manufacturés.

Il a également annoncé la poursuite de la coopération dans le domaine social et l'augmentation du nombre de

bourses pour les citoyens maliens dans les universités russes. M. Poutine a félicité tous les Maliens à l'occasion de la fête de l'indépendance du pays, qui sera bientôt célébrée.

Le chef d'État a qualifié le Sénégal de l'un des partenaires les plus importants de la Fédération de Russie en Afrique. « Les relations diplomatiques ont été établies il y a 60 ans, et toutes ces années, nos pays interagissaient avec succès tant dans la politique que dans d'autres domaines, y compris la sphère commerciale et économique », a-t-il dit rappelant qu'il avait eu des négociations fructueuses avec son homologue du Sénégal Macky Sall à Sotchi.

« Nous souhaitons la poursuite du développement de la coopération avec la République démocratique du Congo - dans la politique, le commerce, les affaires internationales », a poursuivi le président Poutine. Selon lui, une assistance sera apportée aux partenaires congolais en vue d'améliorer

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Éditorial

Le rappel de l'ambassadeur George W. Pattern

La semaine dernière, le jeudi 15 septembre, le président George Manneh Weah a pris une décision qui a choqué tout le pays, en particulier les missions diplomatiques du Libéria à l'étranger. Le Président de la République a rappelé M. George W. Pattern, ambassadeur du Libéria aux États-Unis - le partenaire traditionnel du Libéria.

Le président Weah a pris la décision juste au moment où il se dirigeait vers les États-Unis pour prendre part à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies. L'action du président est susceptible de provoquer un stress chez le personnel de la mission diplomatique du pays à Washington, bien qu'il ait immédiatement nommé un autre ambassadeur.

C'est le moment qui a suscité l'inquiétude du public, car cela coïncide avec la 77e session ordinaire de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies à New York. Le leader libérien y est avec une délégation de haut niveau. Le personnel de la mission libérienne devrait être occupé à faire des allers et venirs pour s'assurer que la visite du président aux États-Unis se déroule comme prévu, c'est-à-dire sans problème. Mais l'ambassadeur Pattern, qui était en poste à Washington, DC, depuis l'ascension de M. Weah à la présidence en 2018, a été rappelé brusquement.

Le président Weah a nommé M. Jeff Gongoer Dowana au poste d'ambassadeur extraordinaire et pléni-potentiaire du Libéria aux États-Unis d'Amérique avec accréditation simultanée de non-résident au Canada et au Mexique, a déclaré Monrovia.

L'ambassadeur Dowana serait un diplomate de carrière qui a précédemment occupé plusieurs postes, à Londres, New York, Washington, DC, Paris, et son affectation actuelle en tant qu'ambassadeur pléni-potentiaire et extraordinaire au Koweït.

Cependant, l'action du président intervient à un moment où les relations diplomatiques entre le gouvernement du Libéria et le gouvernement américain sont orageuses avec la récente sanction de trois responsables de l'administration Weah par le Bureau du contrôle des avoirs étrangers du Trésor américain (OFAC) en vertu de la loi Global Magnitsky pour corruption publique persistante importante.

Il semble que l'ambassadeur Pattern ait fait très peu, voire rien du tout, car on s'attend qu'un ambassadeur qui est en poste dans un pays aussi stratégique que les États-Unis prévienne le président Weah des sanctions qui ont frappé le gouvernement comme un tsunami.

En outre, les spéculations abondent à Monrovia, comme quoi davantage de fonctionnaires du gouvernement doivent être désignés dans le cadre des efforts et du lobbying continu de l'administration pour améliorer les relations avec les États-Unis et obtenir les faveurs du président Joe Biden que le président Weah désire tant désespérément.

Le pays tout entier se sent mal face au déchirement entre le gouvernement et l'opposition au sujet des défaillances de la gouvernance et de la corruption massive et les Libériens se préparent pour les élections de l'année prochaine.

Le ministre des Affaires étrangères du président Weah, Dee Maxwell Kemayah, qui voyage actuellement avec le président aux États-Unis, est porteur d'un visa restreint. Il lui serait interdit d'entrer à New York, pour harcèlement sexuel présumé. Il a nié l'allégation. Mais le ministre Kemayah avait été précédemment affecté à New York en tant que représentant permanent du Libéria auprès des Nations Unies, où l'acte présumé a été commis contre une employée de la mission libérienne.

Il n'est pas clair si le président Weah renverra le ministre des Affaires étrangères Kemayah, qui est clairement devenu un véritable fardeau pour son gouvernement. Certains analystes estiment que c'est une opportunité et une possibilité uniques pour le président de nettoyer une fois pour toute le visage du Ministère des affaires étrangères qui s'engage auprès des gouvernements du monde entier au nom du gouvernement du Libéria.

Français

Cummings dément la fausse vidéo

que le président et le gouvernement répondent aux allégations contenues dans la vidéo », a déclaré Cummings.

Il a défié le gouvernement de nier la vidéo. Bien qu'il nie avoir produit la vidéo, il croit que les allégations qu'elle contient concernant une certaine présence de burkinabé dans la forêt de Grand Gedeh est connue de tous, cette information s'est retrouvée sur la Une des journaux locaux.

« Donc, mon point est qu'ils doivent résoudre les problèmes ... ce gouvernement blâme tout le monde », a-t-il affirmé.

« Écoutez, c'est complètement faux. Et vous savez, cela met en exergue le

manque de leadership de notre président et de ce gouvernement », a déclaré M. Cummings.

Il a fait valoir que le président Weah est président depuis cinq ans, mais son gouvernement ne fait que blâmer l'ancienne administration. « Tout ce que le gouvernement fait, c'est rejeter les fautes et ne prend aucune responsabilité. Le gouvernement de la CDC n'a pas répondu à ce qui est dit dans la vidéo. Mais tout ce qu'il fait est d'accuser Cummings d'être auteur de la vidéo. Ils n'ont pas abordé les accusations portées contre eux dans la vidéo. Ils n'ont pas démenti... l'élément de la vidéo. Ils disent simplement qu'Alexander Cummings a produit la vidéo », a dit M. Cummings.

Mali: Poutine salue l'attitude de Goïta

la situation socio-économique du pays. « En tant que membre permanent du Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU et membre du Groupe des amis de la région des Grands Lacs, la Russie continuera de contribuer activement au processus de paix en République démocratique du Congo et dans l'ensemble de la région », a-t-il ajouté.

Parlant des relations de la Russie avec l'Ouganda, il a attiré l'attention sur le fait qu'elles étaient amicales et mutuellement bénéfiques. « Nos liens dans les domaines politique, commercial et économique, j'en suis sûr, continueront de se développer avec succès, y compris dans de nouveaux

domaines prometteurs, par exemple, dans l'utilisation de l'énergie nucléaire à des fins pacifiques », a déclaré le dirigeant russe.

En outre, Moscou renforcera ses relations traditionnellement amicales avec la Tanzanie, notamment dans des domaines aussi prometteurs que l'énergie nucléaire pacifique, les transports, l'énergie et le tourisme, a indiqué M. Poutine. Il a salué le rôle actif de la partie tanzanienne dans la résolution des problèmes du continent africain, et a exprimé son intention de poursuivre l'interaction sur un large éventail de questions d'actualité à l'ordre du jour régional et international.

Côte d'Ivoire-Guillaume Soro : "J'ai passé l'âge du bavardage inutile"

Guillaume Soro vient d'être nouvellement élu à la tête de GPS. Vêtu de sa nouvelle tunique de président de Générations et peuples solidaires refuse de perdre du temps dans le verbiage.

En exil depuis le 23 décembre 2019, Guillaume Soro continue de faire de la politique loin de ses militants. L'ancien président de l'Assemblée nationale de Côte d'Ivoire demeure persuadé qu'il reviendra sur sa terre natale pour s'installer au palais présidentiel.

Récemment, l'ex-député de Ferké (nord) a été reconduit à la tête du mouvement politique GPS, fondé il y a trois ans. Cependant, au moment où il célèbre son élection, Guillaume Soro est pris à partie sur la toile à la faveur

de la célébration du 20e anniversaire de la rébellion ivoirienne. En effet, des internautes reprochent au mentor de Soul To Soul d'avoir conduit la Côte d'Ivoire dans une impasse en prenant la tête de la rébellion.

Pour sa part Guillaume Kigabfori Soro (GKS) a fait savoir que « certains qui n'étaient même pas encore nés passent pour des experts de ce qu'ils ne savent pas ». « Pourtant je les vois clamer leur amour pour Mandela, Sankara, Cheguevara... Ils n'ont pas fait leur révolution avec des lance-pierres », a-t-il écrit sur Twitter.

Selon lui, « la Côte d'Ivoire a un problème avec son éducation nationale ». Il a ajouté que « l'alphabétisation doit être continue pour qu'on puisse s'entendre et se comprendre ». « Je me souviens du 19 septembre.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Daron Acemoglu

La fin des véritables réseaux sociaux

CAMBRIDGE - Non seulement plusieurs milliards d'individus à travers le monde vivent chaque jour les yeux rivés sur leur smartphone, mais les informations qu'ils consomment ont également évolué radicalement - malheureusement pas dans la bonne direction. Sur les principaux réseaux sociaux tels que Facebook, plusieurs chercheurs ont démontré que les contre-vérités se répandaient plus rapidement et plus largement que les contenus comparables formulant des informations avérées. Bien que les utilisateurs ne soient pas en demande de fausses informations, les algorithmes qui déterminent ce qu'ils visualisent ont tendance à favoriser les contenus sensationnels, inexacts et trompeurs, qui génèrent en effet de l'« engagement », et par conséquent des recettes publicitaires.

Comme l'observait dès 2011 le militant d'Internet Eli Pariser, Facebook crée également des bulles de filtres, qui aboutissent à une plus grande probabilité pour les utilisateurs de se voir présenter des contenus qui renforcent leurs propres penchants idéologiques, et qui confirment leurs propres préjugés. Plusieurs études plus récentes démontrent également que ce processus exerce une influence majeure sur le type d'informations qui leur sont présentées.

Même sans tenir compte des choix algorithmiques de Facebook, l'écosystème des réseaux sociaux dans son ensemble conduit l'utilisateur à découvrir des sous-communautés qui partagent ses centres d'intérêt. Ce n'est pas nécessairement une mauvaise chose. Si vous êtes seul dans votre entourage à vous intéresser à l'ornithologie, cette solitude n'est plus un problème, car vous pouvez désormais échanger avec des amateurs d'ornithologie dans le monde entier. Le même principe s'applique évidemment aux extrémistes isolés, qui peuvent désormais utiliser les mêmes plateformes pour propager ou accéder à des discours de haine et théories du complot.

Plus personne ne le conteste, les réseaux sociaux sont devenus un canal de transmission majeur de la haine, de la désinformation et de la propagande. Reddit et YouTube sont aujourd'hui de véritables terrains de l'extrémisme de droite. La milice Oath Keepers a ainsi utilisé notamment Facebook pour organiser son action le 6 janvier 2021, date de l'assaut contre le Capitole des États-Unis. De même, il a été démontré que les tweets antimusulmans de l'ancien président américain Donald Trump avaient alimenté les violences contre les minorités aux États-Unis.

Certains considèrent ces observations comme alarmistes, estimant que les acteurs majeurs tels que Facebook et YouTube (qui est détenue par Google/Alphabet) accomplissent bien davantage que leurs concurrents de moindre envergure dans la lutte contre les discours de haine et la désinformation, notamment depuis que de meilleures pratiques de modération ont été mises en place. D'autres chercheurs contestent également les conclusions selon lesquelles les contre-vérités se propageraient plus rapidement sur Facebook et Twitter par rapport à d'autres plateformes.

D'autres encore considèrent que même si l'actuel environnement des réseaux sociaux s'avère dangereux, le problème n'est que transitoire, les nouveaux outils de communication ayant toujours été dans un premier temps utilisés à mauvais escient au cours de l'histoire. Le théologien allemand Martin Luther utilisa en effet l'imprimerie pour promouvoir le protestantisme, mais également un antisémitisme virulent. De même, la radio constitua un puissant outil entre les mains de démagogues tels que le père Charles Coughlin aux États-Unis, ou entre celles des nazis en Allemagne. La presse et les organes de radiodiffusion demeurent aujourd'hui vecteurs de nombreuses contre-vérités, mais la société s'est ajustée face à ces médias, et elle est parvenue à en contenir les effets négatifs, estiment-ils.

Cet argument implique qu'en alliant renforcement des réglementations et autres technologies nouvelles, il serait possible de surmonter les difficultés que soulèvent les réseaux sociaux. Les plateformes pourraient par exemple fournir davantage d'informations sur la provenance des articles, ou être dissuadées de booster algorithmiquement les contenus

susceptibles de se révéler incendiaires ou de contenir de la désinformation.

En réalité, ces mesures échouent à appréhender la profondeur du problème. Les réseaux sociaux ne font pas que créer des caisses de résonance, propager des contre-vérités, et faciliter la circulation d'idées extrémistes. Ils risquent également de bouleverser les fondements mêmes de la communication humaine et de la cohésion sociale, en remplaçant les véritables réseaux sociaux par des réseaux sociaux artificiels.

Nous nous distinguons principalement des autres espèces animales par notre capacité avancée à apprendre de notre communauté, à accumuler un savoir en observant les autres. Nos convictions les plus profondes et nos principes les plus chers ne naissent pas de l'isolement ou de la lecture d'ouvrages, mais bien de notre appartenance à un milieu social et de nos interactions au travers de l'argumentation, de l'éducation, de l'excellence, etc. Les sources de confiance jouent un rôle indispensable dans ce processus, ce qui explique que les dirigeants politiques et tous ceux qui disposent d'une tribune puissent exercer une influence aussi considérable. Les innovations liées aux médias ont toujours capitalisé sur cela. En revanche, jamais une innovation n'avait aussi profondément modifié la nature même des réseaux humains que les réseaux sociaux actuels.

Qu'advient-il lorsque des plateformes telles que Facebook, Twitter ou Reddit commenceront à manipuler ce que nous percevons comme notre réseau social ? L'inquiétante vérité, c'est que personne ne le sait. Et même s'il est possible que nous finissions par nous adapter à ce changement, par trouver les moyens d'en neutraliser les effets les plus pernicieux, il ne semble pas que nous puissions compter sur cette évolution, sachant la direction dans laquelle s'oriente le secteur.

Les effets les plus corrosifs des réseaux sociaux commencent à ressembler précisément à ce que le critique culturel Neil Postman avait anticipé il y a près de 40 ans dans son ouvrage phare intitulé *Se distraire à en mourir*. « Les Américains ne se parlent plus les uns aux autres, ils se divertissent les uns les autres », observait-il. « Il n'échangent plus d'idées, ils échangent des images. Ils n'argumentent plus en émettant des propositions, ils argumentent au travers de l'apparence, des célébrités et des publicités. »

Comparant 1984 de George Orwell avec *Le Meilleur des mondes* d'Aldous Huxley, Postman ajoute : « Orwell craignait ceux qui interdiraient les livres. Huxley redoutait qu'il n'y ait même plus besoin d'interdire les livres, car plus personne n'aurait envie d'en lire. Orwell craignait ceux qui nous priveraient de l'information. Huxley redoutait que nous en devenions abreuvés au point d'être réduits à la passivité et à l'égoïsme. Orwell craignait que la vérité ne nous soit cachée. Huxley redoutait que la vérité ne devienne noyée dans un océan d'insignifiance. »

Postman s'inquiétait davantage d'un avenir huxleyien que d'un futur orwellien. Les réseaux sociaux ont simultanément fait naître les deux. Si les gouvernements acquièrent les moyens à la fois de manipuler notre perception de la réalité et de nous réduire à la passivité ainsi qu'à l'égoïsme, nos « amis » virtuels assurent de plus en plus la police de notre pensée. Il s'agit désormais de saluer la vertu de l'un, et de condamner l'autre lorsqu'il dévie de l'orthodoxie dominante. Or, la « vertu » n'est que ce que détermine l'artificiel cercle social en ligne d'un individu, et elle est bien souvent fondée entièrement sur des mensonges.

Hannah Arendt, autre figure clairvoyante dans la pensée du XXe siècle, nous avertit sur l'issue qui risque d'en résulter. « Lorsque tout le monde vous ment en permanence, la conséquence n'est pas que vous croyez aux mensonges, mais que plus personne ne croit plus à rien. » Dès lors, toute vie sociale et politique devient impossible.

Traduit de l'anglais par Martin Morel

Daron Acemoglu, professeur d'économie au MIT, est coauteur (avec James A. Robinson) des ouvrages intitulés *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity and Poverty* (Profile, 2019) et *The Narrow Corridor: States, Societies, and the Fate of Liberty* (Penguin, 2020).

LIBERIANS

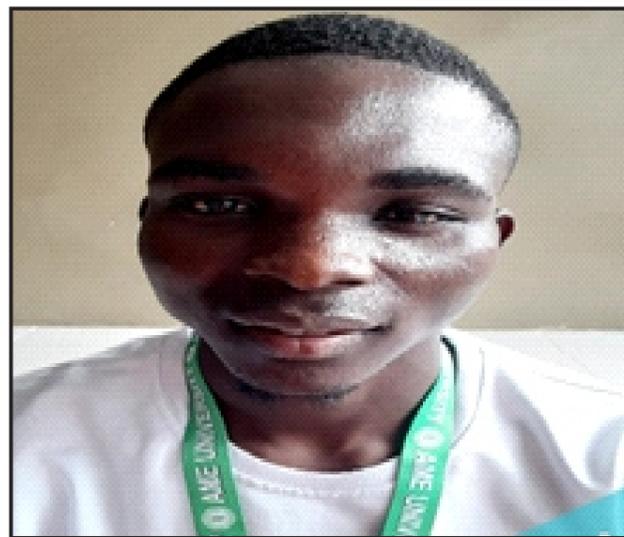
DEBATE

Topic: Who becomes next Minister of State?

By Naneka Hoffman

President George Weah is yet to appoint a new minister of state for presidential affairs following the resignation of Minister Nathan Farlo McGill, NPA managing director Bill Tweahway and solicitor-general Sayma Syrenius Cephus after they were sanctioned by the United States Treasury for significant ongoing public corruption.

The most influential post among the three is the Office of the Minister of State for Presidential Affairs. The NEW DAWN asks few members of the public in Monrovia whom they think President Weah should nominate to that ministry to replace Mr. McGill as minister.



JeJe Charles Newton

“President Weah should appoint Cllr. Wesseh Alphonsus Wesseh from River Gee County because he is someone who has stayed long in governmental sector and he understands affairs [workings] of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He understands that and it will be very good when he takes that position because of his ability and experience from the past government.”

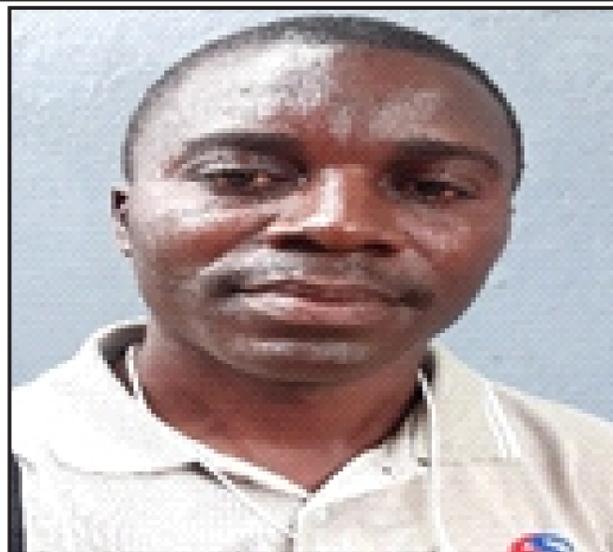


Detobo Moko Jarpu

“Well, we have people that are capable for that position but for me, I prefer Finda Bundo for the Ministry of State for

Presidential Affairs, because she is good in that range and she is always there as Chief of Protocol. She is one of the persons, who has the knowledge to lead that position. Her status right now I know she has the capacity, knowledge and strength when it comes to international contact because currently, she serves as protocol to the President now she is in America with the President, so from that direction I know that she has the strength and the knowledge to serve in that position.”

“I think the President has been working with those people, the Deputy Minister and the other officials so in my own opinion, he can use George W. Blamo to work in line with that particular office to be the proper Minister because he has been in the affairs of the office, so to bring different person from elsewhere I don’t see it little bit okay. The Deputy Minister George W. Blamo can take the place of Minister McGill to serve the affairs of the Ministry. I think he has the capability to make sure that things go well. If he brings different person



Benson B. Kamah

from another ministry or who has not been in the government, it may bring problem, so I do believe he should use the Deputy Minister George W. Blamo to act in the place of former Minister of State Nathaniel McGill.”

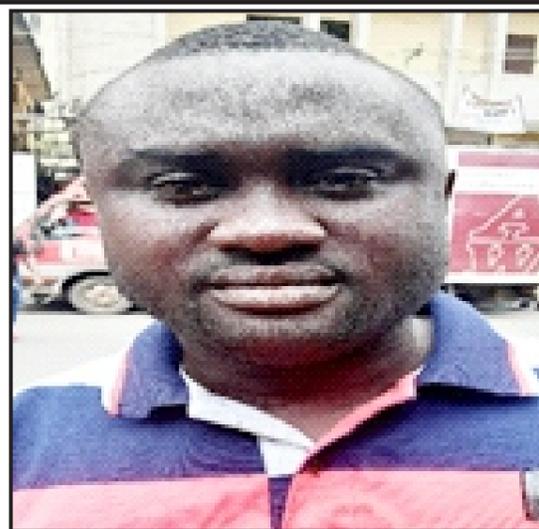
“In my mind, I prefer the National Chairman of CDC Mulbah Morlu, because in my mind, he understands how to run the affairs of the party and he understands foreign policy and how to maintain the Office of the President and secondly, he works with the President for more than (12) twelve years. Morlu understands the affairs when it comes to the Office of the Presidency and if Chairman Morlu can maintain the party for five (5) consecutive years under his leadership that today, a lot of transformations have gone in the



Prosperity Varney Fahnbulleh

Congress for Democratic Change under his regime. In my mind, he can serve in that capacity as a better representation of the Office of the President.”

“It is a fine question but very critical; currently, as we speak, one thing we should take into consideration is that the position comes with trust, competence, experience and political understanding. So, in my personal view, looking into President Weah’s current cabinet, I will recommend to the President to appoint Eugene Nagbe as the next Minister of State for Presidential Affairs. Let’s look at his governmental experience over the past years. Mr. Nagbe worked with the past regime in so many capacities and he was commended for his performance in those areas that he served. So, when it comes to experience, I believe that he has the governmental experience to serve in that position. Secondly, he has the



Emmett Thogar

political understanding, as it involves our politics and the State. Mr. Nagbe is a former secretary at CDC so he understands party politics. He is a veteran minister so, in serving that position, I think he will try to bring more stability to that area.”

Quarters of

The Blaye-Wesseh Family

Borough of New Kru Town, Bushrod Island, Monrovia Liberia

PRESS RELEASE

September 18, 2022

Atty. Philip N. Wesseh Passes Away

It is with deep sadness that the family of Atty. Philip N. Wesseh informed the general public that renowned journalist and Managing Editor of Inquirer Newspaper passed away on Wednesday morning after a protracted illness.

The family kindly requests anyone seeking to sympathize with the family should do so at his Duport Road residence. For directions, you can contact cell no. 0775513787/0886676154.

Details of the funeral arrangement will be announced in due course. However, the next family meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 2, 2022, at 2 pm at his Duport Road Residence.

Signed:

On behalf of the Family

W. Wesseh
 Wlehynnonoh Mary Wesseh
 Daughter of the Deceased

W. Sampson
 Atty. Welma Blaye Sampson
 Niece of the Deceased

The Ellen factor in 2023

By Lincoln G. Peters, with additional files from Othello B. Garblah

Former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf will not be on the ballot box for the 2023 battle for the Executive Mansion, but report of her likely influence hold key to who becomes Liberia's next President.

Nearly five years down the line, the story appears to have taken another narrative as there are speculations that this time around, she may be throwing her weight behind former Coca-Cola Executive Alexander B. Cummings of the Collaborating Political Party (CPP).

Much has not been said in

groundbreaking ceremony of the Lofa road at the height of the 2017 presidential campaign with then candidate Weah-that alone spoke volumes as to where her support was.

However, barely a year to the 2023 elections, many of her former stewards have begun jumping boats declaring their support for Mr. Cummings as if they have been given marching orders even though there are just mere perception at this stage.

But regardless, Mrs. Sirleaf's influence is a key factor in deciding the winner of the 2023 presidential election.

Some of her former stewards who have declared their supports for Mr. Cummings are already being quizzed as to whether their decision to do so was based on the Iron Lady's influence.

Mr. Lewis Brown is a former Minister of Information and Ambassador to the United Nations who served under ex-president Sirleaf's regime. When faced with similar question as to whether his decision to support Cummings was triggered by Mrs. Sirleaf, he denied the claim.

Speaking on a local radio program on Tuesday

September 20, 2022, Amb. Brown explained that his decision to support Mr. Cummings was based on the wrong direction that the country is heading, noting that his decision was never influenced by Mrs. Johnson - Sirleaf.

Amb. Brown who formerly declared support for Mr. Cummings last week described the CPP leader as an icon of integrity and a great asset to Liberia.

Although Cummings has also come under criticisms for embracing these former regime officials, Amb. Brown maintains that his decision to pledge support to Cummings is based on his (Cummings) leadership experience.

"We have to celebrate him for that because Mr. Cummings is an asset to Liberia that comes with leadership experience and [no] government experience. We need to contrast that because people are saying the man has not worked in government before," he said.

Mr. Cummings heads the opposition Alternative National

Congress (ANC) and the once formidable Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), which is now divided into fragments.

Amb. Brown believes that with Cummings corporate leadership experience, especially for a man who came from nowhere after several studies to head such a giant-sized company makes him an asset.

Amb. Brown argued that the comparison between corporate leadership and public leadership against Mr. Cummings is very weak because there is more accountability and transparency in corporate leadership than it is in public leadership.

He claimed that being an executive of Coca-Cola company, Mr. Cummings brings more accountability to public service.

But Amb. Brown has not been the only former Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf led government to support Cummings, former Foreign Minister Gayweah McIntosh and others have either openly or quietly declared their support for Cummings.



the country's immediate past President who served two terms threw her weight behind incumbent President George Weah against her then vice president and party's standard Joseph N. Boakai.

the press as to what may have led to the crumbling of the perceived marriage between President Weah and Mrs. Sirleaf. But in 2017 the relationship between the pair was very visible, an example is the famous

NEC raises concerns

The National Elections Commission (NEC) has raised series of concerns questioning the Public Procurement Concession Commission (PPCC) to provide more clarity on its rejection of selected bidder joint venture of Ekemp International Limited, INITS Limited, and Palm Insurance Inc.

The joint venture of the three companies were selected by NEC Procurement Committee to provide biometric equipment and systems to be used for the 2023 voters registration.

But the PPCC headed by former NEC Procurement Director, Attorney Jargbe Roseline Nagbe Kowo has requested that NEC do a re-evaluation of the bids.

In its four-page letter dated September 9, 2022, to the Chairperson of NEC, Davidetta Browne Lansanah, with copies to Justice Minister Cllr. Frank Musa Dean and Finance Minister Samuel D. Tweah, the PPCC boss demanded that a re-demonstration of the biometric enrolment and deduplication process be done by the bidders and must

be video recorded to serve as a constant reference by the Evaluation Panel during the re-evaluation process, since said demonstration is crucial evaluation determinant as per the NEC's submissions.

"This must be done for the NEC to enable the principles of transparency and fairness in review of key performance requirements during its evaluation of the bidders; A video recording is key to showcase proof of moving depictions on the performance of Biometric

Equipment and System demonstrated by the bidders", the PPCC boss emphasizes.

The request by the PPCC for NEC to do a re-evaluation of the bids has left Commissioners at the election house wondering and concern about what exactly the procurement house wants.

NEC also wonders why the PPCC did not comment on any other bidder's expertise and/or capacity to pre-finance but concluded its communication with a request that the bidders be called again to do another physical

presentation of their respective enrolment and de-duplication processes; that the presentation must be video recorded; and that the NEC must re-evaluate the bidders' proposals.

"That the NEC should conduct overall evaluation considering mandatory requirements outlaid in its bidding document issued to the bidders, and the NEC must do its utmost to ensure fairness, and transparency of review in consonance with governing procedures", the PPCC instructed.

In all there were 6 bidders; Laxton Group limited; The joint venture of Waymark Infotech and Mwenata; Electoral Services International; The joint venture of Ekemp International Limited, INITS Limited, and Palm Insurance Inc.; The joint venture of Professional Services Inc. and HID Global; and Network Solution Liberia Limited.

The companies submitted bids were opened on July 29, 2022, in the presence of the bidders' representatives and other observers. Information from bidders' submissions, concerning financial responsiveness, and the capacity to pre-finance, was read out loud and documented on the Bid Opening Checklist, the NEC said.

The public opening of the bids was on July 29, 2022, a bid evaluation panel comprising five (5) of NEC staff was constituted. The Panel worked for about three (3) weeks and on August 26, 2022, submitted its Report to the NEC Procurement Committee.

The Report, signed by all five of the Panel's members, recommended the joint venture of Ekemp, INITS, and Palm as the most responsive bidder,

therefore, requiring NEC to write PPCC requesting a "No Objection" to award the contract to the Joint Venture of Ekemp, INITS, and Palm.

But PPCC has argued that Ekemp International Limited/INITS Limited/Palm Insurance Inc. Joint Venture Agreement states that Palm Insurance: 3(c) vii: shall provide all pre-financing as may be required for the procurement of materials and services for the effective implementation of the Project, and 2 (c) vii: provide all prefinancing in support of the bid process: However, Palm Insurance's Financial Statement showcasing its financial position, on the contrary, reflects total equity and liabilities of US\$2,899,027.00 at the end of 2021 (December 31, 2021).

NEC Response: "Considering that some vendors, irrespective of the information contained in their financial statements, requested advance payment during the signing of the contract and do not prefinance as a matter of policy, the NEC wishes to inform PPCC that it views the joint pre-finance responsibilities of Ekemp International Limited/INITS Limited/Palm Insurance Inc. in its totality (including their commitment found on Page 2, Count 3 of the cover letter of its submission) as follows:

"3. We confirm that we are capable and able to Pre-finance the supply and delivery of biometric equipment, software & materials for the voter registration for the 2023 general elections...."

"With this, the NEC found that the Joint Venture can prefinance at its level of responsibilities. The three parties in the joint venture are



Citizens flag rice scarcity again



By Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

There is an emerging scarcity of rice again, Liberia's staple on the market with consumers across Monrovia complaining that they are being coerced by distributors to purchase other assorted items before buying a 25kg bag of rice, despite previous assurance from President George Weah that there would no shortage under his administration.

Wholesalers here complain of increase tariffs on the commodity, while retailers point to difficulties

in having access.

Suppliers are reluctant to sell to retailers, because of they term huge tariff or percentage imposed by the government on the country's staple food.

Major suppliers, including SWAT, Fouta, and Fouani Brothers are now demanding wholesale customers to purchase other commodities like battery, oil, onion before they buy consignment which is still being at retail price of US\$13.50 or an equivalent of LRD 2,025 per bag, but with restrictions that and you must purchase at least 50 bags and above along with others basic

commodities.

A NEW DAWN's survey in and around Monrovia on Wednesday, 21 September at major distribution centers in Vai Town, Bushrod Island; Jacob Town and Paynesville, uncovered that retail price has increased between 2,700 and 3,000 Liberian Dollars per bag from previously LRD2,250 at the disappointment of struggling consumers.

Sabu Conneh, a wholesaler told the NEW DAWN that she was allegedly denied sale of rice at Foani Brothers, only because she couldn't purchase other commodities alongside.

"I only sell rice; when I buy the rice US\$13.50, I go and sell for US\$14.00 just to get little profit, but now they're asking us to buy other things along with the rice, before we can be served, she lamented.

"And when I buy the rice, at the same time we pay transportation to carry and sell. Now they're asking us to buy other things, which is difficult for us", added Marie Flomo, another wholesaler.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 5

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