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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2022	L\$152.6420/US\$1.00	L\$154.4175/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

PPCC rejects Ekeemp

-Asks NEC to review and elect from remaining bidders

Atty. Roseline Nagbe Kowo

Solve Liberia's myriad of problems'

Mr. Upjit Singh Sachdeva

Jeety challenges Tech. graduates

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Continental News

Giorgia Meloni: Migrants' fears over Italy's new far-right prime minister

Giorgia Meloni has made history to become Italy's first female prime minister - and will lead what will be the country's most right-wing government since World War Two. Her far-right Brothers of Italy party is a part of a coalition that has made

Nigerian street vendor, Alika Ogorchukwu, on the mainland in August as an example. Italy is one of the main entry points into Europe and since the start of the year 70,000 migrants have arrived on boats on the country's shores. Ms Meloni wants to tighten the system for asylum seekers to choke off this irregular

after leaving The Gambia and getting to Libya, his nightmare began as he was held there in prison on three occasions, each time managing to escape.

He survived a terrifying sea crossing on a dinghy before landing in Sicily, only to end up working as a farm labourer for very low pay in terrible conditions growing watermelons and tomatoes on the island's hinterlands.

But his fortunes changed when he was issued with official documents, which he had applied for as an asylum seeker. This allowed him to move to Palermo to pursue his education.

He is currently in the second year of his nursing degree and hopes to work in a hospital in the city when he graduates.

If Ms Meloni makes good on her promises, it will be more difficult for migrants to make their status official.

"Documents are an important gateway into integration," Mr Jarjou says - adding that without them many migrants will simply become "invisible" and be forced to eke out a bleak existence on the margins of Italian society.

He is especially worried about the threats to make it tougher for migrants to make sea crossings by criminalising charity rescue ships. This would simply lead to more deaths in the Mediterranean, he says. *BBC*

Uganda Says Two More Ebola Cases Confirmed in Kampala Hospital

Two more people in an isolation unit of Uganda's main hospital have tested positive for Ebola, bringing total cases recorded in the facility to five, the health minister said on Sunday.

The five confirmed cases in Kampala are the first known transmission of the virus in the

contact with a patient from Kassanda district in central Uganda who had died in Mulago.

"Two more contacts to the Kassanda case, who are quarantined in Mulago Isolation facility, tested positive for Ebola yesterday..." Aceng said on Twitter.

She added the two had been transferred to a treatment unit



Palermo has long had a reputation for welcoming migrants

reducing immigration a key part of their agenda.

For African migrants like Mustapha Jarjou in Palermo, the capital of Sicily, it heralds frightening times ahead: "I am very worried it's going to create a lot of negative impact on the lives of migrants like me."

The 24 year old, who is a spokesperson for the Gambian Community Association in Palermo, says the policy might fan divisions and hatred towards migrants.

He cites the murder in daylight of the disabled

migration, which she says threatens the security and quality of life of its citizens.

She also wants to increase repatriations, target charity ships that rescue migrants who get into trouble during the Mediterranean crossing and has called for a naval blockade of North Africa.

Mr Jarjou's journey to Italy - like that of many others - was incredibly dangerous.

He arrived here aged 17 in December 2016 having left his home in West Africa in search of a better life.

It is a miracle he made it -



city, coming days after the information ministry said the country's Ebola outbreak was coming under control and was expected to be over by the end of the year.

Health Minister Jane Ruth Aceng said on Saturday that three patients among 60 people in isolation at Kampala's Mulago Hospital tested positive for the disease a day earlier.

She had said the three infected people had been in

outbreak of the Sudan variant of the Ebola virus.

A government statement on Friday said the outbreak had by then infected 65 people and killed 27. It was not clear if the numbers included the three first new Kampala cases.

The government said last week two other cases of Ebola confirmed in Kampala had come from Mubende and were regarded as originating there, not the capital.

UN Agencies Say Rains Have Flooded Two-Thirds of South Sudan

The United Nations refugee agency says that South Sudanese flood victims are in desperate need of international support.

Climate change is wreaking havoc on Africa. Aid agencies struggle to provide food and other aid to millions of people suffering from four years of devastating drought in the Horn of Africa. To the west, South Sudan is dealing with the impact of four years of historic flooding.

The U.N. refugee agency says four years of record rains have flooded two-thirds of the country. It warns the climate emergency displacing increasing numbers of people and making life harder for those already uprooted by the catastrophic rains.

UNHCR spokesman, Boris Cheshirkov told reporters Friday that worse is to come

as the climate crisis accelerates.

"Over 900,000 people have been directly impacted. Waters have swept away homes and livestock, forced thousands to flee, and inundated large swathes of farmland, worsening an already dire food emergency. Boreholes and latrines have been

submerged, contaminating water sources, and risking the outbreak of disease," he said.

The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs says flooding has inundated nine of the country's 10 states, including oil-rich Unity, Warrap, Upper Nile, and Jonglei states. It says these states are sheltering hundreds of



Residents park their dugout canoes next to a mud dyke they built to try and prevent flooding, in New Fangak town in Jonglei state, South Sudan on Dec. 25, 2021.

thousands of people fleeing conflict and weather.

Cheshirkov said Bentiu, Unity's capital, has become an island surrounded by floodwaters. He says all roads in and out of the city are impassable and it is only reachable by boat or air.

While the flooding is blocking aid delivery to those most in need, he said aid workers also are having a tough time reaching ethnic conflict areas.

"It is a cycle, which then promotes further displacement or makes it much more difficult

for people because they have heightened protection needs. ... Sexual exploitation and abuse, of course, this is one of the top priorities for our teams. It is to make sure that all the work that can be done to prevent and if there are cases to respond. But that is also one of the top priorities for us," he said.

Cheshirkov said the UNHCR has received only 44% of the nearly \$215 million it needs for its South Sudan operation this year. Priority needs, he said, include food, shelter, water, and sanitation supplies as stocks of basic items are running out.

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EDITORIAL

Rice Taskforce is dead upon arrival

PRESIDENT GEORGE MANNEH Weah's newly appointed Rice Stabilization Taskforce is nothing but a clear publicity stunt, given that ministries and agencies that have failed the economy and the people are the ones the President think should address the rice crisis.

IT IS NOT ONLY a miscalculation, but highly incomprehensible that President Weah would expect that the Ministries of Agriculture, and Commerce and Industry that are visibly far detached from the rice issue in the country would be the ones to provide solutions, neither to speak of the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning that is yet to fully account for over US\$5 million approved by the 54th Legislature to subsidize rice importation in the country.

NOT FORGETTING OTHER members of the Taskforce such as the Ministry of State for Presidential Affairs and the Economic Advisor to the President that failed to advise or brief Mr. Weah on the rice crisis to the extent that upon his recent return from addressing the UN 77th General Assembly in New York, the Liberian leader dismissed news of scarcity of the nation's staple as "news in the street" that Liberians should not pay attention to.

ON THE CONTRARY however, warehouses of major importers at the Freeport of Monrovia were virtually empty, while the Ministry of Justice that is also on the Taskforce stood by and watched, as few insatiable importers exploited and subjected Liberians to harsh constraints, forcing them to buy other commodities totally against their will, as precondition to purchasing a 25-kg bag of rice.

YET, THESE ARE the institutions expected to solve the rice crisis by stabilizing price, ensuring constant availability of supply, and advise President Weah on the way forward of our staple food that we have failed to grow ourselves.

TRUTH OF THE matter is, the President has commissioned round pegs in square holes that would wallop in a vicious circle and eventually end up to where it started, without providing any sustainable alternative to addressing the issue of rice in Liberia.

This would be the reality in coming months, especially as the nation prepares for elections, and the ruling establishment that is seeking reelection, is expected to exploit the culture of rice politics in the country by bringing in huge consignment of so-called "Pro-Poor Rice" for free distribution to improvised, hungry and unsuspecting citizens in return to solicit their votes and create a false sense of sufficiency or short-term cosmetic solution.

THE FACT THAT over US\$30 million allocated by government annually to subsidize rice importation has not addressed the rice problem besetting our nation, the government-dominated Rice Stabilization Taskforce is nothing but old choirs in new gowns, coming with the same chorus.

ALL PREVIOUS LIBERIAN presidents except Tolbert, Doe, Taylor and perhaps Madam Sirleaf, took any practical step to promote agriculture in Liberia, particularly food production. They kept the citizenry under the illusion that surviving on imported rice is better than investing in the country's rich soil.

FIVE YEARS INTO his administration, President Weah has failed to demonstrate leadership by personally cultivating a farm to take both his officials and the population along in making Liberia self-sufficient in food, like neighboring Ivory Coast, Guinea or Sierra Leone.

YET MR. WEAH WANTS Liberians to believe that a group of loyalists would make any significant difference in a problem that has kept the nation in poverty basically because of political interest.

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

COMMENTARY

By Jayati Ghosh

India's Self-Inflicted Economic Catastrophe

NEW DELHI - Nearly 80% of the estimated 70 million people around the world who fell into extreme poverty at the onset of COVID-19 in 2020 were from India, a recent World Bank report has revealed. But even this shocking figure could be an underestimate, as the lack of official data makes it difficult to assess the pandemic's human costs.

What accounts for this alarming rise in Indian poverty? COVID-19 was undoubtedly India's worst health calamity in at least a century. But the pandemic's economic and social consequences go beyond the direct effects on health and mortality. As I argue in my recent book, *The Making of a Catastrophe: The Disastrous Economic Fallout of the COVID-19 Pandemic in India*, very significant policy failures - owing to government action and inaction - were responsible for widespread and significant damage to Indian livelihoods and for the country's decline in terms of many basic indicators of economic well-being.

This judgment may seem excessively harsh. After all, India's government did not cause the pandemic, and many other countries experienced economic setbacks after they failed to control the virus. But the devastating impact of the pandemic on India has been compounded by economic policies that reflected the country's deeply-embedded inequalities.

To be sure, the pandemic did not create India's many economic vulnerabilities. But it did highlight India's many societal fissures and fault lines. And while the country already suffered from glaring inequalities of income, wealth, and opportunities long before COVID-19, the government's pandemic response has taken them to unimaginable extremes.

Even as Indian workers faced poverty, hunger, and ever-greater material insecurity due to the pandemic, money and resources continued to flow from the poor and the middle class to the country's largest corporations and wealthiest individuals. The intersecting inequalities of caste, gender, religion, and migration status have become increasingly marked and oppressive. The result has been a major setback to social and economic progress.

The grim state of affairs reflects the priorities of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) response. At the beginning of the pandemic, the central government imposed a prolonged nationwide lockdown with little notice. It then adopted containment strategies that were clearly unsuited to the Indian context, with immediately devastating effects on employment and livelihoods.

Instead of using the breathing space provided by the lockdown to bolster local health systems, the central government left state authorities to manage as best they could with minimal and inadequate

resources. And when the resulting economic disaster threatened to spiral out of control, the government eased restrictions to "unlock" the economy even as the number of cases mounted, thereby putting more people at risk.

But at the heart of India's self-inflicted economic catastrophe is the government's decision to provide very little compensation or social protection, even as COVID-19 lockdowns deprived hundreds of millions of their livelihoods for several months. At a time when governments worldwide were significantly increasing public spending to fight the pandemic and mitigate its economic impact, the Indian government preferred to control expenditures (after adjusting for inflation) as its revenues declined.

But in a country where median wages are too low to provide more than the most basic subsistence, losing even a week's income could lead millions to the brink of starvation. Given that more than 90% of all workers in India are informal - without any legal or social protection - and that around half of those are self-employed, the effect was immediate and devastating.

The government's decision not to increase spending aggravated the shock of the lockdown, generating a humanitarian crisis that disproportionately affected women and marginalized groups, including millions of migrant workers who were forced to return home under harrowing conditions.

But the effects of the official response to the pandemic are only one side of the story. COVID-19 safety measures have been a natural fit for the country's still-pervasive caste system, which has long relied on forms of social distancing to enforce the socioeconomic order and protect those at the top. It also further entrenched India's persistent patriarchy.

Instead of taking appropriate countermeasures, like providing greater support to the population, the BJP used the pandemic to consolidate its power and suppress dissent. This, in turn, limited the central government's ability to generate the widespread social consensus and public trust needed to contain the virus.

None of this was inevitable. Even within India's deep-seated social and political constraints, there is scope for a different economic strategy that would enable a just, sustainable, and more equitable recovery. To ensure that most Indians, not just the stock market or large companies, benefit from growth, India's voters must reject the BJP's policies, which threaten to impoverish them further.

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

ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

How Liberian officials are killing Liberian-owned businesses

Just the other day while sitting in my office, one of my staffs walked in with a fellow from the Monrovia City Corporation (MCC). He said he had come from the advertising department of the MCC to measure the length and breadth of our entrance.

When we asked why, he stated that once we imprinted the services we provide on our glass door, that is equivalent to an outdoor advertisement and therefore we should pay certain fees to the Government of Liberia in taxes.

When told that this is not an outdoor billboard but rather the entrance of the very business for which we paid Municipal taxes to MCC, he said that was different.

We then asked if he had seen any commercial printing ongoing in our office, he said no. I told him this is what we endure day in and day out, but yet, men and women from different government agencies march in and out of here every day demanding this or that and it's killing the Liberian businesses-many are folding up because of harassment from government agents.

We further informed him that rather than finding means to improve the viability of local businesses, the government is always finding ways to shut them down.

The reality here is that most Liberian-owned businesses are being drained by the government on multiple fronts with various kinds of taxes. They don't care if those institutions are making money or not-every day is another group of young men and women dressed in weird-looking jackets requesting ridiculous taxes.

Funny enough, the government will collect these different taxes from local businesses but when it comes to spending the very money, they go and transact outside of the country.

Members of the Legislative, Executive and Judiciary branches of government would rather spend the money collected from local businesses through their laundry taxes in other countries-say Ghana or China rather than patronize those who are feeding them with their taxes.

The case is worst for Liberians in the printing industry. Just few weeks ago, the Judiciary spent thousands of United States Dollars of local taxpayers' money in Ghana to print souvenir programs for retiring Chief Justice Francis Korkpor, when there are hundreds of local printing presses here that could do that. The Ghanaian printer who did that job does not pay a dime in terms of taxes to the Liberian Government-it's local printers who do.

The Judiciary is not alone in this. It goes up to the Legislative and Executive Branches as well. The general and presidential elections is just next year. Government officials vying for elective posts will take money taxpayers are feeding and supporting their extravagant lifestyles with to spend it on printing of t-shirts and flyers in Ghana and China; while the local printing businesses here struggle to pay the taxes that feed them when the money is being spent in foreign countries to businesses that pay no taxes here.

The question then is how the government expects the local printing industry and other local businesses to survive when they keep squeezing money out of them to spend in foreign countries. No wonder, the country's economy is experiencing stagnated growth.

There is nowhere a Ghanaian or Nigerian will take contracts meant to empower Ghanaians or Nigerians to a foreign country-only Liberian Government officials do that.

The biggest argument is that of the quality of work. How do they think the Ghanaians' and Nigerians' businesses got to where they are today if their own governments which they feed with their hard-earned monies through taxes had refused to inject those monies into their own economies by patronizing local businesses?

It was sometime in April, this year when President Weah frowned at Liberians for not patronizing Liberian businesses.

The President during a meeting of the National Steering Committee Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) asserted at the time that Liberians were rather going to foreign businesses to buy instead of promoting Liberian-owned businesses. "Our people have goods but no customers, I think we should start promoting our own businesses," President Weah noted.

However, what the President failed to have added to his statement at that meeting was, how do we expect our people to pay their taxes if we are taking everything to Ghana, China, America, and the likes?

O-PED

By Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala

Fixing the Food Trade

GENEVA - Between rising hunger and the prospect of still more supply shortages, dark clouds are hovering over the global food system. Not only has the war in Ukraine limited access to, and raised prices for, food and fertilizer, but extreme weather events are disrupting production, and economic downturns have diminished people's ability to afford adequate and nutritious diets. Climate change is fueling droughts and exacerbating water scarcity, adding to the list of threats facing agricultural production.

Progress in tackling hunger and malnutrition was already stalling before the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, the World Food Program estimates that the number of people facing, or at risk of, acute food insecurity (defined as those who "lack regular access to enough safe and nutritious food for normal growth and development and an active and healthy life") has increased by more than 200 million since 2019. Key global objectives like the second United Nations Sustainable Development Goal - which commits countries to end hunger by 2030, and to improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture - are significantly off track.

Trade is vital for achieving food security, as the World Trade Organization's 164 members emphasized at our 12th ministerial conference (MC12) this past June. Apart from its basic role as a conveyor belt for getting food from where it is abundant to where it is needed, trade supports jobs, livelihoods, and incomes. It is a key factor in the sustainable and efficient use of scarce global resources.

But all too often, international markets for food and agriculture function poorly, owing to problems like trade-distorting subsidies and high levels of protection. In many regions, persistent underinvestment in research, extension services, and market-linking infrastructure has led to low and stagnating agricultural productivity. Crop yields across much of Africa are particularly small, and have not matched the increases achieved in other developing regions.

WTO members have taken some important steps to address these problems. In 2015, they agreed to eliminate agricultural export subsidies - payments that cover the difference between domestic costs and international market prices - which are widely seen to distort production and harm farmers in other countries. The use of such subsidies has fallen dramatically, from almost \$7 billion in 1999 to under \$12 million in 2020. But OECD data show that total public support to the farm sector in 54 advanced economies and 11 major emerging markets reached \$817 billion in 2019-21. And only \$207 billion of that was for general services such as research, training, or payments to consumers.

Other support programs frequently incentivize unsustainable production and consumption patterns and undermine fair competition in global markets. While average tariffs on agricultural products were around 6% in 2020, many countries maintained prohibitively high tariffs on certain products, with peaks reaching 1,000%.

At the beginning of this year, food prices had already reached high levels compared to recent years, and international agencies had begun to warn of growing hunger. Then the war in Ukraine made the situation much worse. Prices spiked to record highs, and WTO monitoring found that many governments responded by restricting food exports, potentially easing strains at home but exacerbating shortages elsewhere in the world.

Against this backdrop, the multilateral cooperation that we saw at MC12 in June was most welcome. WTO members collectively committed to exempt World Food Program humanitarian purchases from export restrictions - saving the agency time and money in providing relief to millions of vulnerable people. They pledged to keep agri-food trade open, and to minimize the trade distortions resulting from emergency measures. And they agreed on a binding accord to curtail \$22 billion in annual public spending on harmful fisheries subsidies, which will contribute to food security and livelihoods by improving the health of marine habitats.

But over the past month, export restrictions on food, feed, and fertilizers have ticked back up, reversing the earlier downward trend. The total number of such measures introduced since February - and still in force - is now up to 52. The WTO is working hard through monitoring, transparency, and jawboning to bring this number down, but it remains a cause of global concern.

Ensuring that trade contributes to a more sustainable and equitable global food system will require greater efforts to align trade, environmental, and food policies. A holistic approach to managing how food is produced, distributed, and consumed is necessary to maintain sufficient supply, address climate and other environmental risks, ensure sustainable land use, and manage scarce water resources. A long-overdue update of the WTO rulebook for agricultural trade is needed more urgently than ever, because we need to create a better incentive framework for investment in the sector.

To find solutions to growing food insecurity, we must expand the dialogue and explore the systemic drivers of the problem. With a stronger evidence base, WTO members will have a better understanding of how trade can be used to the fullest possible extent to enhance access to food for everyone.



Republic of Liberia
Ministry of Public Works
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Country Name: Liberia
Project Name: Monrovia Integrated Development Project/Liberia Urban Resilience Project
Assignment Title: Consulting Service for the Preparation of Detail Design, ESIA & RAP, Bidding Document & Works Supervision

CONSULTING SERVICES (Firm Selection)
Expressions of Interest

The Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Public Works/ Project Management Unit has received financing from Agence Française de Développement ("AFD") and intends to use part of the funds thereof for payments under the Monrovia Integrated Development Project/Liberia Urban Resilience Project.

The Services of the Consultant shall consist of the Preparation of Detail Designs, ESIA & RAP Reports, Tender Documents / Work Packages & Works Supervision. This project has been conceptualized and structured for the improvement of urban livelihood and the construction of climate-resilient infrastructure in three specific designated neighborhoods, Lakpazee, Woodcamp, and Shoes Factory communities; all based upon completed feasibility studies conducted for this project. The study identified the following as key/ top priorities required for the community livelihood upgrading: **drainage facilities, improved roads (with safe designated pedestrian spaces), drinking water facilities, community halls, public spaces development, and public toilets.** The specific objectives of this assignment are to support the PMU to :

- Design Review & Validation: The consultant shall review, verify and validate the proposed interventions, and final proposed project budget for each specific infrastructure and determined their alignment with the overarching project objectives.
- Preparation of Detailed Designs: The consultant shall finalize all project designs including detailed site drawings, maps, and project costs for all proposed project interventions.
- Preparation of Environmental and Social documentation for the project as (but not limited): specific detailed E&S diligences (site-specific impact assessment and mitigation plans)_for each project location / Lot, Resettlement Action Plan and/or Livelihood Restoration Plan for each project location / Lot (depending on the work construction tendering) which includes resettlement, Stakeholder Engagement Plan for the whole project, Gender Action Plan for the whole project (which includes a Gender Based Violence part).
Note, as required by the Liberian regulatory framework, specific E&S diligences must be developed with the involvement of expert(s) locally certified/accredited by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- Implementation of the Resettlement Action Plan and/or Livelihood Restoration Plan. The resettlement process should be achieved before the work construction.
- Procurement Support: With reference to the required procurement template to be provided by the Ministry of Public Works with approval from the AFD, the consultant shall prepare detailed procurement packages based upon recommendations from the Ministry and site-specific requirements. Procurement packages shall be based on location, the scope of works, and applicable technical judgment influenced by specific market conditions. The consultant shall also support the subsequent bid evaluation and contract finalization.
- Construction Supervision: Upon satisfactory completion of design and procurement services and with approval from the Ministry and AFD, the Consultant shall have the option to proceed to provide monitoring and supervision services during works implementation; the consultant shall be responsible to ensure full implementation of the proposed designs and environmental and social mitigation plans in coordination with the PMU/MPW while assuring quality control and safety at all times during the works.

The expected duration of the services to be provided by the Consultant has been provided below:

Part I:
Detail design & Environmental and RAP Report preparation including procurement support services: 32 Weeks / 8 Man Months

Part II:
Construction Supervision Services: reports: 80 Weeks / 20 Man Months
The Ministry of Public Works/ Project Management Unit hereby invites Applicants (Firms) to show their interest in delivering the Services described above.

Eligibility criteria for AFD financing are specified in sub-clause 1.3 of the "Procurement Guidelines for AFD-Financed Contracts in Foreign Countries", available online on AFD's website: <http://www.afd.fr>.

The Applicant shall submit only one application, either in its own name or as a member of a Joint Venture (JV). If an Applicant (including any JV member) submits or participates in more than one application, those applications shall be all rejected. However, the same Subconsultant may participate in several applications.

If the Applicant is a JV, the expression of interest shall include:

- a copy of the JV Agreement entered into by all members,
- or a letter of intent to execute a JV Agreement, signed by all members together with a copy of the Agreement proposal,

In the absence of this document, the other members will be considered as Sub consultants.

The experiences and qualifications of Sub consultants are not taken into account in the evaluation of the applications.

Interested Applicants must provide information evidencing that they are qualified and experienced to perform those Services. For that purpose, documented evidence of recent (over the last ten years) and similar services shall be submitted. Applicants shall prioritize the most relevant experiences and present a maximum of 15 experiences.

Determination of the similarity of the experiences will be based on:

- The contracts size;
- The nature of the Services, including :
 - o Detailed technical studies,
 - o Preparation of bidding documents and procurement support,
 - o Preparation of Environmental and Social Documentation as specified above and consistently with the World Bank standards;
 - o Implementation of the involuntary resettlement process consistently with the World Bank standards;
 - o Works supervision.
- The technical area and expertise, covering :
 - o Design of infrastructural integrated urban upgrading/development projects, including flood risk management and livelihood upgrading;
 - o Environmental & Social assessment and management on World Bank's standards
 - o Involuntary resettlement on World Bank's standards;
 - o Certified expertise by the Liberian Environmental Protection Agency;
 - o Elaboration of Gender analysis and action plan
 - o Works supervision of urban projects including on health- safety- security & environment aspects (HSSE)
- The location : urban context in West Africa

The Client will also take into account for the evaluation of the applications the following items:

- Skills and availability of in-house technical back-up experts provided to the on-site experts
- Local representatives/partners are encouraged;
- Presentation of the following certifications:
 - o ISO 9001 or equivalent;
 - o ISO 14001 or equivalent;
 - o ISO 45001 or equivalent.

Among the submitted applications, the Ministry of Public Works/ Project Management Unit will shortlist a maximum of six (6) Applicants, to whom the Request for Proposals to carry out the Services shall be sent.

Interested Applicants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours from 08:00 AM to 04: 00 PM Liberia time (GMT).

The Expressions of Interest must be submitted to the address below in written form in person, or by mail /courier no later than November 18, 2022, at 2:00 pm local Liberian time along with a completed and signed Statement of Integrity, Eligibility, and Environmental and Social Responsibility which can be downloaded from the following links: www.mpw.gov.lr / www.emansion.gov.lr.

Hon. James Reynolds
Assistant Minister Planning & Programming
Ministry of Public Works
Tel: 0777-004004 / 0778779161
E-mail: midmpw@gmail.com / javensiorey@gmail.com / tmaxsr@yahoo.com

Country Name: Liberia
Project Name: Monrovia Integrated Development Project/Liberia Urban Resilience Project
Assignment Title: Consulting Service for Involuntary Resettlement Audit "South Triangle Site" (Community Corner, Lakpazee)

CONSULTING SERVICES (Individual Consultant)
Expressions of Interest

The Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Public Works/ Project management Unit has received financing from Agence Française de Développement ("AFD") and intends to use part of the funds thereof for payments under the Monrovia Integrated Development Project/Liberia Urban Resilience Project.

The Services of the consultant shall consist of **conducting an Involuntary Resettlement Audit in order to clarify the compliance of the intervention undertaken by the Liberian government on the Community Corner 1 in the Lakpazee site, both from the point of view of the national legislation and the World Bank ESSs, especially the ESS5 "Land acquisition, restrictions on land use and involuntary resettlement".** Consultations with the local population and authorities confirmed that a resettlement/eviction process has indeed been undertaken by the Local government in order to prepare the site for the AFD project.

The Ministry of Public Works/ Project Management Unit hereby invites applicants to show their interest in delivering the Services described above.

The objective of the assignment is to conduct a Resettlement Audit (independent evaluation) on Community Corner 1 in Lakpazee, which shall :

- Through the desk-based review, site visits, and adequate engagement, clarify the resettlement/eviction process that the local authorities have undertaken between April and September 2021.
- Analyze the compliance of this process with: (i) the national legislation and (ii) the Updated RPF (July 2022) prepared for this project, and (ii) the World Bank's ESSs.
- In case of non-conformities, define the actions to be taken for the development of a compliant RAP or LRP. The recommendations can be formalized through a Resettlement Process Compliance Plan.
- To provide a framework for the involuntary resettlement process that will be followed throughout the project (MIDP project activities).

This Request for Expressions of Interest is open to all interested individuals meeting the criteria:

Eligibility criteria for AFD financing are specified in sub-clause 1.3 of the "Procurement Guidelines for AFD-Financed Contracts in Foreign Countries", available online on AFD's website: <http://www.afd.fr>.

Interested Applicants must provide information evidencing that they are qualified and experienced to perform the Services. For that purpose, documented evidence of recent and similar services shall be submitted.

Determination of the similarity of the experiences will be based on:

- The contracts size;
- The nature, type, and role(in case of firms responsibility) of the services performed

For technical area and expertise

- At least 7 years of experience in conducting RAP, LRP, and resettlement audit using World Bank ESSs procedures, especially ESS5, 'Land acquisition, restrictions on land use and involuntary resettlement'
- Demonstratete / provide evidence of strong expertise in public consultation and participatory approach with a gender perspective.
- Expertise in databased and GIS usage ;

- The location

- Good knowledge of the Liberian context and national regulations relating to national legislation, regulations, and practices on resettlement. References in the Country would be an advantage

- The Client will also take into account for the evaluation of the applications the following items:

- BA + 5 (or equivalent) in Social Sciences including Socioeconomics, Socioanthropology, Geography, etc.
- Quality assurance procedures and certifications of the Applicant- ISO 9001 or other relevant environmental and social certification;

An application that does not meet any of these requirements will be rejected.

Among the submitted applications, the Ministry of Public Works/Project Management Unit will shortlist a maximum of six (6) applicants, to whom the Request for Proposals to carry out the Services shall be sent.

Interested applicants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours 08:00 am to 03:00 pm Liberia time (GMT).

The Expressions of Interest must be submitted to the address below in written form in person, or by mail /courier no later than November 15, 2022, at 2:00 pm local Liberian time along with a completed and signed Statement of Integrity, Eligibility, and Environmental and Social Responsibility which can be downloaded from the following links: www.mpw.gov.lr / www.emansion.gov.lr.

Assistant Minister Planning & Programming
Hon. James Reynolds
Ministry of Public Works
Tel: 0777-004004 / 0880523691
E-mail: midmpw@gmail.com / javensiorey@gmail.com / tmaxsr@yahoo.com

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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Police graduate 24 guards for LTC Mobile

By Bridgett Milton

The Liberia National Police Academy (LNPA) after an intensive paramilitary training has graduated 24 officers to protect the Liberia Telecommunication Corporation (LTC Mobile) vital installations across the country. The graduation ceremony held over the weekend saw 22 men and two women officers ready to provide protection for all LTC Mobile properties and facilities, senior managers and

“the role and the responsibility of State security in safeguarding government’s properties”, Gen. Johnson said Liberia is going to elections next year and the role of State security is critical.

He charged the officers to operate under such banner to safeguard critical infrastructure, stressing that the mission of the Liberia Telecommunications Corporation is to connect the entire country to the rest of the world through technology.

Gen. Johnson added that

He said the AFL is constitutionally here to provide strategic support on grounds that all security agencies originated from the Liberia Frontier Force (LFF) now Armed Forces of Liberia then the only security institution here before the formation of the police and other security agencies.

He urged the officers to be loyal to the Constitution and policy of LTC Mobile, adding they should put Liberia first, LTC Mobile second before their respective interests.

He said officers should be straight with their strategy, policy and objectives in order to faithfully discharge their duties, adding that loyalty is not for individual nor bosses, but the institution and the country.

He reflected that at times some people search for jobs for months but when the job is secure then they become reckless, further urging the graduates to be dutiful and committed, noting that excuses should not be the hallmark of the day.

At the same time the Chief of Staff urged management to provide needed materials, equipment, salary and prioritize progression in capacity building via scholarship and advanced training to deserving officers.

Meanwhile, the graduates were happily received by the chairperson of the board of directors of LTC Mobile, Cllr. Alexandra Kormah Zoe, who expressed thanks and appreciation to the Police, the graduates and the Management of LTC Mobile for the intellectual investment.

Editing by Jonathan Browne



Mr. Crain

employees. Serving as keynote speaker during the graduation ceremony at the Liberia National Police Academy in Paynesville City, Armed Forces of Liberia Chief of Staff, Major General Prince Charles Johnson, III, admonished the officers to take their respective roles as critical, as the country gears up for elections in 2023.

Speaking on the theme,

today, everything is automated through the internet, ranging from personal bank accounts to emails, social media connections, while official work is being done through the internet.

The Chief of Staff assured that the Armed Forces of Liberia is prepared to support the newly trained officers of the LTC Mobile through any means necessary.

Vegetables and oil palm producers and merchants agree on climate-smart agriculture

A two-day forum aimed at discussing ways in which producers and sellers of vegetables, oil palm, and palm products can collaborate with the Ministry of Agriculture to improve their productivity has ended in Kakata, Margibi County. The forum took place on October 18 and 19, 2022, and brought together more than

the way forward.

It was organized by the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), through its Smallholder Agriculture Transformation Revitalization and Agribusiness Project (STAR-P). STAR-P is funded by the World Bank and IFAD, and seeks to

develop the rice, oil palm, and vegetable value chains to demonstrate commercial viability.

Making remarks during the forum, the Operation Manager of the STAR project, Stephen Marvie said that over the next few years, farmers and other members of the vegetables and oil palm value chains are expected to benefit greatly from the project.

He named the provision of matching grants, agronomic training in the three value chains, and market creation, among other things as benefits lined up for the 38,000



200 participants from across Liberia who are involved with the two value chains. Climate-smart agriculture that includes best practices and the use of new technologies was decided as

NCHE boss tours Hill City University

-Expresses excitement over the standardized learning environment

By Lincoln G. Peters

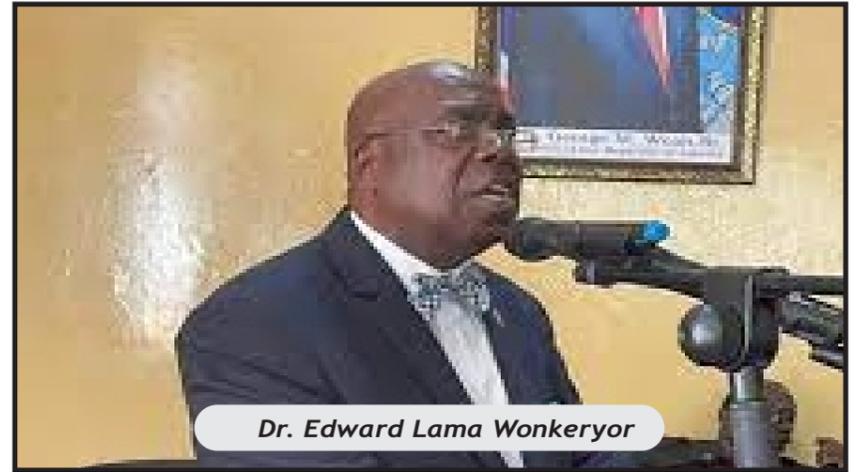
The Director General of the National Commission on Higher Education (NCHE), Dr. Edward Lama Wonkeryor on 21 October 2022 led a higher power delegation to the campuses of Hill City University of Science and Technology-Liberia (HCUST) for an acquaintance visit.

The institution is based in Gbengbahs town, along the main

university's facility.

He further recommended that "with these kinds of modern equipment in your various labs and the way they are set up, you need to have a very good air-conditioning system to keep them at an appreciable temperature to protect your equipment."

For his part, HCUST'S President Dr. Gabriel Rollins thanked the delegation for the visit, and at the same time, promised to maintain



Dr. Edward Lama Wonkeryor

Roberts International Airport (RIA) road in Paynesville.

Dr. Wonkeryor's visit is part of a series of ongoing visits to all fully accredited institutions of higher learning in the country.

It is a means of acquainting himself with happenings and having first-hand updates as to what they are truly involved with and their environment for students.

The DG and his team visited and toured Hill City university's entire facility including Computer and Science Labs, classrooms, and staff offices.

The team expressed satisfaction and praised HCUST for living up to the standard required to run a credible university.

"I'm very impressed with your setups. You can count on NCHE'S support. We will continue to work with you as long as you continue to maintain this high standard," said Dr. Wonkeryor.

"This is exactly how a university should be," Dr. Wonkeryor remarked as he walked through Hill City

and uphold high standards at all times.

"Our university is International... that's the reason we do not joke with high standards. We are not praising ourselves, but among all of the accredited universities in Liberia, HCUST is one of the best this nation can count on."

"Thank God you have seen for yourself today, Dr. Wonkeryor. Our dream for higher education in Liberia is even bigger than what you saw here today," he said.

"You can now be the judge to those making unfunded statements against our university out there," President Rollins noted.

Meanwhile, while at HCUST, the DG and team had the opportunity to interact with the University's staff including two of the institution's new Professors, DR. (Pharm) Oyeniyi Adeyinka James and Prof. Aminu Mohammad Bui from Usmanu Danfodyo University in Sokoto, Nigeria. The pair arrived in the country on October 20, 2022.

beneficiaries that are targeted under the project.

"This forum is convened to inform you about the opportunities that exist at the ministry for smallholder farmers like yourselves, and how you can benefit from them," he said.

"This is also to provide you the opportunity to obtain basic knowledge on various important topics that relate to your farming ventures, and together we can agree on the best way that we can improve the work we do," he continued.

According to him, the project has launched a grant program that ensures finance for beneficiaries

to improve productivity.

The Star Project Manager disclosed that the project is working to boost the production of the various value chains with the use of new and improved technologies.

"For our vegetable value chain, we are working to develop what we consider kitchen gardens. We are exploring all the possibilities of improving vegetable production in Liberia. We are making sure farmers can access better seeds and coaching and ensure that more farmers are knowledgeable about the right use of inputs," he said.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Cummings to address Columbia Africa Conference

The Standard Bearer of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), Mr. Alexander Cummings, is expected to join several United Nations top officials and other executives to address the 19th Annual Columbia Africa Conference slated to start October 28.

The two-days conference which runs from October 28-29, themed "Meeting the

Mr. Cummings will speak to the role of heritage and culture in socioeconomic progress and development. This speaks directly to Mr. Cummings's platform pillar, "Engaging Hearts and Minds" of Liberians. The CPP Standard Bearer believes that properly using our heritage, culture, and other social drivers like arts, sports, religion, national service, and early childhood

African leaders by 2035.

The Chair of the Liquidity and Sustainability Facility, of the UN Economic Commission for Africa, Ms. Vera Songwe, will also serve as keynote speaker. Songwe, who is co-chair of the High-Level Panel on Climate Finance, previously served as Under-Secretary-General at the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. She is a nonresident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, recognized as one of Africa's 100 most influential people in 2020.

Mr. Kuseni Dlamini Chairman of Massmart Holdings, a leading African retail group operating over 400 stores in 13 Sub-Saharan countries will also speak at the two days conference.

Dlamini is also the Chairman of Aspen Pharmacare Holdings Ltd, the leading pharmaceutical manufacturer in the southern hemisphere operating in over 50 countries. He is the Chairman of The American Chamber of Commerce in South Africa and a member of the board of the Southern Africa-Canada Chamber of Commerce.

Together, with this incredible lineup of speakers, the Columbia Africa Conference believes they will be able to "explore how to harness the digital age, Africa's status as a growing economic powerhouse, and our unique and diverse cultures as assets that will drive the entire Continent forward for years to come."

development, we will be able to engage Liberians and change mindsets to build the Liberia we all want and deserve.

The founder of the African Leadership Group, Mr. Fred Swaniker is among keynote speakers.

Swaniker, credited with over 15 years' experience and founder of the African Leadership Group seeks for better African leadership and develop a new era of ethical entrepreneurial leaders for Africa.

He has committed to help transform Africa by developing three million



CPP Cummings

Moment," will focus on how Africa and Africans can seize and use the moment for the benefit of the continent.

The CPP Standard Bearer, Mr. Cummings, selected among several African Executives and leaders, is the Founder and Chairman of Cummings Investments Holdings, Ltd. Cummings, a highly recognized businessman, politician and philanthropist, is also the Founder and Chairman of the Cummings Africa Foundation and Standard Bearer of one of the leading oppositions Collaborating Political Parties.

Police in Bong sell rice for LRD2,300

By Thomas Domah, from Bong county

Police in Gbarnga, Bong County have arrested several 25kg bags of rice and put them on sale for 2,300 Liberian Dollars or an equivalent of US\$13.50 per bag, the official price here.

The rice in huge quantity from stores and business owners was confiscated by Police in Gbarnga after being sold for 6,000 Liberian Dollars or US\$40.00 per bag, while a cup of rice was sold for 100 Liberian Dollars, respectively.

Police sources told The NEW DAWN that since rice scarcity hit the market in the country, local business owners in Gbarnga, Bong County have been selling a 25kg bag of rice for Five to Six Thousand Liberian Dollars.

At the same time in

adjacent Nimba county, a 25kg bag of rice is being sold between 5,000 and 8,000 Liberian Dollars.

In the commercial hub of Ganta, a bag of rice is sold for 5,000 Liberian Dollars, while in Tappita, Sanniquillie, Karnplay and Saclepea, few business owners, who have small quantity of the nation's

staple are now selling each bag for 8,000 Liberian Dollars and above, a situation that is creating panic among residents.

Meanwhile, Guinean nationals, who have been seen transporting huge quantity of rice from Liberia via Ganta, are now returning such food to Liberia and selling it



Liberia National Police

Starts from back page Police charge woman with

evening, so we laughed with it, but later, confusion broke up between our brother and his wife that same day."

The male relative added that the conflict between the couple ensued after their late brother accused his wife of involvement in extra-marital affairs with someone in the community.

He said following the allegation, he told the late Williams that it wasn't the reason why he came to visit his home, and later asked the deceased to exercise patience and forget about whatsoever misunderstanding they might have had.

But the relative alleged that his younger brother later said he won't listen to even Jesus Christ from heaven because the situation has been a total embarrassment to their relationship.

The relative continued that after constant appeals to the deceased, he and his wife left the couple because the late Williams maintained that he had endured lots of frustrations from now Suspect Diabeh.

"...this woman just feels she gets plenty body, but I will show her myself", the late Williams was quoted to have said.

"So, the both of them began the fight, passing behind their house and started throwing rocks. But when I was going there, I left my touchscreen [mobile phone] behind and took another road; when I was leaving, I used a parable, saying since both parties did not want

to agree hmmm, I hope you guys shouldn't turn things different", the relative narrates.

According to him, Suspect Diabeh then passed behind the house and remarked to the late Williams, 'The rocks you have thrown on me, since today you been throwing rocks at me; myself too I will hold something on you o-o-o.'

"So, Josephine went and [held] my brother's private parts, before I reached there, things fall apart; no way, then my brother was throwing his hand up. If you say Zambia, then he can say who's calling?"

The relative notes that the next morning, which was on Friday, he received call from Pleebo that the late Williams' condition wasn't encouraging so he was rushed to Pleebo health center the same day because the incident happened on Thursday, 18th October at about 8:15 PM.

He says the deceased was diagnosed with several body pains, including torture of his private parts and his entire spinal cord broken.

The relative explains that while at the Pleebo Health Center, the deceased was referred to JJ Dossen Memorial Referral Hospital in Harper City, where he was pronounced dead by health workers.

The late Williams and his widow had eight children prior to the domestic violence that led to his sudden death. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Solve Liberia's myriad of problems'

explore -- be daring. You can make [a] difference," he stated.

He noted that the graduates have the power to effect change, saying they should not say, "I'm afraid to fail."

"Those who face challenges, learn to innovate and stay afloat. This is the secret of my success as a businessperson. Know this: Liberia needs people who will not seek the easy way out, but those

who will dare to drive change amid uncertainty," he added.

He said the Liberia the graduates see today did not just happen, adding that his outgoing generation worked hard to bring it this far.

Jeety indicated that now it's the graduates' turn and that no matter what, they have to face these challenges but do so with unwavering dedication.

exorbitantly.

Some Guinean business people are crossing to Liberia with huge consignment of 50 kilograms bag of rice and selling them for 9,000 Liberian Dollars per bag.

In Karnplay City, Nimba county, several residents have been wounded, while fighting one another to buy cassava from local farmers due to shortage of rice in the market.

Rice dubbed as a political commodity in Liberia, is scarce, leading to hike in price.

President George Manneh Weah has appointed a Rice Stabilization Taskforce to address the prevailing shortage of the nation's staple and recommend a way forward in the West African State endowed with rich soil for agriculture but does not feed itself. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

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Français

TRH mise sur une liste de surveillance de fraude fiscale, blanchiment d'argent et financement du terrorisme

La société TRH Trading Corporation, une société d'import-export libanaise qui jouit de la protection du gouvernement libérien, a été placée sur une liste de surveillance avec quatre autres entreprises libanaises par le gouvernement américain pour évasion fiscale, blanchiment d'argent et financement de terrorisme, a appris le New

américaines.

Certaines sociétés minières qui opèrent dans les régions de l'ouest et du nord du pays sont également surveillées. Elles sont aussi soupçonnées de blanchiment d'argent, de financement du terrorisme et d'avoir des liens avec des responsables gouvernementaux corrompus.

La TRH, un conglomérat du groupe AJA, a récemment été sous les projecteurs à la suite

se fait au port à partir des factures et des connaissements, sans passer par la moindre inspection physique. Ces privilèges singuliers seraient dus apparemment à d'autres raisons que nous ignorons, mais ce qu'il faut retenir c'est qu'elle importe aussi du « Pro-Poor Rice ».

Le lundi 17 octobre 2022, en dépit de la découverte d'une grande quantité de

Éditorial

Le groupe de travail sur le riz est un comité mort-né

Le nouveau groupe de travail sur la stabilisation du riz mis en place par le Président George Manneh Weah n'est rien d'autre qu'un coup de publicité clair, d'autant plus que les ministères et les agences qui sont à la base de l'échec de l'économie et de la souffrance du peuple sont les mêmes que le président a choisis pour, selon lui, s'attaquer à la crise du riz.

Il est tout à fait incompréhensible que le président Weah s'attende à ce que les ministères de l'agriculture, du commerce et de l'industrie, qui sont visiblement très éloignés de la question du riz dans le pays, soient ceux qui apportent des solutions. En ce qui concerne le ministère des Finances et de la Planification du développement, n'en parlons même pas, car il n'a pas encore totalement rendu compte des 5 millions de dollars américains qu'a approuvés le parlement pour subventionner l'importation du riz dans le pays.

C'est aussi le cas pour les autres membres du groupe de travail, à savoir le ministre d'État chargé des affaires présidentielles et le conseiller économique du président. Ces derniers se sont montrés incapables de conseiller et d'informer le Président convenablement sur la pénurie du riz au point qu'à son retour de New York où il a pris part à la 77e Assemblée générale de l'ONU, le dirigeant libérien a rejeté la nouvelle de la rareté de l'aliment de base national, la traitant de simples rumeurs de rues.

Pourtant, en réalité les entrepôts des principaux importateurs au port de Monrovia étaient pratiquement vides, tandis que le ministère de la Justice, qui fait également partie de la Taskforce, était resté bras croisés pendant que le peu d'importateurs insatiables qui avaient du riz exploitaient et maltraitaient les Libériens en les forçant d'acheter d'autres marchandises totalement contre leur gré, ne serait-ce pour pouvoir acheter un sac de riz de 25 kg.

Ces institutions étaient pourtant censées résoudre la crise du riz en stabilisant les prix, en garantissant une disponibilité constante de l'approvisionnement et en conseillant le président Weah sur la voie à suivre en ce qui concerne cet aliment de base que nous sommes toujours incapables de cultiver pour assurer notre auto-suffisance alimentaire.

Pour nous, le président est en train de mettre des piquets ronds dans des trous carrés. Tout cela s'effondrera dans un cercle vicieux et on finira par se retrouver là où nous étions, sans une alternative durable pour résoudre le problème du riz au Libéria. Certes, les quelques mois à venir, nous aurons du riz en abondance, d'autant plus que ce régime qui cherche à être réélu, procèdera à une politique du riz qui consistera à importer énormément du soi-disant « Pro-Poor Rice » pour le distribuer gratuitement aux citoyens affamés et créer un faux sentiment d'auto-suffisance afin de solliciter, en retour, leurs votes. Ce sera en réalité une solution cosmétique à court terme.

Si les plus de 30 millions de dollars américains alloués chaque année par le gouvernement pour subventionner l'importation de riz n'ont pas résolu le problème du riz qui afflige notre pays, ce n'est pas ce groupe de travail, qui n'est rien d'autre que de vieux chœurs en robes neuves, qui y arrivera.

Tous les présidents libériens précédents n'ont pris des mesures pratiques pour promouvoir l'agriculture, en particulier la production des denrées alimentaires au Libéria. Ils ont gardé les citoyens dans l'illusion qu'il vaut mieux survivre avec du riz importé que d'investir dans le riche sol du pays.

Au pouvoir depuis cinq ans, le président Weah n'a pas encore montré le bon exemple en cultivant personnellement un champ pour que ces fonctionnaires et la population fassent de même, afin que le Libéria soit autosuffisant en matière de nourriture.



Dawn.

La société TRH Trading Corporation et les quatre autres entreprises libanaises qui n'ont pas encore été nommées sont soupçonnées de financer le terrorisme et d'avoir des liens étroits avec des responsables gouvernementaux corrompus. Elles risquent de faire l'objet des sanctions

d'une importante saisie de drogue dans l'un de ses entrepôts à Topoe Village, le long de l'autoroute du Japon.

La société, qui a des liens étroits avec certains hauts fonctionnaires corrompus, jouit de privilèges lâches en ce qui concerne ses relations commerciales. TRH/AJA est l'une des sociétés privilégiées dont le dédouanement des conteneurs

cocaïne d'une valeur marchande de 100 millions de dollars américains dans ses entrepôts, les conteneurs de l'entreprises n'ont pas été inspectés physiquement. Le dédouanement s'est fait uniquement sur la base des factures et des connaissements. Et ce qui est

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Au procès de Kunti Kamara, l'importance capitale des témoins venus du Libéria

Une quinzaine de personnes ont accepté de venir témoigner au procès de l'ancien chef rebelle, jugé devant la cour d'assises de Paris pour « actes de torture » et « complicité de crimes contre l'humanité ».

Les témoignages se succèdent à la cour d'assises de Paris. Vendredi 21 octobre, au 10e jour du procès de Kunti Kamara, ancien chef rebelle libérien accusé notamment d'« actes de torture » et de « complicité de crimes contre l'humanité », c'est un autre « commandant officer » du Mouvement uni de libération du Libéria pour la démocratie (Ulimo) qui s'est présenté à la barre. Actuellement incarcéré en Suisse, Alieu Kosiah est le premier chef rebelle reconnu coupable de crimes commis lors de la première guerre civile au

Libéria (1989-1996). En juin 2021, cet homme à la carrure massive et à la voix forte a été condamné par la justice helvétique à vingt ans de prison pour « traitements inhumains », et pour avoir ordonné ou directement participé à la mort de 19

personnes, dont 17 civils.

L'ironie veut que ce sont des déclarations d'Alieu Kosiah aux enquêteurs suisses qui ont permis de retrouver son ami Kunti Kamara, réfugié aux Pays-Bas, puis en Belgique, et finalement arrêté en 2018 à

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Français

TRH mise sur une liste de surveillance de fraude

encore louche, c'est que TRH paie beaucoup moins sur ses droits d'importation que ses concurrents.

Ce quotidien a également appris qu'à cause de l'avantage injuste dont bénéficie le groupe AJA, d'autres entreprises se sont effondrées, tandis que certaines se débattent et trouvent d'autres moyens pour se diversifier.

TRH/AJA, dans la période la plus récente, a fait dédouaner deux containers sans inspection. Ils utilisent simplement la facture et le connaissance. C'est de cette façon que la drogue est importée dans le pays.

Le groupe TRH / AJA bénéficie également d'autres privilèges spéciaux dans le cadre de ce régime en matière de taxation et de dédouanement auprès de l'Autorité portuaire nationale, ce que même les entreprises libériennes en difficulté se voient refuser ici.

Des documents dont a eu possession ce quotidien montrent que pour les mêmes produits, à savoir les œufs, TRH paye beaucoup moins de frais de douane que ses concurrents.

Par exemple, le 27 janvier 2022, Supply West Africa Traders (SWAT) a importé un lot d'œufs d'une valeur estimée à 7 217,01 dollars américains. Le 1er avril 2022, Venus Corporation a importé une quantité similaire et a payé au total 8 270,84 USD de taxes. Le SWAT a payé en juin 10 880,91 dollars américains pour le même produit. Le 13 avril 2022, EID Supply Center a

importé des œufs en quantité similaire et a été facturé 7 746,98 \$ US. Le 25 février 2022, TRH Trading Corporation a importé une quantité d'œufs similaire à celle des importateurs précédents, mais n'a payé que 2 012,55 \$ US de taxes. Dans la plupart des cas, les expéditions des groupes TRH/AJA ne passent pas par les mêmes processus de dédouanement que les autres importateurs.

La disparité

L'Autorité fiscale libérienne (LRA), dans une communication repérée par ce quotidien lors d'une enquête, a défendu la disparité en disant que TRH participe au programme Compliant Trader (CTP).

Dans la communication signée par Kaihenneh Sengbeh, la LRA a déclaré que le contrôle a posteriori (PCA) est un outil universel de facilitation des échanges. Cela permet aux importateurs relativement conformes d'accéder à un dédouanement rapide sous réserve d'un examen après le dédouanement des marchandises.

La LRA a également affirmé que les résultats de l'examen établissent des questions purement techniques relatives à l'évaluation dans le cadre de l'Accord général sur les tarifs douaniers et le commerce (GATT) et que cela n'a rien à voir avec la fraude.

Le mardi 11 octobre, ce journal a été informé par des sources dignes de foi que la Financial Intelligence Agency a gelé les comptes de la TRH et de ses propriétaires dans le cadre d'une enquête en cours pour fraude et blanchiment d'argent.

Au procès de Kunti Kamara, l'importance

Bobigny alors qu'il s'apprêtait à partir en autocar pour le Portugal sous une fausse identité. Cette arrestation en Seine-Saint-Denis lui vaut d'être jugé au nom de la « compétence universelle », qui permet de comparaître pour des crimes graves, où qu'ils

aient été commis dès lors que le suspect est arrêté sur le territoire français. « C'est bien moi qui l'ai mis dans le pétrin. J'ai dit "demandez à Kunti, il est en Hollande" », a reconnu Aliou Kosiah, 47 ans, dont le procès en appel est prévu au début de 2023.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Jayati Ghosh

La catastrophe économique que l'Inde s'est infligée à elle-même

NEW DELHI - Près de 80% des quelque 70 millions de personnes dans le monde qui sont tombées dans la pauvreté extrême au début de la COVID-19 en 2020 étaient originaires d'Inde, selon un récent rapport de la Banque mondiale. Aussi choquant que cela puisse paraître, ce chiffre n'est peut-être qu'une sous-estimation, car le manque de données officielles complique l'évaluation des coûts humains de la pandémie.

Comment expliquer cette montée inquiétante de la pauvreté en Inde ? La COVID-19 a sans aucun doute été la pire calamité sanitaire de l'Inde depuis au moins un siècle. Mais les conséquences économiques et sociales de la pandémie vont au-delà des effets directs sur la santé et la mortalité. Comme je le soutiens dans mon dernier livre, *The Making of a catastrophe: The Disastrous Economic Fallout of the COVID-19 Pandemic in India*, des échecs politiques très significatifs - dus à l'action et à l'inaction des pouvoirs publics - ont été responsables de dommages considérables et généralisés à l'encontre des moyens de subsistance indiens et du déclin national selon de nombreux indicateurs de base du bien-être économique.

Ce jugement peut sembler excessivement sévère. Après tout, le gouvernement indien n'a pas provoqué la pandémie et de nombreux autres pays ont connu des revers économiques suite à leur échec à contenir le virus. Mais l'impact dévastateur de la pandémie sur l'Inde a été aggravé par des politiques économiques qui ont reflété des inégalités profondément ancrées dans le pays.

Certes la pandémie n'a pas créé les nombreuses vulnérabilités économiques de l'Inde. Mais elle a mis en lumière les nombreuses fissures et lignes de fracture sociétales de l'Inde. En outre, bien que le pays ait déjà souffert d'inégalités flagrantes de revenus, de richesses et d'opportunités bien avant la COVID-19, la réponse du gouvernement à la pandémie les a poussées à des extrêmes inimaginables.

Alors même que les travailleurs indiens étaient confrontés à la pauvreté, à la faim et à une insécurité matérielle de plus en plus grande en raison de la pandémie, l'argent et les ressources continuaient de circuler des pauvres et de la classe moyenne vers les plus grandes entreprises et les individus les plus riches du pays. Les inégalités éventuellement conjointes de caste, de genre, de religion et de statut migratoire sont devenues de plus en plus marquées et de plus en plus oppressives. Le résultat a été un revers majeur pour le progrès social et économique.

La triste situation reflète les priorités de la réponse du parti au pouvoir, le Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Au début de la pandémie, le gouvernement central a imposé un confinement national prolongé, sans avis préalable. Il a ensuite adopté des stratégies de confinement clairement inadaptées au contexte indien, avec des effets immédiatement dévastateurs sur l'emploi et les moyens de subsistance.

Au lieu d'utiliser la marge de manœuvre fournie par le confinement pour renforcer les systèmes de santé locaux, le gouvernement central a

laissé les autorités de l'État gérer la crise le mieux possible en dépit de ressources minimales et inadéquates. Lorsque le désastre économique qui en a résulté a menacé de devenir incontrôlable, le gouvernement a assoupli les restrictions visant à « déverrouiller » l'économie, alors même que le nombre de cas a augmenté, en mettant ainsi plus de personnes en danger.

Mais au cœur de la catastrophe économique que l'Inde s'est infligée à elle-même se trouve la décision du gouvernement de fournir très peu d'indemnités ou de protection sociale, alors même que les confinements contre la COVID-19 ont privé des centaines de millions de gens de leurs moyens de subsistance pendant plusieurs mois. À une époque où les gouvernements du monde entier augmentaient considérablement les dépenses publiques pour lutter contre la pandémie et atténuer son impact économique, le gouvernement indien a préféré contrôler les dépenses (après correction pour inflation) à mesure que ses recettes diminuaient.

Mais dans un pays où les salaires médians sont trop bas pour fournir plus que la subsistance la plus élémentaire, perdre même une semaine de revenus a pu conduire des millions de personnes au bord de la famine. Étant donné que plus de 90 % de tous les travailleurs en Inde sont informels - sans aucune protection juridique ou sociale - et qu'environ la moitié d'entre eux sont des travailleurs indépendants, l'effet a été immédiat et dévastateur.

La décision du gouvernement de ne pas augmenter les dépenses a aggravé le choc du confinement, ce qui a produit ainsi une crise humanitaire qui a affecté de manière disproportionnée les femmes et les groupes marginalisés, notamment des millions de travailleurs migrants qui ont été contraints de retourner dans leur pays d'origine dans des conditions difficiles.

Mais les effets de la réponse officielle à la pandémie ne sont qu'un aspect de l'histoire. Les mesures de sécurité de la COVID-19 ont naturellement été adaptées au système de castes qui est toujours omniprésent du pays et qui s'appuie depuis longtemps sur des formes de distanciation sociale pour faire respecter l'ordre socio-économique et protéger ceux qui sont au sommet. Elle a également ancré davantage le patriarcat persistant de l'Inde.

Au lieu de prendre des contre-mesures appropriées, par exemple en fournissant un plus grand soutien à la population, le BJP a utilisé la pandémie pour consolider son pouvoir et pour supprimer la dissidence. Cela a par la suite limité la capacité du gouvernement central à produire le consensus social et la confiance publique nécessaires pour contenir le virus.

Rien de tout cela n'était inévitable. Même au sein des contraintes sociales et politiques profondes de l'Inde, il est possible d'adopter une stratégie économique différente, qui permette une relance économique juste, durable et plus équitable. Pour s'assurer que la plupart des Indiens (pas seulement la Bourse ou les grandes entreprises) bénéficient de la croissance, les électeurs indiens doivent rejeter les politiques du BJP, qui menacent de les appauvrir davantage.

Jayati Ghosh, professeur d'économie à l'Université de Massachusetts Amherst, membre du Conseil consultatif de haut niveau du Secrétaire général de l'ONU sur un multilatéralisme efficace.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Position: Workshop Manager
Number needed: One (1)
Duty Station: Grand Kru County
Category: Local
Application Deadline: November 30, 2022

General Scope of Work/Duties:

Candidate must be skilled as Mechanical Engineering and has a leadership to coordinated in order to complete the jobs received within the allocated time frame, quality parameters, class requirements and budgeted cost. Will be fully responsible for all related activities pertaining to testing, pre-commissioning and commissioning of equipment and machinery.

Duties and Responsibilities:

1. To ensure that the activities of the workshop are well coordinated in order to complete the jobs received within the allocated time frame, quality parameters, class requirements and budgeted cost.
2. To coordinate all related activities pertaining to testing, pre-commissioning and commissioning of equipment and machinery.
3. To develop and implement a system to ensure regular maintenance service for the machinery and for breakdown related activities.
4. Manage the inventory reservation of spares parts for trucks, vehicles & equipment's in coordination with the Sr. Manager Transport & Workshop and Farm Manager, in order to ensure an adequate supply of spares.
5. Provide recommendations for lowering vehicle-operating expenses and reduce idle time of vehicles.
6. Plan, organize and manage the work of subordinate staff to ensure that the work is accomplished in a manner consistent with organizational requirements
7. Direct investigations to verify and resolve customer complaints.
8. Serve as contact persons for all workers within assigned territories
9. Collaborate with other managers and staff members in order to formulate and implement policies, procedures, goals, and objectives.
10. Monitor operations to ensure that staff members comply with administrative policies and procedures, safety rules, union contracts, and government regulations.
11. Planning, developing, training and empowering existing downline human resources to take on additional and higher responsibilities.
12. Promote safe work activities by conducting safety audits, attending company safety meetings, and meeting with individual staff members.
13. Develop criteria, application instructions, procedural manuals, and contracts for federal and state public transportation programs.
14. Analyze expenditures and other financial information in order to develop plans, policies, and budgets for increasing profits and improving services.
15. Direct and coordinate, through subordinates, activities of operations department in order to obtain use of equipment, facilities, and human resources.
16. Conduct investigations to determine causes of transportation accidents and to improve safety procedures.
17. Confidentiality of department data and proceedings must be maintained at all times. Revealing such details to third party regardless of who they are is a serious offence.
18. Recommend or authorize capital expenditures for acquisition of new equipment or property in order to increase efficiency and services of operations department.
19. Conduct employee training sessions on subjects such as hazardous material handling, employee orientation, quality improvement and computer use.
20. Ensure compliance with Safety, HSE, PPE systems and processes and to aim at Zero accidents
21. Provide administrative and technical assistance to those receiving workshop related grants.
22. Develop indigenous technical and managerial cadre to be responsible for key operations and functions in the company and ensure capable management succession plan and effective employee development training and development programs



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Golden Veroleum (Liberia) Inc. (GVL) is an Oil Palm Company operating in Southeastern Liberia. The Company has an exciting opportunity for Operation to join our Sinoe & Grand Kru County Team.

Position: Geographic Information System Manager
Number needed: One (1)
Duty Station: Sinoe & Grand Kru County
Category: Local
Application Deadline: November 30, 2022

General Scope of Work/Duties:

Candidate must be skilled as Geographical Engineering knowledge and leadership to coordinated in order to complete the jobs received within the allocated time frame, quality parameters, class requirements and budgeted cost. Will be fully responsible for all related activities within the high quality and accuracy.

Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Responsible for providing any thematic Plantation and Operational spatial data either visual map or attributes
2. Training and share knowledge for GIS workspace either field training or software training
3. Responsible for processing Land Preparation such as: Blocking, Stacking, Lining
4. Responsible for Collecting and database management Estate Assets (Drainage, Bridge, Culvert, Low Land, etc)
5. Actively involved and support with the Operational department
6. Ensure the updating with the main Corporate
7. Updating the Areal Statement
8. Planning and preparing the yearly update for Drone Project
9. Produce all aspects needed from operational into geographical data within fully attributed and scaled
10. Responsible either in GIS Technical or GIS analyst
11. Providing and keeping update for mobile version maps
12. Continuous improvement in GIS development which applicable for operational
13. Any other duties delegated by the Regional Controller or inline senior management .
14. Confidentiality of department data and proceedings must be maintained at all times. Revealing such details to third party regardless of who they are is a serious offence.
15. Recommend or authorize capital expenditures for acquisition of new equipment or property in order to increase efficiency and services of operations department.
16. Conduct employee training sessions on subjects such as hazardous material handling, employee orientation, quality improvement and computer use.
17. Ensure compliance with Safety, HSE, PPE systems and processes and to aim at Zero accidents
18. Provide administrative and technical assistance to those receiving workshop related grants.
19. Develop indigenous technical and managerial cadre to be responsible for key operations and functions in the company and ensure capable management succession plan and effective employee development training and development programs

Education

Bachelor of Geographic or Geodesy Engineering from preferable university degree. Technical Certificate is an advantage.

Experience/Competencies/Skills:

- Must have 5+ yrs. experience in GIS Analyst & Technician. Preferably working experience using software & Drone.
- Proven experience use GIS Software (Global Mapper, ArcGIS, AutoCad, BaseCamp) and GIS Hardware (Total Solution, GPS Geodetic, Basic Survey Equipment).
- Ability to analyze technical faults and setup solution.
- Strong ability and knowledge of leading team.
- Ability to follow established procedures and practices and read instruction
- A strong commitment to all health and safety guidelines
- Very good communication skills

PPCC rejects

By Othello B. Garblah

The Public Procurement Concession Commission (PPCC) has rejected National Elections Commission (NEC) request for a “no objection” to award Ekemp’s joint venture contract for the Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) process here. NEC on October 19, 2022, wrote PPCC seeking an approval to award the joint venture of Ekemp/Palm Insurance/ INITS contract for the supply and delivery of BVR equipment, software and materials for the 2023 presidential and legislative elections. But PPCC wrote back on Friday October 21, that it cannot render “no objection” to NEC’s request urging the election house to revert to the remaining bidders and select a company that would be most suitable. “That the PPCC cannot render

September 9, 2022, PPCC wrote NEC demanding the latter to reinstate bidders to do a re-demonstration of the biometric enrolment and deduplication process and that such exercise be video recorded. PPCC made the request after NEC forwarded to it on September 2, 2022, the joint venture of Ekemp as presumed winner of its July 29 bid, which was completed on August 26 and signed by members of the bid panel. On October 19, NEC submitted supplementary documents to the PPCC which included a cover letter, re-evaluation report, USB stick containing video recordings and PowerPoint presentations of redemonstration by bidders, procurement committee minutes and other related documents as demanded on September 9.

Card on the spot, conduct reduplication and display activities on the screen for panel members and observers to view. However, PPCC explained that during reviews of the video recording submitted by NEC and NEC’s own re-evaluation report showed malfunctioning of Ekemp’s equipment that is used for printing a key performance instrument (the PVC card). Ekemp did not print the PVC card on the spot as was required and did not print within the NEC time allotted. PPCC also noted that NEC accepted Ekemp’s late printing to form part of the evaluation. PPC also frowned on the recommendation made on Ekemp’s financial capabilities, saying it does not support Ekemp’s capacity to prefinance as declared. Therefore, PPCC insists that the inability Ekemp joint venture group to print the PVC card on

registration period. The procurement house continued that a material failure in the functionality of a bidder’s Biometric Equipment that is required to print a registrant on spot must be taken into serious consideration by NEC for such could be a potential high risk for the upcoming first BVR for Liberia. PPCC further that NEC should not have even consider Ekemp as the most responsive bidder due to its failure to print the PVC card on spot. Ekemp’s failure explained The Ekemp joint venture on October 7, wrote NEC explaining the cause for the delay in demonstrating the printing of its PVC card on spot, saying it was in the process of printing when one of the panelists ask that the printing should be projected on the screen for all to see. Ekemp argued the process of migrating the demonstration caused the delay in printing. While NEC bid panelists were in the process of reviewing Ekemp’s complaint of being the only bidder

NEC evaluation panel admitted to but that it was done in good faith. They further noted that EKEMP completed the printing process outside of the allotted time, but as per the court action filed by EKEMP, the cards were accepted to form part of the report. The Supreme Court in a conference ruling noted that the fact that Ekemp did complete the enrolment process and printing of cards during the said redemonstration, its performance be accepted by NEC and form part of the Bid Evaluation Panel’s evaluation. However, the PPCC rejection failed to mention the Supreme Court’s intervention. This paper gathered that the committee also observed that not only the Software that is customized to NEC needs but also the equipment (tablet) is also designed to satisfy the full requirement in the bid document (a tablet with two fingerprint scanners). LEON’s observation The Liberia Elections Observation Network (LEON) on the NEC, PPCC, and the Requirement for Documentation for Bid Processes noted: “As stated herein earlier, the basis of this second tender presentation was because of the PPCC’s request that NEC furnishes it with additional documentation including video evidence of presentations supporting NEC’s award to Ekemp International. Whilst the PPCA at section 43(8) gives the PPCC the authority to inspect the records and documents maintained by procuring entities, the Act is unclear as to whether the PPCC on its own and without a third-party’s complaint, can outrightly reject an Entity’s no objection request based on “insufficient documentation,” more specifically “video documentation.” LEON proposes that in the future, and to avoid opening procuring entities such as NEC up to court processes by dissatisfied bidders, the PPCC and procuring entities sit on agreeable frameworks of documentation for competitive bidding processes prior to publication of tenders especially those of the international competitive kind considering the sums and technical expertise involved.



Atty. Roseline Nagbe Kowo

“no objection” for NEC to award contract to Ekemp/Palm Insurance /INITS (JV),” PPCC noted in its letter dated October 21, 2022. “That the NEC should immediately revert to expeditiously review the remaining companies and select a company that would be most suitable for the supply of Biometric Voter Registration Equipment, Software and Materials for the 2023 presidential and legislative elections and subsequently exercise procedures under PPCA Section 31 as required,” the PPCC added. This is the second rejection of NEC’s request by the PPCC in less than two months to render a “no objection” in its effort to contract a company ahead of the BVR process here as the election timetable draws closer. It could be recalled that on

Cause for second rejection PPCC noted that per the NEC re-evaluation report, vendors were required during the redemonstration process to perform data entry for a potential registrant, print PVC

spot as required by NEC and within time, showed uncertainty on the usage of its equipment and raises doubts on the effective workability for the issuance of a printed PVC card to a registrant during the voter

to have been subjected to such treatment, Ekemp to the matter before the Supreme Court. EKEMP had filed a prohibition against the NEC evaluation panel for the unwarranted interruption. Something which sources say the

Solve Liberia’s myriad of problems’

By Winston W. Parley

Former Indian Honorary Consul General in Liberia Mr. Upjit Singh Sachdeva has challenged BlueCrest University College graduates to begin to research, analyze and create digital solutions or software to solve the myriad of problems besetting Liberia. Serving as convocation speaker during the ceremony held in Congo Town Saturday, 22 October 2022, Mr. Sachdeva challenged the graduates to organize themselves into

businesses. The founder and Chief Executive Officer of Jeety Trading Corporation urged the graduates to each bring a different piece of the technological puzzle, to begin to research, analyze and create digital solutions or software to solve the myriad of problems besetting Liberia. Mr. Sachdeva, popularly known as Mr. Jeety, suggested that if you look at the history of developed societies today, you will notice that it is the people, their businesses, and their struggles that have allowed

these societies and countries to rise and are now called the first world. “Countries, like Liberia today, were all up against formidable odds. But they dared to think critically and creatively, took on the challenge, and turned them into opportunities,” he said. Quite frankly, said Mr. Jeety, Liberia is behind the technology revolution. That is why he said he was excited to be at the graduation exercise to celebrate the graduates that have taken a bold step to venture into a career area that is most needed in Liberia at

this time. “At this incredibly young age, it is not lost on me that you would have fears about venturing into entrepreneurship. I understand,” Mr. Jeety told the graduates. “Your fear is not misplaced, especially at a time when Liberia and the rest of the world are more volatile, and uncertain,” he said. However, the Indian philanthropist cautioned the graduates to not let their fear paralyze them into doing nothing. “You have acquired the knowledge and have the ability, so

Police charge woman with Manslaughter -in husband's death



Suspect Josephine Diabeh (Center) being transported to court

incarcerated on Monday, October 18, 2022, following preliminary investigation over the gruesome death of Mr. Williams.

The late Nathaniel Zambia Williams was a former security for Orange Tower in Pleebo, Maryland county.

Meanwhile, since the suspicious death, there have been controversies over the incident, characterized by fear among community members.

After the death of Mr. Williams, a close relative revealed that Ms. Diabeh and their junior brother were involved in a serious fight, which they alleged resulted to him being hospitalized followed by his demise on October 18th.

Some relatives narrated that the widow has allegedly been in a constant habit of beating on their brother.

One relative narrates: "Thank you very much; I came from River Gee County Gbepo Karweaken, this gone Thursday and I got at the home during the afternoon and I was given kola. But following the kola ceremony, because they can't give kola to people in the

Police have charged a woman suspected for the death of her 43-year-old husband after a fistfight in Pleebo, Electoral District#2, Maryland county in southeast Liberia with Manslaughter and forwarded her to court.

Suspect Josephine Diabeh was charged on Friday, October 21, 2022 following investigation by chief investigator Jimmie Kaydor of

the Liberia National Police Crime Services Department in Pleebo.

She is currently at the Pleebo Magisterial Court following the charge in accordance with Article 14.2 of the Penal Law of Liberia, after a fistfight with her husband, the late Nathaniel Zambia Williams, 43, resulting to his death.

The 35-year-old suspect was arrested and

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