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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 05, 2023	L\$153.7199/US\$1.00	L\$155.4024US\$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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PYJ hiding from sanction



-Nimbaians say

Sen. Johnson endorses Sen. Koung

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Yello SANTA

Continental News

Somalia President's Declaration on Security Attracts Mixed Reactions

MOGADISHU, SOMALIA — Somalia's President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, in his New Year's Day speech Sunday, declared the country will eliminate al-Shabab Islamist militants this year. Mohamud's all-out war

recent success against al-Shabab, achieved with the help of allied local militia in central Somalia, has attracted regional and international attention due to its homegrown approach in fighting terrorism.

Mohamud has been trying to rally Somalis behind the

completion. He said it was his hope that Somalia will be prosperous and peaceful in 2023.

Ahmed Abdisalam, former deputy prime minister and current director of HornCenter, a Somali-based research and policy center, applauded the president's promise for the government to take over all security duties from African Union peacekeepers.

Abdisalam said the president's annual address should be welcomed, as security is the country's greatest concern. He said it was great for the president to provide a timeline for when he will take responsibility for security.

However, Abdullahi Gafow, a Mogadishu based political analyst, is skeptical about Mohamud's pledges.

Gafow said that, after listening to the speech given by the president, he found there was no difference between this speech and the previous speeches that had been given by previous presidents, in that they all stated they would plan to assume responsibility for security from the African Union. He said that therefore, nothing has changed." VOA



Somalia's President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud

against the group, declared last year, has succeeded in pushing the militants out of some areas under their control. The president also said Somalia would also take over security operations from African Union peacekeepers in Somalia by the end of 2024.

government, and in his speech he referred to al-Shabab as Khawaarji, a term referring to a person who deviates from the path of Islam.

Mohamud said that Somalis have taken a stand against Khawaarij regardless of where they live, and that this battle is in progress and is nearing

UN Security Council Welcomes New Members; 2 are First-Timers

The UK-based Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF) says at least 90% of the industrial trawlers operating in Ghana are owned by Chinese corporations, in contravention of Ghanaian laws on the ownership of vessels fishing under the local flag. A substantial proportion of these vessels have engaged in illegal practices, EJF says.

A recent EJF report investigates what it says are illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and human rights abuses by China's Distant Water Fishing (DWF) fleet in Ghana. The ownership and operational control of China's DWF fleet is complex and opaque, and is the largest in the world.

All 36 crew members interviewed by EJF had been forced to work more than 14 hours a day and received inadequate food.

94% had received inadequate medicine or witnessed verbal abuse

86% reported inadequate living conditions

81% had witnessed physical abuse

75% had seen serious injury at sea.

In response, China's embassy says it is a "responsible fishing country".

"We have always worked with other members of the international community to crack down on illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and have done a lot in effectively combating illegal

fishing," its press office tells the BBC.

One of the worst disasters involving a Chinese vessel in Ghanaian waters took place eight months ago.

On 6 May, the MV Comforter 2 sank in stormy conditions. Fourteen crew were rescued, but 11 remain missing, presumed dead, including the state-appointed observer. The body of the Chinese captain was found. BBC



Ghanaian fishermen say they cannot compete with the Chinese travels

Rights Group Blames Volunteer Militia in New Burkina Bloodshed

OUAGADOUGOU — Twenty-eight bodies were found in northwest Burkina Faso over the weekend, the government said, and rights activists blamed a volunteer militia created to support the army's battle against jihadis.

Attacks targeting the security forces and civilians have increased in recent months, especially in northern and eastern regions bordering Mali and Niger.

"The government was informed of an incident at Nouna ... during the night of December 30-31," a government statement said late Monday.

Preliminary reports "indicate 28 people killed," it said, adding that an investigation had been opened and urged calm.

But a rights group called the

that the poorly trained volunteers are easy targets for the jihadis and may also dangerously inflame ethnic friction without proper controls.

The CISC said the weekend events in Nouna had begun with a reported "terrorist attack" on a local VDP headquarters.

Armed men then carried out "deadly attacks in reprisal," it said. Victims said the assailants were VDP who were members of a traditional hunting community called the Dozo, according to the CISC.

CISC Secretary Daouda Diallo called on the authorities to pay "special attention" to the situation.

"Armed terrorist groups exploit these kinds of transgression to attract recruits among the public," Diallo warned.

Three incidents of abduction and extrajudicial killings allegedly involving Dozo or VDP had



Burkina Faso's leader Ibrahim Traore is escorted by soldiers in Ouagadougou

Collective of Communities against Impunity and Stigmatizations (CISC) pointed the finger at the Volunteers for the Defense of the Fatherland (VDP), a civilian auxiliary force that supports the military in its 7-year-old fight against jihadis.

The public prosecutor in Nouna, Armel Sama, said in a statement that "most of the victims, all of them males, were shot dead."

The landlocked West African country is one of the poorest and most volatile nations in the world.

Since 2015, it has been grappling with an insurgency led by jihadis affiliated with al-Qaida and the Islamic State group that have killed tens of thousands and displaced around 2 million people.

The VDP, set up in December 2019, is made up of civilian volunteers who are given two weeks of military training and then work alongside the army, typically carrying out surveillance, information-gathering or escort duties.

Experts have long worried

occurred in the runup to the events at the weekend, CISC said.

Government spokesman Jean Emmanuel Ouedraogo said the weekend killings "unfolded at a time when Burkina Faso has launched an operation to mobilize the entire population in a united action in the fight against terrorism."

In November, the authorities, backed by a patriotic campaign, launched a drive to recruit 50,000 VDP, and 90,000 signed up.

The government is "fundamentally opposed to all forms of abuse or violations of human rights for whatever reasons," the statement said.

The VDP has taken the brunt of losses suffered by the security forces in the face of the jihadi campaign.

Hundreds of volunteers have died, especially in ambushes or explosions caused by improvised explosive devices (IEDs) planted along roadsides.

The escalating toll among the army, police and VDP unleashed two military coups last year, launched by officers angered at failures to stem the bloodshed. VOA

EDITORIAL

Lack of political will is killing Liberian integrity institutions

UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR to Liberia, Michael McCarthy, recently urged Liberia's leaders to be bold in supporting integrity institutions in the country, warning that their fate will strongly influence the fate of the nation.

AMBASSADOR MCCARTHY also underscored that Liberia's integrity institutions urgently need political will to fulfill their mandates, and disclosed that leaders of integrity institutions in the country have informed him that the U.S. Global Magnitsky sanctions of corrupt officials have given them more breathing room to fulfill their mandates.

HOWEVER, THE AMBASSADOR noted that more than just breathing room, integrity institutions need full backing of Liberia's political leaders, and that it is one thing for leaders to say they support the work of public auditors, but it is another to allow full and complete audits, and to respond to the deficiencies they uncover just as it is one thing to claim to support corruption investigations and yet another to allow investigations to be undertaken without political interference.

WE COULD NOT HAVE agreed with Amb. McCarthy any better. Leaders or government's professed commitment to supporting integrity institutions should move from lip-service to practical actions if these institutions must execute the functions that they were established for.

BUT AS THE U.S. AMBASSADOR sadly observed, these institutions such as the Internal Audit Agency, General Auditing Commission, Financial Intelligence Agency, the Public Procurement and Concessions Commission, and the Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative merely exist by names.

IF MANY OF THESE integrity institutions are now being allotted much smaller budgets than they enjoyed in previous years, leaving them with less purchasing power, as Mr. McCarthy pointed out, how can they do their work effectively?. It is difficulty, if not impossible, for anyone to believe that would perform miracles.

CLEARLY, LACK OF political will from the Weah administration is gradually starving integrity institutions to death unless something is done urgently to reverse this ugly trend.

THE AMBASSADOR ADDED that to make matters worse, most of them never receive the full amount appropriated to them by the legislature, and starved of funds and unsure whether, or when, they will receive their next allotment, they are nowhere near as effective as they should be.

AMB. MCCARTHY: "It is one thing to say you want transparency in Liberia's extractive industries, but it is another to publicly disclose all government extractive industry concession and exploration agreements and revenue, publicly calling out illegal actors. It is one thing to support the Code of Conduct, but it is another to enforce compliance with asset declaration requirements. By now, I think you get my point."

AS WE CLOSE THE year 2022, we can but only hope that leaders would give heed to the concerns raised by the U.S. Envoy by prioritizing support to integrity institutions, because their works send an important signal to the international community about the country's commitment to providing accountable leadership that would endear public confidence. These are benchmarks thru which democratic institutions gauge our sincerity to public service.

COMMENTARY

By Laura Tyson and
Lenny Mendonca

America's New Era of Industrial Policy

BERKELEY - A new breed of industrial policy is taking hold in the United States. Under President Joe Biden's leadership, the federal government has created major new programs through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (\$550 billion), the CHIPS and Science Act (\$280 billion), and the Inflation Reduction Act (\$394 billion). These are not traditional spending measures to stimulate demand. Rather, as Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen explains, they are supply-side investments to boost US economic capacity, both overall and in key sectors such as semiconductors and renewable energy.

While the individual provisions and funding processes differ, all three programs are based on the public-private model that has been critical to US competitiveness over the past century. They are designed to crowd-in and accelerate private investment, not substitute for it. Hence, a significant part of their funding - in fact, the majority, in the case of the IRA and CHIPS - comes in the form of tax credits for businesses.

The programs also will encourage more supportive regulatory changes - for example, in the permitting and siting of green-energy projects - by state and local governments, which are responsible for the bulk of economic development in the US. And they share various features that have come to define a new "sustainable and equitable" approach to industrial policy. These include a focus on regional economic development based on local priorities, with an emphasis on capacity-building in marginalized communities; explicit links to post-secondary education and workforce development; and cross-sector integration with key services, such as health care and education.

While the success of these programs will require collaboration by state and local governments, those authorities will also be competing for the new funding and investments. For example, the CHIPS Act's \$39 billion for investments in domestic semiconductor manufacturing will be allocated by the Department of Commerce, which will assess companies' proposals for grants and loans partly on the basis of support from state and local governments. Accordingly, several states are now developing generous incentives to help their companies.

The states will also be competing - alongside their companies, civic organizations, and non-profits - for \$122 billion in climate-related funding under the IRA. While the Department of the Treasury oversees tax credits, a new \$27 billion Environmental Protection Agency grant program - the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund - makes \$7 billion directly accessible to cities and states, and earmarks \$20 billion for non-profit entities that invest directly in green projects using other financing entities such as non-profit green banks. Twenty-three green banks already exist in 17 states, including California, and have leveraged \$2 billion in public funds to mobilize \$7 billion in green investments.

All three bills include place-based programs designed to promote inclusive growth, and these have elicited complementary efforts at the state and local level. California, for example, has introduced a Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF) with a four-year \$600 million budget to support regional collaboration and inclusive development; and Phoenix has committed significant local funding and made regulatory changes to attract a \$40 billion investment by TSMC in new semiconductor production.

Broadband deployment is especially important

for regional economic development. As the COVID-19 pandemic showed, the US still has a glaring digital divide, with more than 24 million Americans lacking high-speed broadband, and many more lacking digital literacy. Thanks to the infrastructure program and the American Rescue Plan before it, however, more than \$100 billion in federal funding has been allocated to bring broadband to every household. It is the largest public investment to connect Americans since the creation of the interstate highway system. Still, closing the gaps in middle- and last-mile connectivity is a highly local challenge, and coordination across all levels of government is crucial.

Finally, a healthy, skilled workforce is the most important factor in attracting and retaining employers and businesses in key sectors. Hence, many states, cities, and regions have been increasing their investments in workforce development to ensure that their residents have the right skills to benefit from new job opportunities in infrastructure, semiconductors, and climate-related industries.

California is a case in point. The state spends more than any other on higher education, and has invested in new community-college apprenticeship programs and career pathways for technical education in its public schools. At their best, programs to develop the workforce run from preschool to higher education and then to employer engagement.

The Biden administration's three big industrial policy programs all recognize the importance of human capital in building supply capacity, and each provides some support for skills development - primarily through tax credits to employers. The IRA, for example, contains a dozen energy-related tax credits to expand access to apprenticeships and jobs at prevailing wages. But a proposed \$40 billion provision for workforce-skills development did not make it into the final bill, which means that the task has been left largely to cities, states, employers, and individuals.

By design, the new regional economic-development efforts are cross-sectoral and cross-governmental - from the state and local level to the federal level. Often, regional development efforts have one or more backbone institutions leading the charge and engaging with other community-based organizations and key sectors and institutions, such as education and health-care providers. In California, the Central Valley Community Foundation has created a development plan (of 19 priority investments totaling roughly \$4 billion over the next decade) under the guidance of a steering committee comprising 300 community leaders. Many similar efforts are in the works around the country, and many more are needed.

Industrial policy is central to Biden's economic agenda. Getting an industrial policy right is never easy, and getting a place-based one right will prove even more challenging. But doing so is now essential to achieving more equitable and sustainable growth.

Laura Tyson, a former chair of the President's Council of Economic Advisers during the Clinton administration, is a professor at the Haas School of Business at the University of California, Berkeley, and a member of the Board of Advisers at Angelino Group. Lenny Mendonca, Senior Partner Emeritus at McKinsey & Company, is a former chief economic and business adviser to Governor Gavin Newsom of California and chair of the California High-Speed Rail Authority.

OP-ED

By May Boeve

An Annual Check-Up for the Climate Movement

BERKELEY - This year was a tumultuous one in many ways. While climate-related shocks became even more prevalent and severe, Russia's invasion of Ukraine triggered a global energy crisis that continues to affect millions of peoples' lives and livelihoods. Following that shock, unprecedented heatwaves across Europe, Asia, and North America, and then devastating flooding in Pakistan, highlighted the urgency of reducing our fossil-fuel dependency and reshaping our energy systems.

Fortunately, other big developments in 2022 offered grounds for hope. The passage of the US Inflation Reduction Act - the largest emissions-reduction investment in the country's history - is a landmark achievement. Historically, the United States has been the world's biggest carbon polluter and one of the biggest laggards in international fora. But now, the IRA should put it on a course to reduce its own emissions sharply, which will help drive down prices of renewable energy around the world. Many emerging markets and developing countries will have a chance to leapfrog past coal-fired power plants.

Yes, fossil-fuel lobbyists are pushing governments in Africa and elsewhere to invest in natural-gas development in response to the energy crisis. Many newly planned projects would be "carbon bombs" that would emit more than one billion tons of carbon dioxide over their lifetimes. But the climate movement has wasted no time in calling out these efforts, and in denouncing the "dash for gas" in Africa.

As a result, the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) has suffered setback after setback. With 22 commercial banks and insurers pulling out of the project, the Stop EACOP campaign was gaining momentum ahead of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) in November, where it drove the message home.

COP27 was a major moment for the climate movement in 2022. Although the host country, Egypt, offered little civic space to mobilize, organizations adapted by working through existing global networks and coalitions to push for more meaningful decarbonization commitments, human-rights protections, and financing.

In the end, the conference produced an agreement to establish a separate global fund to compensate vulnerable countries for climate-related "loss and damage." Given that advanced economies had long refused even to discuss the issue, this is a huge win - one driven by frontline activists and spokespeople from across the Global South. But the summit's final agreement did not include any specific language about the need to phase out fossil fuels.

Finally, other positive climate-policy developments in 2022 included the launch of Just Energy Transition Partnerships in Indonesia, South Africa, and Vietnam. With the goal of helping countries leapfrog past fossil fuels, JETPs - if done right - could be game changers in the global transition to renewable energy.

The international community also did more to protect nature in 2022. As the year drew to a close, governments at the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15) adopted the Kunming-Montreal Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework - a deal that many observers are likening to the landmark 2015 Paris climate agreement. With a commitment to protect 30% of all land and sea areas by 2030, the framework opens a new chapter, following the collective failure to meet any of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets for 2020.

Governments and other stakeholders are finally recognizing that climate change and biodiversity loss are inextricably linked. Rainforests and mangroves are not just habitats for millions of species. They are also crucial for slowing the pace of global heating, because they absorb and store vast amounts of CO₂. Scientists have shown that conservation, ecosystem restoration, and better management of natural areas could contribute over one-third of the emissions reductions that we need by 2030. More to the point, there simply is no way to keep temperatures within 1.5° Celsius without reversing the decline of nature.

The COP15 deal also explicitly recognizes that indigenous peoples are central to protecting nature, and it calls on rich countries to mobilize \$30 billion per year in biodiversity financing for developing countries by 2030.

But setting targets is merely the first step. We must move at an unprecedented pace to restore biodiversity and halt global warming. That means remaining alert to vested interests' efforts to block progress and pushing back against false solutions - such as carbon offsetting, nuclear energy, and hydraulic fracking. Restoring nature must not come at the expense of local communities. To create and nurture a healthier relationship with the environment, we should take our cues from indigenous peoples.

Outside of UN conferences and corporate boardrooms, a quiet revolution is gathering speed. Those demanding more financing for locally owned renewable-energy systems are piercing through the longstanding barriers and refusing to be marginalized. They are building a new consensus, and making clear that matters of climate justice are non-negotiable.

I consider this quiet revolution to be one of the most exciting things that has happened over the past decade. The cyclical interplay of progress and retrogression is an enduring feature of policymaking - and of nature itself. The inevitable slumps must be met not with despair but with hope for the next upswing. While the 2022 energy crisis created a new pretext for those advocating greater investment in fossil fuels, such investments are rapidly becoming financial losers, because renewables are becoming cheaper than fossil fuels.

Around the world, communities, towns, cities, and regions are experimenting with creative climate solutions. We must identify the ones that work, mobilize support for them, and scale them up. That is how we will launch the decisive next phase of the decades-long fight against climate change and environmental destruction.

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OPINION

By Simon Johnson

The Next Stage of the Hot Cold War

WASHINGTON, DC - After a year of big surprises, led by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the global spike in inflation rates, and the collapse of cryptocurrency ventures, what kind of year will 2023 prove to be? This kind of short-run question is hard to answer, because repercussions of events spread so quickly and unpredictably across our globalized world. But the last 12 months highlighted one major trend that will shape what happens next, in 2023 and beyond: the decline of Russia.

Russian aggression is nothing new. Moscow has been invading other countries since the mid-1990s and has occupied parts of Ukrainian territory since 2014. But the brutality of Russia's attacks since late February far exceeds what is acceptable to most countries. The most recent phase, destroying civilian energy infrastructure, is widely seen as amounting to a war crime. It is unlikely to change the course of the war, which Russia is losing.

In the bigger picture, Russia has again entered a period of secular decline, during which it will have limited access to Western investment, technology, or consumer goods. Russia's empires have collapsed before, in 1917-18 and again when the Soviet Union imploded in 1989-91. In both cases, the collapse took a while to get going, and then proved quite complete. Of course, historically Russia has also been able to reassert control, using its own resources during the Civil War of 1917-22 and getting a lot of help from Western companies during the 1990s.

This time, too, we should expect a long struggle for power within Russia, implying serious existential risks for the world, including who ends up controlling Russian nuclear weapons. But the more direct economic impact will be reflected in the world energy market.

Demand for Russian fossil fuels is way down. Before its 2022 invasion of Ukraine, Russia produced about 10.8 million barrels of oil per day, of which around eight million were exported (either as crude or refined products). The sharp decline in Russian economic activity means that more oil is available for export, but the European Union, the United States, and their allies are now buying crude from other suppliers - and the same will be true for refined products from February 2023. The International Energy Agency predicts that Russian oil exports will fall to around six million barrels per day over 2023-24. Over the medium term, India might buy 1-2 million barrels and China could sop up the rest - assuming both countries want to become more dependent on a malevolent and unreliable partner.

Purchases by India, China, and a few others can still result in a lot of free cash flow and tax revenue for Russia. Whoever leads Russia will put much of these proceeds into building and buying weapons - including missiles with which it can hit a wide range of countries from long distance. NATO member countries are, one hopes, protected to some extent by the threat of retaliation, but Russia can be expected to engage in sabotage and other deniable attacks on Western energy infrastructure (and similar vulnerable strategic targets). Russia is on its way to becoming the best-financed pariah state ever.

During the Cold War, the Soviet Union was careful not to attack Western Europe and the US too directly (and vice versa). Instead, both sides used proxy wars and other forms of pressure. This time, however, we should expect much more direct confrontation. The Russian elite have boxed themselves into a corner, with a bizarre set of beliefs - right-wing nationalism on steroids - and long-range weapons. Giving ground - literally or metaphorically - to these extremists, will only embolden them to take more.

The need to limit over time how much cash Russia can spend on aggression is why the price cap on Russian oil exports is so important. The evidence so far is that this is working as intended, enabling India and China to buy Russian oil at a big discount compared to world prices.

But further measures are needed, including accelerated investments in renewable energy to reduce world demand for oil. If we continue to depend on Russia and its allies in the OPEC+ cartel, the ability and temptation to disrupt our economies will be immense. There is now a pressing national security dimension to the energy transition.

High inflation in the 1970s had multiple causes, beginning with tight economies in the 1960s (and the Vietnam War). But the problems were exacerbated by two oil price shocks, in 1973 and 1979. OPEC+ members understand that they have the power to do this again, at a time of their choosing - or the next time Russia asks for a favor.

Oil demand and supply are quite unresponsive to oil prices in the short run, but historically quite responsive over 5-10 years. In 2023 and beyond, the West needs to focus more intently on reducing demand for fossil fuels, particularly oil, and increasing the supply of alternative energy sources (outside the control of Russia and OPEC).

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I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- SOLICITATION NO:** VA-669-23-000002
- ISSUANCE DATE:** December 29, 2022
- CLOSING DATE AND TIME FOR RECEIPT OF OFFERS:** January 16, 2023, 11:59 pm Local Time, Monrovia, Liberia
- POINT OF CONTACT:** Executive Officer, email at LiberiaHR@usaid.gov
- POSITION TITLE:** Project Management Specialist (Strategic Information/Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning [SI/MEL])
- MARKET VALUE:** USD \$35,104 – USD \$56,160 – FSN-10
In accordance with AIDAR Appendix J and the Local Compensation Plan of USAID Final compensation will be negotiated within the listed market value. Note that all U.S. Embassy Locally Employed Staff are expected to observe and fulfill all tax obligations imposed by the Government of Liberia and you will be required to provide a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) before employment.
- PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE:** This contract will be for up to five years depending on programmatic needs, funding availability, and satisfactory performance. This is considered a permanent position and employment under any contract issued under this solicitation is of a continuing nature. Its duration is expected to be part of a series of sequential contracts; all contract clauses, provisions, and regulatory requirements concerning availability of funds and the specific duration of the contract shall apply.
- PLACE OF PERFORMANCE:** Monrovia, Liberia.
- ELIGIBLE OFFERORS:** Individuals who are Liberian citizens or non-Liberian citizens lawfully admitted for permanent residence in Liberia. Current employees serving a probationary period with the mission are not eligible to apply.
- SECURITY LEVEL REQUIRED:** Facility access.
- STATEMENT OF DUTIES**

Basic Function of Position

The USAID Project Management Specialist (Strategic Information/Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning [SI/MEL]) position sits within the USAID Liberia Health Office, Service Delivery Team, and supports the development of and reporting on PEPFAR strategic information and monitoring, evaluation, and learning systems in support of Contracting/Agreement Officer's Representatives (C/AORs), Activity Managers and Advisors managing Mission PEPFAR programs/projects/activities as well as the interagency PEPFAR team.

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

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

Major Duties and Responsibilities

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

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

B. Technical Support (35%)

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

C. Representation & Public Speaking (15%)

- Attends external meetings, committees, and task teams, including GOL-facilitated technical working groups, as needed to represent the Liberia/PEPFAR interagency team.
- Supports development and presentations for research publications and/or abstracts for national and international conferences and symposiums.
- Presents PEPFAR program performance results, research results and M&E plans to OGAC, USAID/Washington, USAID/Liberia, PEPFAR interagency stakeholders and external stakeholders that include other development partners, private sector partners, GOL, USG counterparts from other countries and PEPFAR IPs.
- Actively engages in local SI capacity building of host country governments and other local organizations to strengthen the collection, analysis, and use of data for program planning and direction.

- Travel:** International and local travel may be required.

- Supervision Controls:** None

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

12. PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The work requested does not involve undue physical demands.

II. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR THIS POSITION

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

III. EVALUATION AND SELECTION FACTORS

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

1. Selection Process

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

2. Evaluation Factors

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

FACTOR #1:

In 250 words or less, describe your experience collecting, managing, and visualizing HIV and/or other health care data. Highlight your experience with the HIV continuum of care. Provide examples of your information management skills to collect, analyze, manage, and visualize data from the HIV prevention and treatment cascade.

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 Factor: 10 points

Factor #1 10 points

Timed writing sample exercise: 50 points

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

Interview Performance: 40 points

Interview questions will provide the candidate the ability to:

- Management abilities
- Teamwork and interpersonal skills
- Technical knowledge

Total Possible Points 100 points

IV. SUBMITTING AN OFFER

Applications must be submitted electronically by email with the subject line VA-669-23-000002 – Project Management Specialist (Strategic Information/Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning [SI/MEL]) LiberiaHR@usaid.gov.

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

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

- A current curriculum vitae (CV) or resume, not to exceed 3 pages.
- A minimum of three (3) professional references with telephone and email contacts, 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.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Electoral violence looms in Nimba

By Thomas Domah
Nimba County

Tension is reportedly brewing in electoral districts four and five, respectively in Nimba County among supporters of rival political aspirants

interest in contesting in the district, which is currently being represented by Representative Gonpue Kargon, while in District Five, about 22 persons are aspiring for the seat there presently occupied by Representative Samuel Kogar.

Result of the past election that brought Representative Gonpue Kargon to the House ended in court.

Liberians are left with only nine months to go to elections in October that the international community has described as critical for the country.

Meanwhile, over two thousand residents of Gbei-Dru in Electoral District Nine, Nimba county lack safe drinking water and have resorted to fetching water from nearby creeks to drink.

District commissioner James M.G. Karr says hand pumps constructed by non-governmental organizations in the district have broken down four years ago.

Commissioner Karr disclosed that as a result of the situation, some 28 towns in the district are without safe drinking water and due to drinking water from creeks, children are suffering from water borne diseases, including himself. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



seeking elected seats there. Currently, there are reports that 25 people from district four have expressed

Rival supporters of these aspirants are threatening to disrupt activities leading to the elections in the two districts.

Men abandoning children results to Zogo increase

-Amb, Rufus Neufville

By Lewis S. Teh

The Executive Director of the People Action Network (PAN) and former chief of protocol of the Republic of Liberia, Atty. Rufus Dio Neufville has blamed increase of disadvantaged youth in the streets on men abandoning their children to grandparents.

"People talking about Zogoes today in Liberia; one key factor and element that has promoted this [these] Zogoes is because men abandon their children with the mothers", he observed.

Ambassador Neufville made the observation recently at a one-day forum aimed at educating women and girls on domestic relations laws and sexual and gender-based violence against women.

Speaking to reporters at the St. Peter's Lutheran School in Sinkor, Monrovia, he said the event was organized to provide education to women and girls, saying "We're talking about those different legal instruments that are needed to protect women and girls against all forms of violence."

He said women from Montserrado and Bomi counties were brought together to educate them about their wellbeing and

their rights under the domestic relations laws and the panel code, including act of human trafficking.

He said once men abandon their children and mothers themselves are not working, they turn the children over to the grandparents, who themselves don't have jobs, so in the end, the children end up in the streets, becoming disadvantaged, commonly known here as 'Zogoes.'

Attorney Neufville said his desire is to amend the domestic relations laws of Liberia is to make sure that men are held appropriately accountable for the children they bring on earth, nothing that women are suffering, because there are alarming rate of single mothers



in the country due to men abandoning their children, hence, a need to provide some public education.

The PAN executive director explained that Section 14 of the

Panel Code of Liberia talks about harassment against women, including sexual assault and rape, among others, saying "Can we look at these laws and see if we can amend them? This is why this event is being called."

"As a society, we must do more for women and children; I'm not happy with the way the law is; we need to do more to protect our women and girls."

Asked what specific punishment should be set aside for rapists, he said for as long the problem continue to exist, there has to be an amendment to the rape law until Liberia gets to the real stage.

He pointed out that the advocacy is not only for women

in these two counties, but it will be extended to other counties, adding "We as civil society actors must begin to take a role of advocating for our people." *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Robertsport transforming to surf destination

Residents from around Cape Mount converged on the Robertsport Beach on Friday, December 29th for the Grand Cape Mount Surf Club Association's first annual Kwepuna Feast and Surf Exhibition.

As Robertsport's reputation surges globally for its amazing point breaks, the youth of the city are gearing up on developing a surf culture of their own.

Fearless young girls and boys ages 11 and 25 hit the waters at the surf exhibition displaying stunts, and their incredible techniques and skills during before onlookers from around Cape Mount, Monrovia and international visitors.

"I have heard of the kids surfing but have never watched before. This is very exciting,"

RLJ Kendeja Resort and Villas' Food and Beverages Manager Reuben Twumasi facilitated the two-day program with day one focused on service delivery to a cross-section of Robertsport hospitality business owners, security, local government and surfers.

With the workshop overlooking the beautiful Robertsport beach landscape, everyone enthusiastically engaged in creating the best beach experiences while delivery world-class service. On day-two the surfers implemented what had been discussed in the previous day workshop and set up the beach with guidance and oversight by Twumasi.

"We are really excited that we were able to end the year in



A female surfer

said Olivia Klein owner of OJ's Restaurant in downtown Robertsport. US Colorado Representative Naquetta Ricks joined the fun taking selfies and chatting with the young surfers. Also, President of the Liberia Surfing Federation, she said her mission is to work with all surfers to further their dreams and goals across Liberia. "I am glad I came and am amazed at how enthusiastic and talented the surfers are," she said. With Liberia's many waters, my dream would be to see surfing become a popular sport in Liberia someday," she added.

Vaani Kiazolu, President of the Grand Cape Mount Surf Club Association said, "Thank you to the International Trade Center (ITC) for this opportunity, but it is important to stress the need for more support towards developing Robertsport into a surf destination."

The two-day event was organized by the International Trade Center (ITC), in collaboration with the Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism (MICAT) and the Grand Cape Mount Surf Club Association (GCMSCA).

Robertsport with the surfers," said Hesta Baker, National Consultant for the International Trade Center. Throughout this year we have held several capacity-building workshops with the Association and Robertsport stakeholders and are also in the process of constructing a surf house in Robertsport and visitor center in Tosor, the town before entering Robertsport. We believe that that groundwork towards developing the surf industry in to develop both capacity and infrastructure, while promoting more investments into the surf tourism industry," she concluded.

The Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism (MICAT) focal person on the Liberia Tourism Development Project by the ITC is Juanita Yiah, who encouraged the surfers and used the occasion to reemphasize the Government's commitment to the development of the industry in Robertsport. She said "we have taken time away from the holiday to spend it with you as a way of showing how important you all are to tourism. We will remain vigilant

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

4yr-old child discovered dead in neighbours' open septic tank in Mt Barclay

-Family demand justice

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh
 The discovery of the body of a four-year-old girl, Irena Bargehn alias "Small Na" in Mount Barclay, Newton Community outside Monrovia

nearby area in the Community, Palm Wine Station, Mount Barclay, to render assistance to one of the mother's aunties identified as Princess Newon, who lived in the Newton Community, when the tragedy occurred.

It is said that little Irena Bargehn, was reported missing

and joined the search along with other neighbors before discovering her lifeless body floating in the open septic tank at the back of Mr. Siah's house.

Speaking in tears, the girl's mother Bendora said mournfully: "Please help me understand, what has happened to my baby. How my child died this way?"

"Help me understand, how my cherish, "Small Na", has died?" she continued. "It's so painful for me, to lose my first child just like that, she said.

"We just came to help, aunty Princess, while I was hooking the grass, she was playing with her friends, only to notice, when I got through, I couldn't find her. That is how I woke up aunty Princess, and we began to search all over the place, only to notice, when my uncle "JB" came we searched and found my daughter dead floating in the toilet, Bendora said tearfully.

For his part, John Bargehn, alias JB, told the NEW DAWN that he rushed to the house after receiving a call from his daughter Bendora that "Small Na", and "Ma E" were playing but she had gone missing.

He stated that upon his arrival, he and other neighbors continue the search. He said while searching, they approached Mrs. Cynthia Siah, the wife of Mr. Siah if she had seen the child around but she responded aggressively.

He said when pushed further, she told them she had not seen the child but responded in anger telling them to check behind the house where the children were playing.

He said they noticed something strange when they got behind the house; the pit latrine usually covered with

tank with fumes oozing from her mouth and nose.

He said they left her lifeless

Academy residence and personally asked Robert to remove the toilet from here or close the septic tank,



The open septic tank

body in the pit toilet and went to the nearby police station to inform them about what had happened.

Mr. Siah was arrested for interrogation, while the family was told to take delivery of the body, which was subsequently buried at the Nimba Cemetery in Mount Barclay.

However, since the burial, there has been no further information despite series of inquiries from the police about the investigation into the incident.

"We didn't deserve to lose a precious angel like this," said Rev. Isaac Mathew-grandfather of the deceased little girl. "This hurt, so much, I must blame,

but he has deliberately refused. You see what this has caused?" he queried.

Rev. Matthew said Siah should be held responsible for this tragedy. "I am asking the Government of Liberia through the Liberia National Police to have this House locked until this case is over, Rev. Matthew added.

Meanwhile, "Robert Siah, has since been arrested and charged as prime suspect and is now in Police Custody at Zone 11- depot- 1, Police Station in Mount Barclay, while his fiancée, only identify as Cynthia is alleged to be on the run as the family demands justice.

When contacted, officers at the Police Depot in Mount Barclay said they were not authorized to speak



Irena Bargehn

has shocked the entire community.

Small Na's lifeless body was discovered on Thursday, December 22, in a neighbor's open septic tank in the area, with family and residents now pointing fingers at Mr. Robert Siah, owner of the pit latrine demanding justice.

Mr. Siah, now in Police custody at the Mount Barclay, Zone -11 depot - one, is alleged to be the owner of a nearby House with an open septic tank also used as a pit latrine, where the body of "Small Na" was found, with fumes, oozing from her mouth and nose.

The mud-bricks toilet is a squatting toilet. The open septic tank connecting to the bathroom was right underneath the squat pan. The septic tank is a U-shaped hole, with a pipe, linking the squatting pan in the mudbrick bathroom. It is used for bathing and defecation.

Residents alleged that Mr. Siah has reluctantly refused to protect, his open septic tank, which threatens children's safety in the area.

They say the unprotected pit latrine may have led to the downcast of the little girl while playing with other children around it.

Little Irena Bargehn- was born on September 1, 2019, and met her untimely death on Thursday morning, December 22, 2022.

The family told NewDawn that the child and her 19-year-old Mother, Bendora Bargehn, had come from a

by her mother Bendora and aunt Princess Newon hours before she was discovered dead.

In an interview, Madam Newon narrated that "Small Na" and her brother-in-law's daughter Lydia Bargehn and other children were last seen playing in front of the house while her mother (Bendora) was hooking grass in the yard.

Madam Newon said she had gone in the house to rest but woke up just to be told by Bendora that she could not see her daughter Irena among the children. This prompted the search for her in the community for nearly an hour, but she was nowhere to be found.

Madam Newon further narrated that after they searched and couldn't find the



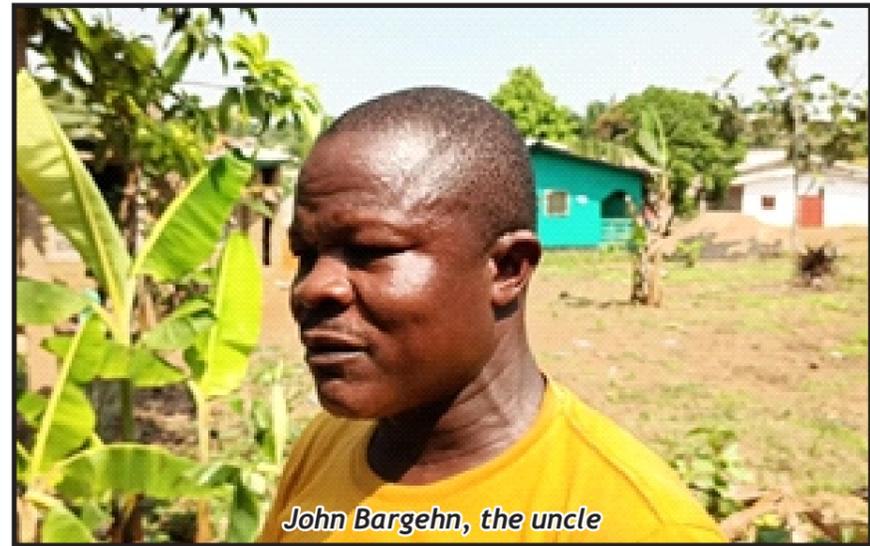
Bendora, Irena's mother

little girl, they decided to call John Bargehn, informing him that the little girl had gone missing.

She said John came quickly

old zinc was slightly opened.

JB explained that when they removed the entire zinc, they discover Small Na body floating in over the open septic



John Bargehn, the uncle

Robert, who dug a septic tank, and left it open, as a threat to the children," he said.

"This septic tank has been there for decades, and Robert has refused to cover it. Several times, I have left my Police

on the issue and referred this journalist to Police Spokesman Moses Carter.

All efforts to contact Mr. Carter proved futile. His phone rang several times unanswered.

Robertsport transforming

Starts from page 6

towards seeing surf tourism developed in Robertsport."

A feast of Liberian dishes and desserts was served, complimentary, to over one hundred residents, surfers and guests who then trekked along the beach for two exciting surf

exhibitions. The first featured surfers under 18, followed by another exhibition at one of the more challenging point breaks. There were lots of cheering, jubilation and selfies that lit up the beach, signaling the possibilities for an exciting 2023.

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Français

Pour diriger un pays, on n'a pas besoin d'expérience à la fonction publique

Le porte-drapeau de la Collaboration des partis politiques (CPP), M. Alexander Cummings, a dit que pour résoudre les problèmes du Libéria, on n'a pas besoin d'avoir travaillé dans la fonction publique.

années de carrière au sein de la société multimilliardaire Coca-Cola », a-t-il dit.

« M. George Weah a passé trois ans au Sénat avant de devenir président et beaucoup d'autres fonctionnaires actuels ont également servi dans les administrations précédentes,

personnes et des équipes très performantes dans le monde entier. « Réussir dans n'importe quelle direction nécessite un ensemble de compétences que j'ai maîtrisées au cours de ma carrière de plus de 40 ans dans les affaires », a-t-il affirmé.

Cummings s'est dit capable de résoudre les problèmes du Libéria pourvue qu'on lui en donne l'opportunité, car certes les défis sont nombreux et le chemin à parcourir est long, mais la volonté collective de réussir est plus forte. Il a promis de se rendre dans les prochains mois dans tous les coins et recoins du pays pour échanger avec tous les habitants Libéria.

« Nous allons nous asseoir avec vous, vous écouter, apprendre de vous et partager nos propres idées avec vous sur la façon dont nous pouvons tous travailler ensemble pour améliorer les conditions de vie de chacun et faire du Libéria un lieu où il fait bon vivre pour tous », a-t-il dit.

Il a promis de s'attaquer aux problèmes les plus importants pour construire une base solide pour l'avenir et de travailler avec tous les Libériens de toutes origines,

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Pour lui, tout ce dont le Libéria a besoin, c'est quelqu'un qui sait diriger, gérer et inspirer les gens pour obtenir des résultats.

« Le Libéria a besoin de fonctionnaires honnêtes, disciplinés et prêts à travailler. Et c'est ce que j'ai fait au cours de mes 40

mais quel est le bilan aujourd'hui ? Le fait que le bilan de cette administration soit si mauvaise montre qu'avoir une expérience antérieure dans la fonction publique n'est pas une condition nécessaire pour une gestion efficace de la national », a-t-il ajouté.

Cummings a dit avoir dirigé des

Scission imminente dans l'Église presbytérienne

La scission est imminente dans l'Église presbytérienne historique du Libéria, où les partisans d'un pasteur suspendu menacent d'établir « l'Église presbytérienne réformée du Libéria ».

Dans une interview le mardi 3 janvier 2023, le révérend C. Wellington Morgan, qui fut suspendu, a dit avoir procédé à une procédure avec son avocat pour demander ses avantages à l'Église presbytérienne. Il menace aussi de poursuivre l'Église pour l'avoir expulsé illégalement.

« Au moment où je vous parle, je suis avec l'un de mes avocats... J'ai été illégalement expulsé de l'Église sans raison », a déclaré le révérend Morgan.

« Oui, si cela signifie qu'il faut aller au tribunal, je le ferai ; mais j'ai besoin de conseils juridiques parce que j'ai besoin que l'Église paie toutes mes prestations pour le temps que j'ai servi et pour m'avoir expulsé illégalement », a déclaré le révérend Morgan.

Certains dirigeants de l'Église presbytérienne de Monrovia qui ont été interrogés ont expliqué que le Conseil des anciens avait décidé de ne pas renouveler la probation du révérend Morgan parce qu'il n'avait pas convaincu le Conseil qu'il dirigeait correctement l'Église.

La décision du Conseil des Anciens est intervenue après que le révérend Morgan aurait abandonné une session de trois jours de l'Église presbytérienne à Yekepa l'année dernière pour s'occuper de certains problèmes à Monrovia.

Mais le révérend Morgan et ses partisans ont nié cela.

Morgan a affirmé que la

direction de l'Église avait saccagé et vidé son bureau en son absence. Il a soutenu qu'il n'a jamais agi et il a des documents prouvant qu'il était employé par l'Église. Il a dit qu'il a servi l'Église pendant neuf ans, d'abord en tant que pasteur associé, puis en tant que pasteur principal.

Il a affirmé que lui et l'Église avaient signé un contrat et qu'il était pleinement employé en tant que pasteur principal de l'Église. Un partisan du révérend Morgan, Stanley Solo, a affirmé que la décision de l'Église n'était pas conforme à sa constitution.



Éditorial

Le manque de volonté politique tue les institutions libériennes d'intégrité

L'ambassadeur des États-Unis au Libéria, Michael McCarthy, demande aux dirigeants libériens d'avoir le courage de soutenir les institutions de moralisation de la vie publique, car le sort de la nation en dépend.

Selon l'ambassadeur McCarthy, le manque de volonté politique affecte ces institutions d'intégrité et les empêche de remplir leur mission régalienn, quoi qu'elles semblent ragaillardies par les sanctions américaines Magnitsky à l'encontre des fonctionnaires corrompus.

« C'est une chose de dire qu'on veut la transparence dans les industries extractives du Libéria, c'en est aussi une autre de rendre publics tous les accords et revenus de concession et d'exploration des industries extractives et dénoncer publiquement les acteurs illégaux. C'est une chose de soutenir le Code de conduite, mais c'en est une autre de faire respecter les exigences en matière de déclaration de patrimoine », a dit le diplomate américain.

L'ambassadeur américain a récemment fait le tour de plusieurs institutions d'intégrité et rencontré des dirigeants et des employés de ces institutions, dont notamment l'Agence d'audit interne, la Commission générale d'audit, l'Agence de renseignement financier, la Commission des marchés publics et des concessions et l'Initiative libérienne pour la transparence des industries extractives.

"L'un des objectifs de cette récente série de réunions", explique M. McCarthy, "était d'évaluer si les institutions de moralisation de la vie publique avaient constaté des améliorations en matière de gouvernance responsable à la suite des sanctions du département du Trésor américain annoncées en août".

Il a attiré l'attention des libériens sur trois points essentiels à retenir, à savoir : le Libéria ne prospérera pas sans des institutions d'intégrité qui fonctionnent bien, les institutions d'intégrité du Libéria ont besoin de plus de ressources, et les institutions d'intégrité ne peuvent pas réussir sans une vraie volonté politique.

L'ambassadeur a fait observer que la plupart des institutions chargées de l'intégrité sont composées de personnes travailleuses, dévouées et motivées, des gens qui veulent faire du Libéria un pays meilleur où il fait bon vivre, mais malheureusement, beaucoup d'entre elles ont des budgets bien insignifiants et un pouvoir d'achat très négligeable. Pire, la plupart d'entre elles ne reçoivent jamais le montant total qui leur est alloué. Dans certains cas, selon le diplomate américain, les déficits de financement représentent plus de 50% du montant accordé aux institutions dans le budget national. Ce qui, bien évidemment, entraîne des coupes importantes dans les fonds opérationnels, au point de ne plus avoir de carburant ou d'ordinateurs portables pour les enquêtes et les audits.

Selon lui, au cours des 20 dernières années, les États-Unis et le Libéria ont travaillé ensemble pour construire un Libéria prospère pour l'avenir de tous les Libériens, et après le conflit civil, les Libériens se sont réunis en 2003 pour reconstruire les institutions démocratiques du pays, ainsi que des garanties pour protéger sa gouvernance démocratique, dont les principales étaient les institutions d'intégrité du pays qui ont été construites, financées et dotées de certains des esprits les meilleurs et les plus brillants du Libéria.

Ces institutions ont été créées par la loi et conçues pour être à l'abri de l'ingérence politique, et en combinaison avec un environnement de société civile robuste et des médias libres dynamiques, elles donnent au Libéria des atouts uniques pour maintenir sa démocratie, alors que le pays a construit son post-fondation de guerre sur la démocratie et l'État de droit, la communauté internationale en a pris note et les entreprises multinationales sont revenues sur les côtes du Libéria, et la croissance du PIB s'est accélérée de 2003 à 2011.

Mais au cours de la dernière décennie, l'élan a changé et les dirigeants libériens ont accordé moins de soutien politique et financier aux institutions d'intégrité vitales du pays, l'économie a ralenti, la corruption a augmenté et les entreprises internationales ont commencé à chercher ailleurs des opportunités d'investissement.

Selon l'ambassadeur, le potentiel économique du Libéria reste énorme, mais cela ne se réalisera pas sans une gouvernance démocratique responsable que les institutions d'intégrité du Libéria sont censées promouvoir.

Nous sommes tout à faire d'accord avec M. McCarthy. Il est temps que les dirigeants joignent l'acte à la parole. Le soutien des institutions de moralisation de la vie publique devrait être une priorité.

L'ambassadeur des États-Unis l'a si bien dit. Les institutions telles que l'Agence d'audit interne, la Commission générale d'audit, l'Agence de renseignement financier, la Commission des marchés publics et des concessions et l'Initiative pour la transparence des industries extractives du Libéria n'existent que par leur nom. C'est triste, très triste.

De toute évidence, le manque de volonté politique de l'administration Weah affame progressivement les institutions d'intégrité et affaiblit la lutte contre la corruption.

Nous voilà en 2023. Nous ne pouvons faire qu'espérer que les dirigeants tiendront compte des préoccupations soulevées par le diplomate américain en accordant une importance aux institutions d'intégrité.

Français

Pour diriger un pays

sans distinction d'ethnie, de religion ou de sexe dans l'intérêt supérieur de la nation.

Selon lui, l'administration Weah a fait suffisamment de mal au Libéria. Elle a manqué à ses responsabilités constitutionnelles envers le peuple libérien. Il a indiqué que cette année électorale 2023 est une année critique, d'autant plus l'avenir de chaque libérien et de la prochaine génération en dépend. Il a ainsi appelé les citoyens à penser au devenir de leur progéniture avant de voter cette année.

Il dénonce le fait que peu d'investissements aient été faits dans le système éducatif pour vraiment mieux équiper la jeunesse et les enfants et leur permettre de se trouver une place au soleil. Il s'indigne

contre le fait que les parents n'aient pas accès aux types d'emplois qui leur permettront de subvenir aux besoins de leurs enfants.

“Nous allons mettre en place des systèmes de base, une économie qui fonctionne pour tous les Libériens et donner une opportunité égale aux entrepreneurs libériens de pouvoir rivaliser positivement avec les entreprises étrangères”, a-t-il promis.

Selon lui, les Libériens s'attendent à un système de santé efficace et qui fonctionne bien. Il regrette que l'hôpital JFK refuse des patients parce qu'ils n'ont pas d'argent pour payer d'avance, ou parce que l'hôpital n'a pas de lits disponibles.

Les États-Unis excluent le Burkina Faso de l'Agoa

Le Burkina Faso a été exclu de l'Agoa, une loi américaine permettant aux pays d'Afrique d'exporter vers les États-Unis sans payer de taxes douanières.

Petit à petit, les États-Unis se font de plus en plus distants. Washington se dit profondément inquiet des changements anticonstitutionnels en cours dans le pays et va soumettre aux dirigeants burkinabè, dans les prochains jours, des repères

Faso, cette exclusion n'aura que peu d'effets immédiats car, d'une part, les exportations du Burkina Faso ciblées par l'Agoa ne représentent que quelques millions de dollars par an et elles concernent l'artisanat et le textile. D'autre part, si les entreprises ne bénéficient plus de l'exemption des droits de douane, elles ne sont pas interdites de commercer avec leurs partenaires aux États-Unis.

Reste que le signal politique



clairs pour réintégrer l'accord commercial.

En mars dernier, à la suite du coup d'État de janvier, les États-Unis avaient déjà mis fin au « Millennium Challenge Account », un programme de coopération économique et d'investissements qui représentait environ 500 millions de dollars pour le Burkina Faso. Ouagadougou est également exclu du programme régional du MCA d'un montant similaire.

Pour l'économie du Burkina

envoyé par Washington est mauvais pour le Burkina Faso et pourrait inciter d'autres pays à limiter leur coopération ou à renoncer à des investissements dans le pays.

C'est peut-être sur ce point que l'exclusion aura les effets les plus dommageables, car comme le résume l'ancien ministre des Affaires étrangères, Ablassé Ouedraogo, « le Burkina Faso, pays sous assistance, n'a pas les moyens de s'isoler de ses partenaires ».

COMMENTAIRE

Par Par Laura Tyson
et Lenny Mendonca

La nouvelle ère de la politique industrielle américaine

BERKELEY - Un nouveau type de politique industrielle s'installe progressivement aux États-Unis. Sous la direction du président Joe Biden, le gouvernement fédéral a créé de nouveaux programmes importants par le biais de la Loi sur l'investissement dans les infrastructures et les emplois (IIJA, 550 milliards de dollars), de la Loi sur les semi-conducteurs et les sciences (CHIPS, 280 milliards de dollars) et de la Loi sur la réduction de l'inflation (IRA, 394 milliards de dollars). Il ne s'agit pas de mesures de dépenses traditionnelles visant à stimuler la demande. Il s'agit plutôt, comme l'explique le secrétaire au Trésor Janet Yellen, d'investissements du côté de l'offre visant à renforcer la capacité de l'économie américaine, tant au niveau global que dans des secteurs clés tels que les semi-conducteurs et les énergies renouvelables.

Bien que les dispositions individuelles et les processus de financement diffèrent, les trois programmes sont basés sur le modèle public-privé qui a été essentiel à la compétitivité américaine au cours du siècle dernier. Ils sont conçus pour attirer et accélérer les investissements privés, et non pour les remplacer. Par conséquent, une partie importante de leur financement - en fait, la majorité dans le cas de l'IRA et du CHIPS - prend la forme de crédits d'impôt pour les entreprises.

Les programmes encourageront également les gouvernements locaux et ceux des États, qui sont responsables de la majeure partie du développement économique aux États-Unis, à apporter des modifications réglementaires plus favorables - par exemple, en matière d'autorisation et de localisation des projets d'énergie verte. Ils partagent également plusieurs caractéristiques qui en sont venues à définir une nouvelle approche "durable et équitable" de la politique industrielle. Il s'agit notamment de l'accent mis sur le développement économique régional en fonction des priorités locales, en insistant sur le renforcement des capacités des communautés marginalisées ; des liens explicites avec l'enseignement supérieur et le renforcement de la main-d'œuvre ; et l'intégration intersectorielle avec des services clés, tels que les soins de santé et l'éducation.

Bien que le succès de ces programmes nécessitera une collaboration des gouvernements des États et des collectivités locales, il y aura aussi un degré de concurrence pour obtenir les nouveaux financements et investissements. Par exemple, les 39 milliards de dollars prévus par la Loi CHIPS pour les investissements dans la fabrication nationale de semi-conducteurs seront alloués par le ministère du Commerce, qui évaluera les propositions de subventions et de prêts des entreprises, en partie sur la base du soutien des gouvernements des États et des collectivités locales. En conséquence, plusieurs États mettent actuellement au point de généreuses mesures d'incitation pour aider leurs entreprises.

Les États seront également en concurrence - avec leurs entreprises, les organisations civiques et les organisations à but non lucratif - pour obtenir une part des 122 milliards de dollars de financements lié au climat dans le cadre de l'IRA. C'est le département du Trésor qui supervise les crédits d'impôt. Mais un nouveau programme de subventions de l'Agence de protection de l'environnement à hauteur de 27 milliards de dollars - le Fonds de réduction des gaz à effet de serre - rend 7 milliards de dollars directement accessibles aux villes et aux États, et réserve 20 milliards de dollars aux entités à but non lucratif qui investissent directement dans des projets verts en utilisant d'autres entités de financement telles que les banques vertes à but non lucratif. Vingt-trois banques vertes existent déjà dans 17 États, dont la Californie, et ont permis de mobiliser 2 milliards de dollars de fonds publics pour mobiliser 7 milliards de dollars d'investissements verts.

Les trois projets de loi comprennent des programmes locaux conçus pour promouvoir une croissance inclusive, et ceux-ci ont suscité des efforts

complémentaires au niveau des États et au niveau local. La Californie, par exemple, a mis en place un Fonds de résilience économique communautaire (CERF) doté d'un budget de 600 millions de dollars sur quatre ans pour soutenir la collaboration régionale et le développement inclusif. Phoenix a engagé des fonds locaux importants et apporté des modifications réglementaires pour attirer un investissement de 40 milliards de dollars de TSMC dans une nouvelle chaîne de production de semi-conducteurs.

Le déploiement du haut débit est particulièrement important pour le développement économique régional. Comme l'a montré la pandémie de COVID-19, les États-Unis connaissent toujours une fracture numérique flagrante : plus de 24 millions d'Américains n'ont pas accès au haut débit et beaucoup d'autres n'ont pas de connaissances numériques. Toutefois, grâce au programme d'infrastructure et au plan de sauvetage américain qui l'a précédé, plus de 100 milliards de dollars de fonds fédéraux ont été alloués pour apporter le haut débit à chaque foyer. Il s'agit de l'investissement public le plus important pour connecter les Américains depuis la création du réseau routier interétatique. Il n'en reste pas moins que combler les lacunes en matière de connectivité en milieu et bout de chaîne est un défi très local, et la coordination entre tous les niveaux de gouvernement est cruciale.

Enfin, une main-d'œuvre saine et qualifiée est le facteur le plus important pour attirer et retenir les employeurs et les entreprises dans des secteurs clés. C'est pourquoi de nombreux États, villes et régions ont augmenté leurs investissements dans la formation de la main-d'œuvre afin de s'assurer que leurs habitants disposent des compétences nécessaires pour profiter des nouvelles opportunités d'emploi dans les infrastructures, les semi-conducteurs et les industries liées au climat.

La Californie en est un bon exemple. Cet État consacre plus d'argent que tout autre à l'enseignement supérieur et a investi dans de nouveaux programmes d'apprentissage dans les collèges communautaires et dans des filières d'enseignement technique au sein de ses écoles publiques. Dans le meilleur des cas, les programmes de renforcement de la main-d'œuvre vont du préscolaire à l'enseignement supérieur, puis jusqu'à l'engagement des employeurs.

Les trois grands programmes de politique industrielle de l'administration Biden reconnaissent tous l'importance du capital humain dans le renforcement de la capacité d'offre, et chacun d'entre eux apporte un certain soutien au développement des compétences - principalement par le biais de crédits d'impôt aux employeurs. L'IRA, par exemple, contient une douzaine de crédits d'impôt liés à l'énergie afin d'élargir l'accès aux apprentissages et aux emplois aux salaires en vigueur. Néanmoins, une proposition prévoyant 40 milliards de dollars pour le développement des compétences de la main-d'œuvre n'a pas été intégrée dans le projet de loi final, ce qui signifie que la tâche a été laissée en grande partie aux villes, aux États, aux employeurs et aux particuliers.

De par leur conception, les nouveaux efforts de développement économique régional sont intersectoriels et intergouvernementaux - du niveau local et étatique au niveau fédéral. Souvent, les efforts de développement régional sont menés par une ou plusieurs institutions centrales, qui s'engagent avec d'autres organisations communautaires ainsi que des secteurs et institutions clés, tels que des prestataires d'éducation et de soins de santé. En Californie, la Central Valley Community Foundation a créé un plan de développement (prévoyant 19 investissements prioritaires totalisant environ 4 milliards de dollars au cours de la prochaine décennie) sous la direction d'un comité directeur composé de 300 leaders communautaires. De nombreux efforts similaires sont en cours dans tout le pays, et beaucoup d'autres sont nécessaires.

La politique industrielle est au cœur du programme économique de M. Biden. Il n'est jamais facile de mettre en place une politique industrielle correcte, et il sera encore plus difficile de le faire à l'échelon local. Pourtant, il est devenu essentiel de s'y atteler pour parvenir à une croissance plus équitable et durable.

Traduit de l'anglais par *Timothée Demont*

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Tiawan Saye Gongloe: The President Liberia Needs

By S.Karweaye

The Presidential candidate of the Liberian People's Party (LPP), Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe declared himself the most qualified person to rule Liberia, saying he has what it takes to move the country in the right direction and transform it. He made the declaration in Grand Bassa County where he went to celebrate the holiday festivities with rural communities while expressing optimism about being elected president of Liberia in the 2023 election.

Liberia deserves a patriotic and selfless leader at this critical juncture of her chequered history. The nation needs a man whose public actions, utterances, and opinions of the running government are deeply rooted in rule of law, honesty accountability, and transparency. Liberia needs a transformative leader, who will drive an all-inclusive pluralist democratic process in transforming the country for the betterment of all its citizens. A man full of wisdom and understanding of the diversity of the nation and its associated political, cultural, regional, and religious dynamics. One with the desired temperament; who has held the reins of power in public service and emerged incorruptible.

Tiawan Saye Gongloe, a former minister of labor, and solicitor general of the Republic of Liberia fits into this narrative. He is a prominent human rights lawyer par excellence, and was the president of the Liberia National Bar Association, before venturing into the foray of presidential politics in Liberia. Those who are familiar with the terrain of Liberian politics could testify to the fact that it takes the ingenuity of a man like Gongloe to want to be president in order to bring sanity to politics in Liberia. Political hawks had invaded the political spaces and held almost everyone hostage. Liberia is in the news for the wrong reasons and is notorious for electoral brigandage and is under a siege created by some political stalwarts and shylocks, who see Liberia as their personal or family estate.

However, Tiawan Saye Gongloe, who is flying the flag of the Liberian People's Party (LPP) is determined to navigate through the murky waters of Liberia politics with a unique brand of people-oriented politics to emerge victorious in 2023. Gongloe, who puts the needs of people before himself, is currently visiting and greeting residents of 'Gbhehzon door to door while the other contenders for the Presidency are celebrating the holiday season with their families. In 2021, he spent Christmas in Grand Gedeh. Nobody believed or saw it coming of Cllr. Gongloe entering presidential politics, but his entrance into presidential politics is a breath of fresh air. He does not fit into the definition of who some people expect to win because he is a poor man lawyer. When one talks of political moneybags in Liberia, he comes a distant last. However, People are starting to believe in his philosophy of "A better Liberia is possible."

From 2006-2010, Tiawan Gongloe changed the face of governance as solicitor general and as minister of labor. The central theme of those positions he occupied was anchored on honesty, accountability, and transparency. While in Grand Bassa County, Gongloe promised to tackle waste in government by championing frugality in the management of Liberia's finances. We are all aware that the running cost of servicing the comfort and conveniences of those big shots in government eats far deep into the budget than appropriation for infrastructure and capital projects. This has affected visible development in security, health, human capital development, education, water, roads, electricity, and others. Gongloe told rural communities in Owensgrove, Little Bassa, Compound #1, Ben Logan Town, Moryou (new hometown of Cllr. Gongloe), Samuel Brown Town, King Farm, Edina, Sand Town, Kru Town, Waka Town, and Compound #2 in Grand Bassa County overhauling the huge and unsustainable costs of governance in Liberia.

What stands Tiawan Gongloe over and above his political contemporaries, one may ask? Firstly, in the public offices he held, he discouraged corruption and personal enrichment in official high places. The idea of looking at government as a place for quick accumulation of primitive wealth and deployment of government resources to service mundane avarice of families, friends, and associates will be dismantled when Gongloe is elected president of Liberia.

Second, wastages in government spending will be deliberately plugged and money for infrastructural development for the people of Liberia will be saved. Typical examples were the numerous positions Gongloe held in government. When he traveled abroad to represent the government he often brought back his remaining per diem after his mission abroad was accomplished early. He did the same as the President of the Liberia National Bar Association.

Third, Gongloe contends that Liberians as a whole have failed to demand decent government, work for it, and make



the necessary difficult decisions and sacrifices, which is the primary cause of Liberia's underdevelopment. The country's economic and social progress is being hampered because corruption has become so ingrained in Liberia that the country now faces a threat to its security. Through the misappropriation of public funds, irregular payments, unlawful spending, employee fraud, and bribery, Liberia's citizens are denied access to essential services including inexpensive healthcare, employment, and education for the young people of the nation, among others.

Speaking to rural communities in Grand Bassa County, Gongloe proposed quarterly Lifestyle Audits for public employees when he is elected president. Lifestyle Audits involve an intensive probe into their lifestyles in order to detect sudden and suspicious affluence that may suggest fraud. He wants salaries, and benefits of the President and all officials in the three branches of government to be published, and that any official that interferes with the functions of the police or any law enforcement officer shall, upon summary fact-finding, be immediately dismissed. Gongloe argued that the chronic deficit of leadership characterized by greed, a thirst for illicit wealth, and self-interest, as opposed to the welfare of the nation, is a significant factor in the current state of Liberia.

Fourth, Gongloe is an economist and taught economics for over eight years at the University of Liberia, so he understands that moving the country from a plantation economy model to a more industrial or manufacturing economy model is the best approach for genuine growth and development in Liberia. He told the gathering in Grand Bassa county that his economic plans include creating an enabling environment where local and international

companies established their presence in Liberia. He has promised to ensure that the nation's resources are used to bring out the best in the citizens and prepare a great future for them.

Fourth, quality education is a top priority of Gongloe's transformation agenda. Gongloe is currently the assistant professor of law at the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law at the University, where he lectures human right law and criminal and criminal procedure law and volunteer his time at the Supreme Court's James A.A Pierre Judicial Institute and the Liberia Police Academy lectures on lectures on constitution laws, evidence, criminal procedure, and human right laws. Gongloe argues "education is a right not a privilege for every child." Education is also a right that every citizen is entitled to under the universal declaration of human rights. According to Gongloe, Article 6 of the constitution provides, "The Republic shall, because of the vital role assigned to the individual citizen under this Constitution for the social, economic, and political well-being of Liberia, provide equal access to educational opportunities and facilities for all citizens to the extent of available resources. Emphasis shall be placed on the mass education of the Liberian people and the elimination of illiteracy." With this, he believes the government must provide school buildings to accommodate all the children of Liberia to have access to education because their parent's lack of money should not stop any Liberian child from going to school. Gongloe's plan includes scrapping tuition for public schools (from kindergarten to 12 grade), paying teachers livable wages as well as building new schools and rehabilitating existing ones for a conducive learning environment.

Liberia is not in short supply of political leaders. What we lack are patriotic leaders and inclusive institutions to drive leadership processes and developmental agendas. The nation, unfortunately, is wrongly blessed with leaders deliberately promoting extractive institutions to suit their whims and caprices. The missing link is choosing those aspiring to political offices from the prism of objectivity and track records. Have we not paid enough price for our primordial and ethnic tendencies towards electing leaders? The total absence of political leadership exhibited by President Weah from 2018 till date and the general consequences of the lax on citizens should be avoided. Given

the opportunity as president of Liberia, Tiawan Gongloe will replicate his performances in the public and private sectors and do much more. Every election year, those who have nothing tangible to offer our elected leaders. Consequently, people are subjected to all forms of hardship as a result of a lack of a good leadership compass. In the end, citizens are left to pay dearly for the choices they made.

Gongloe's clear understanding of the ugly state of the nation, what leadership is, the shape and structure government should take at this crisis stage and appropriate recommendations for a whole range of national issues are inspiring. His public support for fighting the government and the general overhaul of the current governance structures is timely. It suits the kind of politics that will bring succor to citizens and Liberia out of the woods.

Come 2023, aspirants have to give citizens ideas of what their intentions are. It is not good enough to only say vote for me for the future of your children. Or help me to achieve my lifelong ambition. Show us in concrete terms what drives your aspiration to lead. The bitter menu served to Liberia by Tiawan Saye Gongloe is enough reason to vote for that man, who sees fighting corruption and promoting the rules of law as priorities and a way of service to the country and humanity. Some of the old guards and crops of recycled leaders have fooled us for too long and do not have a place again in our political history. Affliction shall not arise the second time. Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe is the president Liberia needs.

PYJ hiding from sanction

By Thomas Domah
Nimba County

Senator Prince Yormie Johnson's recent decision to step down

However, he urged that in the upcoming elections, it will be the turn of the people of Liberia to let their voices be heard on this topic, especially since several of

government that are responsible for ensuring good governance in Liberia, adding that sanctions can help, but the ballot box is a far more important tool for holding



as political leader of his Movement for Democracy and Reconstruction (MDR) party is being attributed to his designation by the United States Treasury Department, under the Global Magnitsky Act or GloMag, for corruption, including votes buying during elections.

Several residents of Ganta, Nimba County, who called on a community radio station recently in the commercial city say the sanction is beginning to bite, especially in the wake of a recent caution to Liberians by U.S. Ambassador Michael McCarthy against electing or re-electing corrupt officials as the country goes to elections in October.

In an open letter addressed to the people of Liberia to mark International Anti-

those sanctioned officials may be running for office.

"If Liberians choose to elect or re-elect sanctioned officials as their leaders", he notes, "that will send a very clear signal about how they truly feel about the fight against corruption and the future of their country."

Ambassador McCarthy stressed that the all-important goal of transparent, free, credible, and peaceful elections this October will be one important factor in decisions about additional sanctions in the months leading up to the vote.

He said that the United States anti-corruption efforts in Liberia remain robust and continuous, and that the American

officials accountable.

According to the callers, the MDR does not have an office space in Nimba, disclosing the party is being run in the homes of both Senators Johnson and Jeremiah Koung's.

They noted that though PYJ has stepped aside as political leader, he still remains the defector leader of the MDR, as Senator Koung would be taking instructions from him.

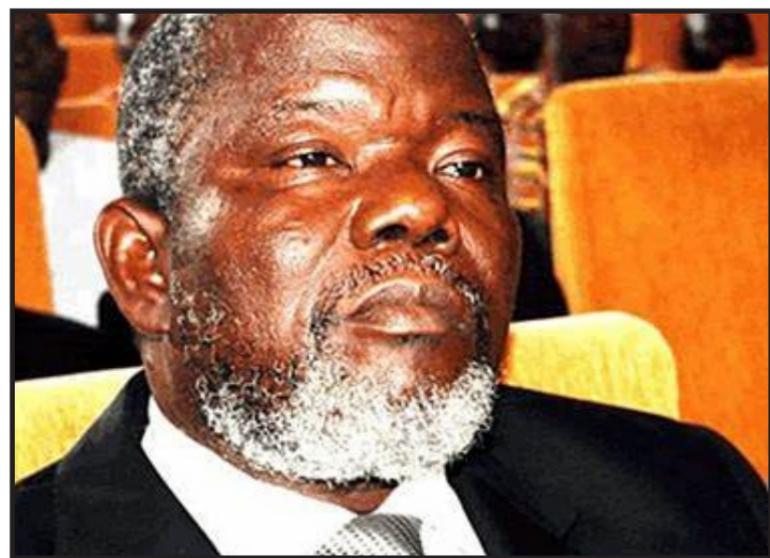
This paper gathers that both senators are designing a scam to get money from the leader of the Alternative National Congress (ANC) Mr. Alexander B. Cummings with a promise to support his bid for the presidency, but they will subsequently support the second term bid of President George Weah.

PYJ contested twice for the Presidency and became kingmaker in the runoff both in 2005 and 2011.

Currently, two other sons of Nimba, Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe and Dr. Jeremiah Whapoe, have expressed interest in the Presidency comes October.

Some aggrieved Nimbiains conversing at a local entertainment center in Ganta recently said the coming in of Senator Jeremiah Koung as leader of the MDR, is to closely work with Senator PYJ in negotiating political deals that would personally benefit both individuals, as the latter has done over the years.

Senator Jeremiah Koung had previously supported the Unity Party prior to taking over the MDR while Senator Prince Johnson is a staunch supporter of President Weah's second term bid. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



Corruption Day on Thursday, 8 December 2022, Ambassador McCarthy said, Liberians have heard unusually stark language from the Government of the United States regarding the corruption of sanctioned individuals, and that in some cases, they have also heard responses from the sanctioned officials themselves.

government can and will employ sanctions as needed on an ongoing basis, in support of its shared development, democracy, and security goals, guided by her Strategy on Countering Corruption.

At the same time, he reminded that ultimately, it is Liberians and not the U.S.

CDC threatens 'internal traitors'

Starts from back page

opposition Alternative National Congress (ANC) political leader Alexander B. Cummings' bodyguard allegedly carried illegal firearms at a rally. Last month, police here arrested a man said to be Mr. Cummings' private bodyguard for the alleged illegal possession of a firearm.

But Chairman Johnson said the CDC Youth League is concerned and has a keen interest in knowing why the international community and development partners seek to allegedly remain silent on the matter.

"We call on the international community to speak out and stop remaining silent on the national security threat Mr. Cummings and his ANC continue to exhibit daily," Johnson alleged.

Johnson also accused folks in the opposition of wanting to come to power by all

unconstitutional means, alleging that they are out for nothing less than chaos.

In another development, Johnson said the CDC Youth League under his leadership will be launching a farm program in all the fifteen political subdivisions of the country.

"We will be launching a Youth in Agriculture project," he said and explained that this program is aimed at encouraging many young people to participate in agricultural activities.

According to him, it is a means of reducing poverty and food insecurity in the country.

"This project will take place in all the fifteen political subdivisions of our country. We call on all partisans, well-wishers, and sympathizers to join the Youth League in this noteworthy endeavour," he said.





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LIBERIA LAND AUTHORITY
Old Ministry of Commerce Building
Asylum and Gurley Intersection
Monrovia, Liberia



December 27, 2022

filed Dec 27 2022 @ 12:57

Survey Notice

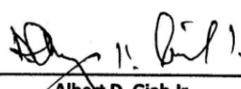
By directive of the Resident/Assigned Judge, 13th Judicial Circuit Court, Margibi County, thru the Liberia Land Authority authorized the undersigned Registered Licensed Land Surveyor to an investigate Survey is the case reference: Mardee Dewttomas Tozay and Frank, Dunoh, Daniel Gbor and John Bosco, all of the City of Monrovia.....Plaintiff VS The Intestate Estate of the late Garkpehzoko of Garikpeh Town by and thru its Administrators and Administratrix Okay Wrueto, William Vah and Comfort Andrews, Et All.....all of Ben Town, Schieffelin, Marshall, Margibi County, Republic of Liberia....Defendants on Friday 6th January 2023 beginning at 10:00 AM.

The Said parcel of land is lying and situated at Ben Town, Schieffelin, Marshall, Margibi County, Republic of Liberia

Therefore, all adjoining property owners, disputants and interested parties are requested to be present at the site on the day of the survey with their deed(s), diagram(s), map(s), technical representatives/surveyors and other relevant document to substantiate their claims.

Please let this survey notice and announcement claim the attention of the following individuals:

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Amos Kerikulah 2. Madam Cecelia James 3. Mr. Jimmy Jefferson 4. Madam Marine David 5. Mr. Tyler Taylor 6. Mr. Daniel Gbor 7. Madam Jannah Diggis 8. Mr. Boniface D. Salatee 9. Mr. Gonah Paye 	<p style="text-align: center;">CORNERSTONES INITIAL</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. IGM 2. MMK 3. JRW 4. CSJ 5. BB 6. MSG 7. AEM 8. DKS 9. JCP 10. EW & GK 11. LC 12. JVJ & CSJ 13. MK 14. JJ
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Signed: 
Albert D. Giah Jr.
Registered Licensed Surveyor
Chairman Investigative Survey Broad
Cell No. 0886-740-519/775-080-153

Surv. Kempton Murray (LIC. NO 014)
Plaintiff Surveyor

Cc. Sheriff, 13th Judicial Circuit Court, Margibi Co.

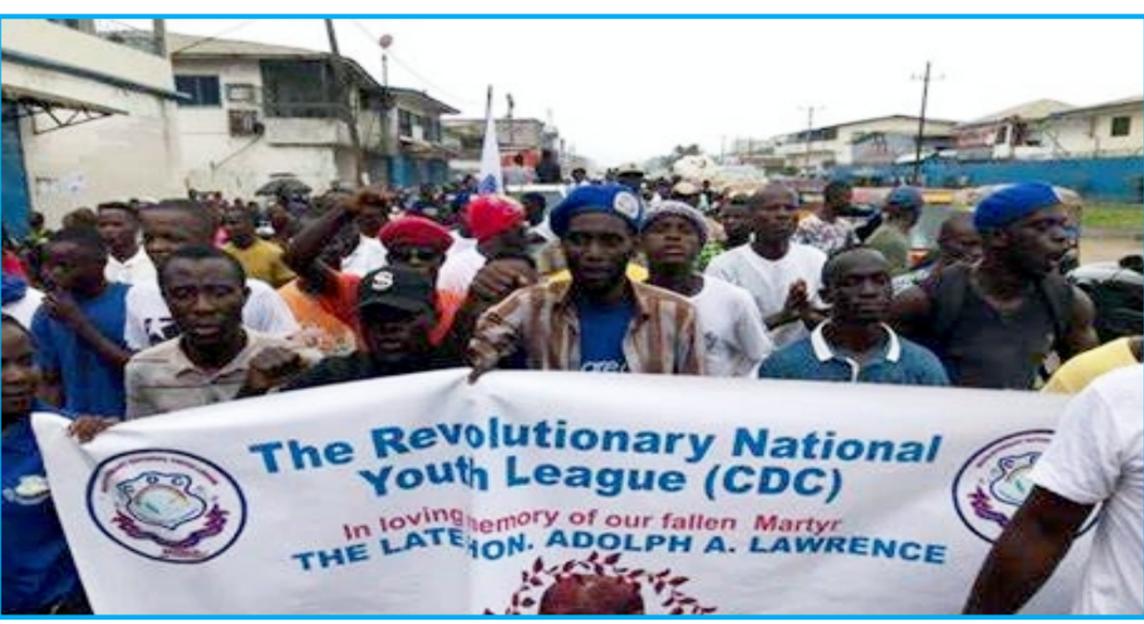
CDC threatens 'internal traitors'

By Lewis S. Teh

The Youth League of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) has threatened to expose alleged "internal traitors" who are working with the opposition to undermine the government.

Point that the names of the alleged traitors will be released very soon. "To all government officials who are constantly undermining the system, very soon the Youth League will be asking you to step aside,

decent conditions for our people at various ministries, agencies, commissions, and concession areas," he added. Johnson noted that the CDC Youth League will be standing with the marginalized and affected masses of the people. Meanwhile, Johnson has



CDC National Youth League Chair and Assistant Youth and Sports Minister Emmanuel M. Johnson vowed during a political gathering over the weekend in West

or you will be made to step aside, Mr. Johnson said. "In the coming years, this Youth League will be all out advocating for

accused the international community and development partners of allegedly being silent over reports that

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

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- * Calendars * Brochures * Letterhead
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0886484201 | Email: info@thenewdawnliberia.com | P.O. Box 1266 UN Drive & Center Street
0777007529 | Website: www.thenewdawnliberia.com | Opposite NIC, Monrovia, Liberia