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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 04, 2024	L\$178.3132/US\$1.00	L\$179.9426/US\$1.00

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

The New Dawn
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French Version Inside

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Former Pres. Weah

I've nothing against Koung

-Former President Weah reacts to public criticism

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Pres. Boakai

-Boakai tells AAID Steering Committee members

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Continental News

Hundreds of Nigerian homes seized in huge anti-graft case

Nigeria's anti-graft agency has said it has made its biggest ever seizure of assets, alleged to have been purchased with the proceeds of corruption.

The EFCC was set up in 2003 to fight corruption in a country where it is seen as endemic, existing through all government structures. "The forfeiture of the

assets would be worth tens of millions of dollars on the market.

Corruption remains one of the biggest problems in Nigeria despite successive governments promising to stop it. The country is one of the Africa's largest oil producers, but few of its more than 225 million inhabitants have benefited from this wealth.

At the moment there are several graft cases in court involving past or present government officials.

In May this year, a former minister of aviation, Hadi Sirika, appeared in court on corruption charges, along with his daughter and son-in-law.

Sirika was regarded as one of the most powerful ministers in former President Muhammadu Buhari's government. The EFCC accused him of using his position to give undue advantage to a company linked to his daughter and son-in-law. The three pleaded not guilty and were released on bail. BBC

property... was [in line with the] EFCC's mandate and policy directive of ensuring that the corrupt and fraudulent do not enjoy the proceeds of their unlawful activities," the agency said.

Situated on the outskirts of Abuja, passers by have for years wondered who owned the estate covering some 150,000 square metres. A property expert based in Abuja estimated that the seized

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) announced that it has taken possession of a large housing estate comprising of more than 750 properties in the capital, Abuja.

The agency did not reveal exactly who had owned the land and luxurious homes but its statement said they belonged to a former high-ranking member of government.



The anti-corruption agency says the homes were built with proceeds of corruption

Biden 'proud' to be in Angola for unprecedented visit

US President Joe Biden has said he is "very proud to be the first American president visiting Angola" at the start of talks with his counterpart João Lourenço. Discussions at the presidential palace in the capital, Luanda, were on security and trade.

The US government is backing a new 1,300km (810-mile) railway project linking an Angolan port with mining areas in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia. The visit to oil-rich Angola is part of a US effort to focus more on trade and investment in Africa, in what some analysts see as a counter to China's influence on the continent.

In his first and only trip to Africa during his presidency, Biden's choice of Angola is significant and it signals a dramatic improvement in relations between the two nations. Welcoming the US president to the country, Lourenço said the visit "marks an important turning point in our relationship, which will

undoubtedly gain a new dynamic from today onward".

"I'm deeply proud of everything we have done together to transform our partnership thus far," Biden said in response. "You've heard me say it before... the United States is all in on Africa... The future of the world is here, in Africa, and Angola," the president said recalling remarks he made at the US-Africa summit in Washington in 2022. Angola was firmly in the political orbit of China and Russia after independence from Portuguese colonial rule in 1975, but since taking power in 2017,

Lourenço has steered it towards closer relations with the US. Later on Tuesday Biden is due to visit a slavery museum. More than four million slaves were forcibly sent from this region of Africa to the Americas.

"Together, the United States and Angola acknowledge the past horrors of slavery and its legacy, while looking forward to a bright future of continually deepening collaboration between our nations," the White House said in a statement on Monday. BBC



President João Lourenço (R) said the visit marked a turning point in US-Angola relations

A father's grief after daughter killed in accidental drone strike

An Islamic school teacher, Masud Abdulrasheed, is struggling to come to terms with the killing of his seven-year-old daughter in drone strikes by Nigeria's military during a religious festival in their large but sparsely populated village exactly a year ago. The military said the bombing was caused by "a failure of intelligence", leading the army to mistake the open-air festival in Tudunbiri for a gathering of jihadist fighters.

"The incident of December 3rd, 2023 was a great tragedy that shouldn't have happened," military spokesman Maj-Gen Edward Buba told the BBC. "The armed forces regret that incident. And if we could bring the lives lost back, we would." Warning: This story contains graphic details which some readers may find distressing

About 85 people were killed, including Mr Abdulrasheed's little daughter Habeebah, when unmanned drones dropped two bombs on the

tragedy.

"We saw dead bodies all over the place as if they were sleeping. Body parts were strewn around the tree branches and rooftops. We had to pack them inside sacks and buried all the dead in a mass grave.

"There is nothing more devastating than seeing people you invited for a celebration coming to meet their end. I am so heartbroken," Mr Abdulrasheed said.

As the father of four spoke to the BBC, he sat his second daughter, Zaharau, beside him on a mat outside their home. He gently pulled up her top to show a wound on her stomach. Four-year-old Zaharau was hit by shrapnel. It took at least an hour to drive her and the other wounded to the nearest hospital in Kaduna city. Although she underwent surgery, her wound still hasn't fully healed.

"When my daughter and the others that got injured were at the hospital, they were well taken care of. We thank the government for that." But things changed after they got discharged, months later. The hospital has refused to continue with their [free] treatment. They keep giving us excuses."

Walking around Tudunbiri, there is hardly a family not affected by the



village in northern Kaduna state.

"The first bomb dropped on us at around 10 pm, close to a tree where women and children were seated," Mr Abdulrasheed recalled. "We ran for safety, but moments later we gathered to help those injured and also called for help, but the second bomb was dropped and it killed more people."

Mr Abdulrasheed described Habeebah as "the most caring among my children".

"She would always give me whatever gift she was given, even if I didn't need it," he told the BBC.

The 36-year-old was one of the organisers of the annual festival, known as Maulud, held to celebrate the birth of Prophet Muhammad. Many of his students were killed in the

tragedy of that fateful night.

Twenty-year-old Aisha Buhari lost three of her younger brothers. She survived, suffering an injury to her left arm that is yet to heal.

Sitting on a stool, she cried and wiped her tears with her hijab as she recalled the last moments of her brothers. "That night, I just finished talking with them and stepped away for a moment when the first bomb hit, only for me to see their dead bodies on the ground moments later," Ms Buhari said.

"When they rushed me to the hospital, I could not think of anything but my brothers. I cried so much." As Ms Buhari spoke, she paused to wipe the pus oozing from her wound.

"There was no house or farm task I could not do before the incident, but now I can't do anything properly. I depend on people to help with something as basic as washing clothes," she said.

EDITORIAL

We applaud Speaker Koffa's courage

When the dust is finally settled, and the leadership struggle in the House of Representatives is addressed, embattled Speaker Jonathan Fonati Koffa's name will go down in history as a public servant who stood on the side of the law.

Despite the majority of his colleagues announcing his removal and controversially electing a successor, Speaker Koffa filed a writ of Mandamus recently before the Supreme Court, which has been heard and is pending.

Koffa had argued that he remains the legally elected Speaker of the 55th Legislature, challenging actions by the majority bloc and asking the High Court to restore his right under the law.

Speaker Koffa's move led the Supreme Court to order all parties to return to status code ante pending a hearing by the Full Bench. This is unprecedented, considering the removal of two previous Speakers of the House under the past administration.

Speaker Koffa has told his colleagues that he is willing to step down if they accord him due process, something the majority bloc has failed to clarify. Instead, they have relied on legislative politics and strategy rather than the rule of law to carry on their actions.

However, it takes the fortitude of one man, amid all odds and humiliation, to use the law to seek recourse, which should be highly applauded by every law-abiding citizen.

The embattled Speaker is setting a precedent that no group should wake up one morning and decide to remove a leader outside of legal means only because they don't like him.

The Constitution provides recourse if the people so desire to act accordingly other than employing unorthodox means that do not set a good example not only for the current generation but also for generations to come.

Speaker Koffa is fighting to correct this wrong step in addressing a problem. Even if he were eventually removed, let it be in accordance with the law that should guide our society and everything we do as a country.

Having heard both sides of the fracas, the Supreme Court is expected to issue an opinion sometime this week. We couldn't care less where the chip may fall, but let it be within the confines of the law, thanks to the courage of one man—Speaker Jonathan Fonati Koffa.

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COMMENTARY

By Kevin Watkins

Last Chance for the SDGs?

LONDON - The world is losing a winnable battle. UN Secretary General António Guterres warns that the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are on the verge of becoming “the epitaph for a world that might have been.” Can the patient be resuscitated?

Decisions made in the coming days will have a significant bearing on the answer. On December 7, governments will announce their funding pledges for the International Development Association, the branch of the World Bank Group that delivers finance to the world's poorest countries (with annual per capita incomes below \$1,315). IDA replenishment happens every three years, which means that commitments made today span the critical investment period for salvaging the SDGs. Unfortunately, it isn't looking good, with several key donors failing to pull their weight.

The 78 countries covered by the IDA are where the battle for the SDGs will be won or lost. Home to 500 million people surviving on less than \$2.15 per day, they account around for 70% of extreme poverty and over 90% of world hunger. Worse, it is children who are on the front lines. In a recent ODI report, my co-authors and I estimate that some 257 million children in IDA-eligible countries are growing up hungry, with devastating consequences for their health and educational prospects.

Recent setbacks have compounded already severe challenges, triggering major reversals. After being hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, IDA countries have been buffeted by post-pandemic economic slowdowns, rising food prices, and surging public debt. Over half are falling further behind rich countries as global inequalities widen. Poverty reduction has slowed from an already inadequate pace, and progress against hunger has stalled. Debt service is crowding out vital investment, with repayments now outweighing spending on health and basic education.

Against this bleak backdrop, access to affordable development finance has been shrinking. Real (inflation-adjusted) financial transfers to Africa from donors have fallen, and rising real interest rates have priced most IDA countries out of sovereign bond markets (or otherwise subjected them to punitively high borrowing costs).

The IDA is the single most powerful multilateral financial weapon in the anti-poverty arsenal. In the last fiscal year, it provided \$31 billion in support for member countries and was by far the largest source of development finance for Africa, which benefits from zero-interest grants, concessional loans repayable over 30-40 years, or both.

Such finance is an SDG lifeline, because it is overwhelmingly directed to areas with demonstrated benefits for the poor, such as social protection, investments in child and maternal health, and education. With a generous replenishment, the IDA could help lift millions out of extreme poverty, extend opportunities for improved health and learning, and support adaptation to climate change.

Moreover, for donors seeking value for money, the IDA has a unique advantage: every \$1 received can deliver \$3.50. The IDA can leverage the World Bank's AAA credit rating to secure low-interest financing by issuing bonds and lending the proceeds to developing countries. When donors deliver funds through bilateral aid programs or global health funds, the money that comes out mirrors the money that goes in. But the IDA offers a much bigger

bang for the buck.

The IDA also mitigates damaging international-aid practices. Currently, only around 8% of poverty-related development assistance is delivered through government budgets. The rest arrives through project funds controlled by donors, leading to fragmentation, weak coordination, and high transaction costs for governments. Hence, Ethiopia had to manage 454 aid transactions for agriculture alone in 2021. By contrast, the IDA delivers support through national budgets for nationally owned programs, which is why governments across Africa strongly support it.

The World Bank has rightly made the case for a major IDA increase. Last year, the bank's president, Ajay Banga, called on donors to provide more than \$120 billion, which would make this replenishment “the biggest of all time.” Sadly, that ambition has faded, with current pledges implying a replenishment of less than \$105 billion - smaller than the previous one, in real terms.

While US President Joe Biden's administration has announced an increased IDA commitment, and several smaller countries and new donors have also stepped up, some major G7 economies have stepped back. Last year, French President Emmanuel Macron hosted a summit aimed at creating a new global financial pact to tackle poverty and the climate crisis; but this year, he is set to cut France's contribution to the IDA.

Equally disappointing is the United Kingdom, which was among the largest contributors to the IDA in the decade ending in 2022 - a legacy of former Prime Minister Gordon Brown's leadership. The picture changed dramatically in the last IDA replenishment, when the UK contribution was halved as Conservative governments took a wrecking ball to the aid budget.

This year's replenishment gives the new Labour government an opportunity to start rebuilding Britain's reputation as a “development superpower.” Foreign Secretary David Lammy has promised a new era in which the UK will “use realist means to pursue progressive ends.” Reversing the Conservatives' cuts with a 54% increase to the UK contribution (representing a commitment of \$2.2 billion) would certainly meet those criteria. And yet, the Treasury wants to cap any additional contribution at 20-40%.

That would be a travesty. While the Treasury is correct to note that it inherited a poisoned chalice of unsustainable public finance from its Conservative predecessors, it is wrong to suggest that the UK cannot afford to send a positive signal in the interest of international cooperation and its own soft power.

Making matters worse, the government has effectively shelved long-standing aid commitments by maintaining previous governments' policy of subjecting them to impractical and implausible fiscal tests, one of which is to achieve a budget surplus (something that has happened only four times since 1971). There is nothing realist or progressive about using implausible goals as a pretext to turn one's back on the world's poor. The UK should fully restore the IDA cuts made by the Conservative government.

The IDA may not be perfect, but it's the best tool that we have for restoring the hope that the SDGs once instilled. Governments should use it.

OP-ED

By Nana Akufo-Addo

The Key to Africa’s Vaccine Sovereignty

ACCRA - Africa is on the cusp of a profound economic transformation. The population boom in Sub-Saharan countries, which is expected to increase the number of Africans from 1.4 billion today to 3.3 billion in 2075, holds the potential to trigger rapid GDP growth and raise living standards across the continent.

My country, Ghana, aims to be at the forefront of these developments. But our ability to capitalize on the demographic dividend hinges on one critical factor: the health of our citizens. For this reason, we are seeking to form strategic international partnerships that help us improve health outcomes, stimulate economic growth, and deliver broadly shared prosperity.

This raises a fundamental question: What does an equitable strategic partnership between African countries and the Global North look like? Historically, development aid for vital health projects in the developing world, though well-intentioned, has often been uncoordinated and unsustainable, focusing on short-term crises rather than addressing the systemic problems that cause them.

Over the past two decades, African countries have been laying the groundwork to sustain their health systems entirely through domestic resources. Recent trends suggest that partnerships between the public and private sectors are key to expanding access and achieving true health self-sufficiency.

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance is a case in point. Since its founding in 2000, this international partnership has helped African countries immunize nearly a half-billion children, halve mortality rates among children under five, and generate tens of billions of dollars in economic benefits by improving educational outcomes, boosting productivity, and dramatically reducing health-care costs.

These positive effects on African countries’ health and economic performance are just the starting point. Sustainable, inclusive income growth could enable countries like Ghana to diversify their economies and foster more stable societies. It could also help us retain talent, as more people choose to build their futures here instead of searching for economic opportunities abroad. Moreover, a thriving Africa would benefit our trading partners, thereby contributing to a stronger, more resilient global economy.

The immediate benefits of strategic health partnerships are obvious. The rapid purchase and deployment of mpox vaccines over the past two months show that key lessons of the COVID-19 pandemic have been learned, as new emergency financing mechanisms - established through continent-wide efforts and supported by international partners - have boosted vaccine equity and bolstered health security.

Looking ahead, new initiatives to expand domestic vaccine manufacturing create an invaluable opportunity to meet Africa’s growing demand and achieve vaccine sovereignty. While international partnerships are essential for fostering long-term growth, our ultimate objective remains self-reliance.

In 2023, African governments contributed more than \$200 million to Gavi’s immunization programs - a historic milestone. With the Global South now providing 40% of the funding for Gavi’s routine activities, many countries, including Ghana, are on track to fund their immunization efforts independently by the end of this decade.

But if Africa is to achieve full vaccine sovereignty, Gavi must secure at least \$9 billion for the next five years. The importance of this support is evident in Ghana, where our partnership with Gavi has reinvigorated the fight against malaria - a longstanding scourge - and will soon help protect young women from cervical cancer for the first time by expanding access to the HPV vaccine.

One of the strengths of Gavi’s model is its capacity to harness and scale private-sector innovations, enabling governments in the Global South to vaccinate more children, provide quality health care, and cut costs. In Ghana, Gavi’s financial and logistical support has helped us integrate technological advances such as digital record-keeping, solar power, drone delivery, and infant biometric identification into our health system.

My message to Gavi’s donors is simple: as partners, we have achieved remarkable progress together. Stepping back now would jeopardize our hard-won gains. A healthier, safer, more prosperous, and more equitable future for all is within reach. By deepening our collaboration, we can achieve it.

OPINION

By Daoud Kuttab

Trump’s Middle East Challenge

RAMALLAH - Donald Trump’s victory in the US presidential election was no surprise to people in the Middle East. Governments in the region had planned for it, and more than a month before Trump’s inauguration, they are ready to deal with him. It is Trump who might find himself unprepared, because today’s Middle East is fundamentally different from the one he confronted during his first term in the White House. The two biggest changes are Iran and Gaza.

Begin with Iran. During Trump’s first term, he ripped up the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action to limit Iran’s nuclear program. While Iran’s president at the time, the moderate Hassan Rouhani, was succeeded in 2021 by an ultra-conservative, the late Ebrahim Raisi, the presidency is now once again held by a relative moderate, Masoud Pezeshkian.

Even before Pezeshkian took office, Iran was engaged in rapprochement with its Arab neighbors, restoring diplomatic relations with its great regional rival, Saudi Arabia, in March 2023. This unexpected and highly consequential détente was part of an ongoing Chinese-sponsored initiative, apparently aimed at reducing tensions and bolstering stability in the region.

This brings us to another shift since Trump was last in office: both China and Russia have strengthened their relations with Iran (and with each other). While Trump was always antagonistic toward China and Iran, he maintained a kind of “bromance” with Russian President Vladimir Putin during his first term. But while he seems eager to coordinate a de-escalation of the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East directly with Putin, he will have to navigate a new set of relationship dynamics.

In any case, a de-escalation of hostilities in the Middle East will be difficult to achieve. Israel’s brutal campaign against Gaza began as retaliation for the Hamas attack of October 7, 2023, but has now caused an appalling level of civilian deaths, displacement, and suffering. To be sure, with the United States and France having brokered a ceasefire in Lebanon, Israel’s campaign against Hezbollah appears likely to be over before Trump’s inauguration. But it is difficult to predict whether a “peace” agreement in Lebanon will make reaching a similar deal in Gaza easier or more difficult, not least because Trump lacks any clear stance on virtually any topic.

US President Joe Biden was easier to figure out. He and his secretary of state, Antony Blinken, carry a certain amount of Zionist ideological baggage. So, while the Biden administration has urged Israel to stop its offensive, and threatened to withhold aid unless conditions for civilians in Gaza improved, it has unfailingly rationalized Israel’s actions and continued to supply it with weapons. Even in the wake of the ceasefire in Lebanon, the Biden administration is reportedly moving ahead with a \$680 million arms sale to Israel.

Trump has shown a similar preference for Israel’s interests. During his first administration, he broke from decades of settled policy to move the US embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, recognized Israeli sovereignty over the occupied Golan Heights, and defunded the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, the main program supporting Palestinian refugees. He also initiated the Arab-Israeli normalization process, with Israel signing the so-called Abraham Accords with the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan in 2020-21.

Trump plans to include plenty of pro-Israel figures in his new administration. But when it comes to the war in Gaza, his lack of any fixed ideological commitments means that his goal is simple: strike a deal. Whatever that deal turns out to be is almost certain to be bad for the Palestinians, not only because of the administration’s pro-Israel bent, but also because externally brokered deals tend to reflect the balance of power on the ground, which clearly favors Israel.

The Palestinians do not even have particularly strong support from Arab countries, though Saudi Arabia has declared that it will not establish diplomatic relations with Israel until an independent Palestinian state is created within the 1967 borders. The Abraham Accords are under strain, but they have not collapsed.

But the deal Trump strikes might not be all that great for the Israelis, either. According to Israeli journalist Barak Ravid, Trump held a grudge against Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, who rushed to congratulate Biden after he defeated Trump in the 2020 election. For a president who has repeatedly vowed to target his enemies, this is not entirely farfetched.

The most likely scenario appears to be an end to the current war and a return to the pre-October 7 status quo, not any kind of push for a broader political solution. But Trump’s unpredictability and the pro-Israel character of his administration have many in the region concerned that he might greenlight Israeli annexation of part of the West Bank or even agree to establishing Jewish settlements in Gaza. Trump already tried to engineer a pro-Israeli deal, releasing his Middle East Peace Plan in January 2020. But what he called the “deal of the century” failed miserably.

The problem, which should be starkly apparent by now, is that when the Palestinians see no prospect of a two-state solution, they eventually act out. So, even if Trump negotiates a return to the status quo, it is unlikely to hold for long.



Death is inevitable

Death is inevitable, they say. It will surely happen to everyone, -meaning it cannot be avoided. Death visits when it is least expected. Death comes in many instances as a shock, leaving mixed feelings and many unanswered questions when it takes away our loved ones.

Often, people say a person was aware of his or her death before passing on to the afterlife. Still, those are mere speculations because if the person had known, they would have put their houses in order, as King Hezekiah did in 2 Kings 20:1 and Isaiah 38:1-10.

A former Liberian playwright, Wilton G. S. Sankawulo, once wrote that nobody knows when he will die. That statement holds despite many empirical data and predictions about life expectancies in countries around the globe, with Liberia's life expectancy at 65.25 (UN report).

This was obvious on early Thursday morning, November 28, 2024, when Liberians woke up to the shocking death news of warlord turned politician and preacher Prince Y. Johnson.

The late Johnson had returned from his native Nimba County a day before his death, where he dedicated a hall at his university in honor of former Togolese President Gnassingbe Eyadema, a late African dictator he had held in high esteem.

Sen. Johnson may have had big plans and dreams for the future, including the university or even planning his retirement with his grand children in mind. But death had its own plan for Sen. Johnson.

The shocking death news of Sen. Johnson the day after his return from Nimba shows that death remains an unexpected guest to the living.

No one is promised tomorrow.

There is a common saying that no one is promised tomorrow, so live as if today is your last. Why the importance of this statement is overlooked in many conversations that saying holds.

Living one's life as if there were no tomorrow could be interpreted in many ways. However, one interpretation that stands tall among the rest is living a life leaving a memory for your loved ones and people you interact with every day. For some, these memories are fond, while for others, they are nothing but bad memories.

In the case of the late Sen. Prince Johnson, he comes across as a hero and a villain at the same time, depending on which side one belongs.

For his kinsmen, he was a hero—a man who revenged the blood of Nimbaians against former junta leader Samuel K. Doe.

In their memory, the events of the 1985 Nimba raid by soldiers loyal to slain President Doe after the failed coup in 1985 and the 1990 Lutheran Massacre pictured him as their liberator. Some would also argue that a fraction of Americo-Liberians also saw him as a hero for killing former President Doe.

But for others, he remained a villain. They have no heroic memory of him except for the pain and agony he put them through when he slaughtered their loved ones in cool blood during the country's decades of civil war for alleged crimes they did not commit.

For those who live in pain and agony, seeing him suffer unto death through, say, conviction by the War and Economic Crimes Court would have been viewed as sweet revenge.

But as it is now, Sen. Johnson will no longer face a War and Economic Crimes Court, and neither will those wishing that he rots in jail like former President Taylor, who is serving a 50-year jail term in a UK prison, ever see that come to pass.




No, Sen. Johnson is gone. He died a peaceful death, contrary to what many of his victims would have wished.

The Lesson Learned.

Life is a gift from God, the Almighty. He has promised no one how long he or she will spend here on Earth before transitioning to the unknown. Live it as if there was no tomorrow. Live at peace with every man. Love your neighbor as yourself because he dwells near you for security. Owe no man anything. And above all, love God and honor him, for this is your greatest service.

To be given life is the greatest gift every person and living creature received, or will receive, from God, the Almighty. Life is years of opportunity to develop a relationship with God and others and serve the Lord and other people.

“It's a life where we walk out the plans and purposes for which God created us: loving God, loving others, and making disciples of Jesus. Yes, we must die to ourselves and our desires, but in so doing, we realize how much they only led to our unhappiness and dissatisfaction,” one writer wrote.



Invitation for Bids [IFB]

Forestry Development Authority/TSF Project

IFB Number:
Purchaser:
Project:
Contract title:
Country:
Grant No.:
Procurement Method:
OCBN No:
Issued on:

LIB/FDA/PIU/SMEs/TSF/OCB-N/003/2024
Forestry Development Authority (FDA)
Scaling up the participation of SMFEs in the Secondary Wood Processing Industry_ Phase II
" Provision of office materials to Three (3) Shared Facility Centers, and the provision of office materials to Eleven (11) Associations"
Liberia
5900155018403
Open Competitive Bidding National (OCBN)
LIB/FDA/PIU/SMEs/TSF/OCB-N/003/2024
December 2, 2024

1. The Government of Liberia through the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) has received financing from the African Development Bank Group hereinafter called the Bank toward the cost of the Scaling up the Participation of SMFEs in the Secondary Wood Processing Industry_ Phase II, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for the Provision of office materials to three Shared Facility Centers, and the provision of office materials to Eleven (11) Associations. “For this contract, the Borrower shall process the payments using the Direct Payment disbursement method, as defined in the Bank’s Disbursement Guidelines and procedures for Investment Project Financing.

2. The Forestry Development Authority (FDA) now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for supply of **Stationery, ICT Equipment and Office Furniture’s**

Lot No. 1	Description	Quantity
i	Stationery	Various
ii	ICT Equipment	Various
iii	Office Furniture	Various

3. Bidding will be conducted through the Open Competitive Bidding National, (OCB-N) method as specified in the Bank’s Procurement Policy Framework for Bank’s Group Funded operations ² dated October, 2015, and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Framework.

4. The bidding document in English may be collected by interested eligible Bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below

5. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **1:00 PM, December 30, 2024**. Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders’ designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below

6. All Bids must be accompanied by a **“Bid-Securing Declaration”**.

7. Attention is drawn to the Procurement Framework requiring the Borrower to disclose information on the successful bidder’s beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the bidding document.

8. For any further clarification, please contact:
Attn. Project Coordinator
Project Implementation Unit
Forestry Development Authority
Whein Town, Bernard Farm
Montserrado County
Liberia

Email Address: emmanuellew965@gmail.com
0775-841-431/0886-570-320

Link for Clarification:
Email Address: wynnbryant12@gmail.com
0776-063-643/0886-551-249



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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

November 26, 2022

The General Auditing Commission (GAC) announces the commencement of the second phase of the Government of Liberia DOMESTIC DEBT audit covering all fifteen counties. The Audit period runs from January 1, 1980, to December 31, 2024.

CLAIMANTS from 1980 to 2024 are asked to report them to the Office of the Auditor General, Old Executive Mansion, Ashmun Street, Monrovia, Liberia from Monday to Friday - 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., with all relevant supporting documents.

All claims that were not submitted during the first phase of the validation period are required to be submitted to the GAC.

Additionally, claims that were deemed inadequate and not accepted for validation during the first phase of the validation period can be re-submitted with all relevant documents consistent with the qualifying criteria stated below:

Documents to be submitted are:

1. Goods & Services, Works and Professional Services

- Original copies of Local Purchase Orders (LPOs), Invoices, Delivery Notes, Certificates of completion, contracts, business registration, tax clearance, etc.

2. Rental & Leases

- Original copies of Contracts/Lease Agreements, Title Deeds/Letters of Administration, and evidence of Real Estate Tax Payment etc.

3. Instruments

- Permanent Claims Commission/ Promissory note, confirmation letters from the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Ministry of Justice (MoJ), and confirmation letters from the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL).

Designated sites for the submission of claims in the counties will be made public shortly in the various county capitals where GAC auditors will be conducting the audits.

No excuse will be accepted, this time around, as the exercise will be done only within the specified time frame of December 1, 2024, to February 3, 2025.

For any/all information regarding the Independent Audit of the Government of Liberia DOMESTIC DEBT AUDIT,

Or email the GAC @ domesticdebitaudit@gac.gov.lr.

Signed: THE MANAGEMENT
General Auditing Commission

Liberia's development is now!

President Boakai says Liberia's development drive is now, and there should be no room for excuses, as he endorses his government's development plan here - the Arrest Agenda for Inclusive Development.

By Lewis S. Teh

Congo Town, Liberia, December 4, 2024 - President Joseph Nyuma Boakai has sent a strong caveat to members of the national steering committee of the Arrest Agenda for Inclusive Development (AAID) that it is time for their work to yield results, which he is optimistic will lead to the development of the country. The Arrest Agenda for Inclusive Development is the development roadmap for this administration that is under immense pressure to deliver on campaign promises.

"As we gather here today to endorse Liberia new development plan - the Arrest Agenda for Inclusive Development or AAID, let us be reminded that now is the time for all of us to work collaboratively to develop this country; no time for excuse", President Boakai underscores.

He made the urge Tuesday, December 3, 2024 at the EJS Ministerial Complex

program aimed at tackling multidimensional poverty and creating lasting environment in the lives of citizens. "Our focus is diversifying the economy, building resilient infrastructure, strengthening the rule of law, improving governance, combating corruption, ensuring environmental sustainability, ensuring environmental security, and investing in the human capital, he says.

Highlighting key development drivers of the ARREST Agenda, Mr. Boakai names agribusiness, infrastructure, rule of law and governance, adding that dealing with agribusiness, rules and infrastructure, the rule of law, education, human capital, sanitation, tourism, are areas critical to Liberia's future. "My government is taking a proactive role in Liberia's development through education, and other areas; we are committed to championing the flagship projects that are central to the AAID.

However, let me be very clear, these are not the only projects to the AAID, but



in oldest Congo Town, when he presided over the National Steering Committee Meeting to endorse the document.

The AAID is under the supervision of the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning.

Speaking at the official opening ceremony, President Boakai expressed delight to have presided over what he describes as an inspiring moment in his government's journey to rescuing Liberia.

"As we come together to endorse the rest of the Agenda for Inclusive Development, AAID, and the Counter-Development Agenda, we are doing so at a time when we are beginning to see the signs of common progress in our country." The gathering, he says presents committee members an unique opportunity, saying we can't overly emphasize the importance of results at our various institutions to bring development to this country.

He says it is no secret that Liberia faces significant challenges, ranging food insecurity, better nutrition, and near-persistent lack of access to essential services such as clean drinking water, reliable electricity, adequate housing, and health care, among others.

"Our people deserve better, and it is our responsibility to address these challenges head-on."

The AAID, according to the President, is of a comprehensive strategy that is being supported by an ambitious

there will also be others supporting the development through the ARREST project in Liberia."

President Boakai says many sectorial, county-level initiatives will be implemented by all stakeholders, who notes, are committed to supporting development in Liberia.

He continues that government will also work closely with development partners, private sector, civil society, and citizens both here and in the diaspora to ensure effective implementation of the AAID plan.

"I urge all of you to engage fully and contribute your expertise as we move forward" he says, while on his officials to commit a culture of mutual accountability.

"The success of this agenda", the President notes, depends on government manages its limited resources, and ensure that they are judiciously used effectively and efficiently, thereby impacting development and improving livelihood.

The AAID, according to President Boakai, is a call to action for all Liberians: government, private sector, international partners, civil society, and communities, adding that it is also a call to unite in a shared vision for a prosperous and equitable Liberia. "Collaboration will be vital to revitalizing peace sectors such as agribusiness, tourism, digital technology, infrastructure, education, and health

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Prince Johnson was a national hero

-Dr. Whapoe

A former Presidential Candidate has hailed the late Senator Prince Yormie Johnson, a national hero.

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

Paynesville, Liberia, December 4, 2024 - The Political Leader of Vision for Liberia Transformation Party (VOLT)

fallen Senator in Paynesville on Monday, December 2, Dr. Whapoe, recounted the political journey of the late Nimba County Lawmaker. He notes stresses that despite the

Liberia.

Yes, he fought, and when he noticed that the fighting should be ceased, he waited and there came ECOMOG and he turned power over; that was pure patriotism, and for that he should be celebrated”, Dr. Whapoe maintains. He notes that Senator Johnson lived a noble life, and must be celebrated as a national hero. “I think Senator Johnson, made an ink print in Liberia, despite being a warlord; he was developmental-orientated and has scored a mark in the country’s history and that is why he must be respected.” Assistant Minister for Trade Union Affairs at the Ministry of Labor, Rufus Saydee, describes the death of Senator Johnson as a blow, not only to Nimba County, but Liberia as a whole.

He rallies the people of Nimba to remain united as one people, even after the death of Senator Johnson, saying there is still a brighter future ahead. The late Se. Johnson has been portrayed as a curious and awful personality for his role in the Liberian Civil War. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**



Dr. Jeremiah Whapoe, says the late Senator Prince Yormie Johnson should be celebrated as a national hero, rather than criticize because a authored a book on the Liberian Civil War.

Speaking to The NEW DAWN shortly when he went to pay tribute at the home of the

late Senator Johnson was an awful figure, he was a man, who believe in principle and fought in the country’s interests.

“While it is true he was a warlord, but in our history, he was a national hero; he fought the war and didn't fight for himself, but fought for

Farmers shouldn't consider themselves poor

Liberian farmers have been encouraged not to look down on themselves.

By Naneka A. Hoffman

Monrovia, Liberia, December 4, 2024 - The Executive Director of the Liberia Agency for Community Development (LACD) Mr. Adama Sarnor, encourages Liberian farmers not to view themselves as poor, emphasizing that the country’s land remains rich despite challenges they face.

Speaking in an interview, Mr. Sarnor says LACD is currently working with approximately 700 smallholder farmers and cooperatives in River Cess County, training them how to plant crops in nurseries to adapt to climate change. He acknowledges difficulties some farmers face with this new method, as they are accustomed to traditional farming practices.

However, Mr. Sarnor assures that LACD’s experienced staff is providing necessary support to help them adjust, urging farmers to stay focused and determined.

He notes that they are key partners in Liberia’s economic development, while stressing the

importance of increasing locally produced foods, particularly staples like rice, cassava, eddoes, and yam.

He highlights LACD’s role in promoting food production that addresses poverty and hunger, as well as its collaborations with international partners such as USAID, Irish Aid, Concern Worldwide, and ZOA.

He expresses gratitude for the trust these partners have placed in LACD over the years.

Mr. Sarnor calls on fellow NGO leaders in Liberia to be

transparent and trustworthy, by ensuring that funds received from international donors are used appropriately for their intended purposes.

He explains that despite challenges of limited resources and heavy reliance on international aid organizations, LACD’s mission to implement sustainable programs that will improve education, livelihoods, access to services, and long-term community development is steady. He says the vision is to ensure that every community member has the right to survival, protection, healthcare, and participation, aiming for a more sustainable and prosperous future. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**



Sister Mary Laurene Browne launches Kyne's Hands Foundation

Veteran Liberian educator, Sister Mary Laurene Browne Kyne's Hands Foundation here to assist less-fortunate children.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Barnesville, Liberia, December 4, 2024 - Renowned Liberian educator, and President emeritus of the Stella Maris Polytechnic University in Monrovia, Sister Mary Laurene Browne officially launches Kyne’s Hands Foundation to carter to less-fortunate youths across the country, especially underprivileged females.

Kyne’s Hands Foundation is a non-for profit and non-governmental organization founded by its Executive Director, Cynthia Towejue kyne-Kengo, aimed at working to promote well-being of vulnerable children and advocate for the empowerment of women and children in Liberia.

The organization was birthed in 2021 from a desire to provide health and educational support to vulnerable children and improve the economic status of caregivers of disadvantaged children in Liberia with support

Foundation for the intervention to assist the vulnerable society.

According to her, the fact that she is so interested in strengthening the capacity of youths by providing opportunity to carter to their health and well-being, it needs the efforts of all in helping. “The founder of this institution has a dream and ambition to transform the lives of ordinary Liberians based on an event in her life; the event of her mother forced her to begin this foundation. It’s important to note that no matter how rice any government is, it is not able to meet every need of every citizen. This is why I believe that the Holy Spirit inspires people to bring about dreams and reality able to take care of its citizens”, she concluded.

Providing an overview of the institution, Cynthia Towejue Kyne-Kengo, Founder and Executive Director, says her ambition to assist less-fortunate Liberians is based on the negative experience that her mother experienced at age five to ten,



of donors and partners, including the Liberian government.

The grand launching ceremony held at the Foundation Office in Bend and Stop Community, Barnesville, brought together high school students, human rights activists and institutions, representatives of government ministries and agencies as well as educators and disadvantaged youths.

Prior to the indoor program, the launch began with a parade superintended by a musical band and cultural performance, which provided the avenue for participants to share fun and acquaintance.

Performing the official launch, Liberia’s distinguished educator, Sister Mary Laurene Browne, expressed appreciation and gratitude to the Executive Director and Founder of Kyne’s Hands

while living with people.

According to her, her mother was mistreated and maltreated, while living with people, a story she says that moved her to dream that no Liberian youth especially, females should face such experiences, adding that her institution has made much progress since its establishment in 2021.

“We have come to officially launch this organization today to carter to the health, well-being and education of less-fortunate youths. We have built strategic partnership over the past years. We have established valuable partnership with other organizations, government agencies, community groups and stakeholders that help us leverage resources, share knowledge and maximum impact”, she notes. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Français

La double imposition freine le développement des revenus de la NaFAA

Mme Emma Metieh Glassco, Directrice générale de l'Autorité nationale des pêches et de l'aquaculture du Libéria (NaFAA), a dénoncé les effets néfastes de la double imposition imposée à la fois par économique du gouvernement. Cependant, elle a admis que les politiques actuelles et certains défis opérationnels freinent le développement de ce secteur stratégique. Selon Mme Glassco, plusieurs facteurs expliquent la baisse des revenus de la NaFAA, notamment frais de licence et des charges supplémentaires imposés par notre agence. Cela rend nos eaux peu attractives pour les opérateurs », a-t-elle expliqué. Mme Glassco a également pointé du doigt les frais d'exportation élevés, imposés par la législation libérienne, comme un frein à



l'Autorité fiscale du Libéria (LRA) et la NaFAA. Cette situation compromet gravement la capacité du secteur des pêches à générer des revenus et a provoqué le départ de nombreux navires étrangers des eaux libériennes. S'exprimant lors d'une interview diffusée en direct sur 15 stations de radio locales, Mme Glassco a qualifié la NaFAA de pilier la non-conformité des pêcheurs artisanaux et l'absence de réformes législatives adaptées au secteur halieutique. Elle a particulièrement mis en lumière l'impact de la double imposition, qui aurait contribué au départ de 33 navires européens. « L'un des obstacles majeurs est l'application simultanée de taxes par la LRA et la NaFAA. Par exemple, un navire sous pavillon libérien a été facturé 2 millions de dollars par la LRA, en plus des la compétitivité du secteur. Pour alléger cette charge, le Conseil d'administration de la NaFAA a adopté une résolution réduisant de 50 % ces frais, tout en respectant les dispositions légales en vigueur. Malgré cette mesure, la double imposition demeure un obstacle majeur, provoquant le retrait massif

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La NEC licencie des employés protestataires pour insubordination grave

La Commission nationale des élections (NEC) a annoncé le licenciement de plusieurs employés impliqués dans des manifestations répétées pour réclamer des arriérés de salaires et des avantages non versés. Si le nombre exact de travailleurs concernés reste inconnu, cette mesure marque une réponse ferme aux troubles internes ayant perturbé le fonctionnement de l'institution pendant un mois. Les manifestations visaient à obtenir le règlement de prestations d'assurance impayées et d'arriérés de salaires, certains remontant à 12 mois. Entre le 12 et le 24 novembre 2024, les tensions ont atteint leur paroxysme lorsque des protestataires ont bloqué l'entrée principale de la NEC, empêchant la présidente, Mme Davidetta Browne-Lansanah, d'accéder à son bureau. Dans une communication officielle datée du 2 décembre 2024, Pauline G. Korkoyah, directrice des ressources humaines de la NEC, a justifié ces licenciements par une « insubordination grave » et des actions ayant perturbé gravement les opérations de la Commission. Les employés concernés sont sommés de restituer sans délai tout bien appartenant à la NEC. Les manifestants ont accusé la direction de mauvaise gestion financière, exigeant

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Éditorial

Le courage du Président Koffa, un exemple à saluer

Par Jayati Ghosh

Dans le tumulte de la crise de leadership qui secoue actuellement la Chambre des représentants, le Président Jonathan Fonati Koffa s'affirme comme un défenseur résolu de l'État de droit. Son nom pourrait bien rester dans les annales de l'histoire parlementaire comme celui d'un homme ayant choisi la voie de la légalité face à des adversités politiques sans précédent.

Déclaré destitué par une majorité de ses collègues et remplacé dans des conditions controversées, M. Koffa a saisi la Cour suprême d'un recours en mandamus, arguant qu'il demeure le président légitime de la 55 législature. Il conteste les actions du bloc majoritaire et demande à la Haute Cour de restaurer ses droits constitutionnels.

En réponse, la Cour suprême a pris une décision remarquable : ordonner le retour au statu quo ante jusqu'à ce qu'une audience devant le banc complet puisse avoir lieu. Ce jugement temporaire est inédit, notamment dans un contexte où deux précédents présidents de la Chambre avaient été destitués sans un tel recours à la justice.

Malgré les pressions, M. Koffa a exprimé sa disposition à quitter son poste, mais uniquement si cette démarche respecte les procédures établies. Une condition que le bloc majoritaire, en privilégiant des manœuvres politiques au détriment des principes juridiques, n'a pas su garantir.

L'attitude de M. Koffa illustre une rare détermination à défendre l'intégrité institutionnelle. Il rappelle que la gouvernance ne peut être subordonnée à des rivalités personnelles ou à des stratégies partisans. Aucun groupe ne devrait pouvoir, sans recours légitime, renverser un dirigeant simplement par désaccord ou convenance politique.

La Constitution, pilier de notre démocratie, offre des mécanismes clairs pour résoudre les différends. Ignorer ces cadres légaux affaiblit les institutions et envoie un signal négatif, non seulement à la génération actuelle, mais également à celles qui suivront.

En contestant les actions du bloc majoritaire, M. Koffa s'efforce de corriger une dérive préoccupante. Même si son départ devait être confirmé, il insiste pour que cette décision s'inscrive dans le respect des règles de droit, garantissant ainsi la crédibilité et la stabilité de nos institutions.

La Cour suprême, après avoir entendu les deux parties, devrait rendre son verdict cette semaine. Peu importe l'issue, il est impératif que celle-ci reste dans les limites du droit, renforçant ainsi la primauté des institutions sur les intérêts partisans.

Le courage et la résilience du Président Jonathan Fonati Koffa face à cette crise offrent une leçon de leadership et de respect des principes démocratiques. Ce geste mérite d'être salué par tous ceux qui aspirent à une société fondée sur la justice et l'équité.

Français

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La double imposition freine

des entreprises opérant dans les eaux libériennes. Le thon, principale ressource halieutique du Libéria, illustre les difficultés rencontrées par le secteur. Alors que 77 navires étaient autrefois actifs, seuls 16 à 20 navires restent opérationnels en 2024, selon les données de Mme Glassco. « Lors de consultations avec les agents des navires, ils ont exprimé des préoccupations concernant la présence du navire Sea Shepherd, qui patrouille dans nos eaux. Ces interventions répétées dissuadent les opérateurs, réduisant ainsi considérablement le nombre de nouvelles inscriptions », a-t-

elle précisé. Mme Glassco a toutefois indiqué que des négociations sont en cours avec les agents des navires et la Garde côtière libérienne pour résoudre ces problèmes et redynamiser le secteur. « Nous élaborons des stratégies pour créer un environnement plus attractif et encourager les opérateurs à s'investir dans nos programmes », a-t-elle assuré. La Directrice générale a exprimé sa détermination à relever les défis auxquels fait face la NaFAA et à restaurer le potentiel économique du secteur des pêches pour le Libéria.

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La NEC licencie des employés

la mise en place d'un comité pour examiner les paiements en souffrance, y compris les allocations de risques et les prestations d'assurance. En réponse, Mme Browne-Lansanah a catégoriquement réfuté ces accusations, affirmant que tous les arriérés avaient été réglés conformément au budget approuvé pour 2023. Le document officiel, approuvé par le directeur exécutif Anthony K. Sengbe, précise : « Vous êtes par la présente licencié, avec effet immédiat, pour avoir fait preuve de manque de respect et d'insubordination grave envers le bureau de la présidente. Entre le 12 et le 24 novembre 2024, vous avez quitté votre poste, bloqué l'entrée

principale de la Commission, et empêché la présidente d'exercer ses fonctions. » Il est également reproché aux employés d'avoir paralysé les activités de la NEC et terni son image publique. La NEC a souligné que ces mesures visent à préserver la stabilité de l'institution et à garantir la continuité de ses opérations. « Tous les biens appartenant à la NEC doivent être retournés au service des ressources humaines sans délai », conclut la communication. Alors que cette décision met en lumière les tensions internes, elle reflète également les défis économiques et administratifs auxquels la NEC est confrontée, dans un contexte où elle cherche à renforcer son efficacité et sa crédibilité.

Les citoyens du Grand Kru avertissent les politiciens

Nelson Torbor, président de la branche du Parti de l'Unité du comté du Grand Kru, a accusé les politiciens locaux d'aggraver les divisions parmi les citoyens pendant les élections. Lors d'un rassemblement communautaire à Bolloh, dans la municipalité de New Kru Town, le 29 novembre 2024, M. Torbor a dénoncé le comportement des politiciens de Montserrado, qui, selon lui, viennent dans la région pendant la période électorale, mais partent sans résoudre les problèmes qu'ils ont eux-mêmes créés, laissant ainsi la population divisée. Il a exprimé sa déception face aux conditions de vie précaires des habitants de la communauté de Bolloh, malgré la richesse minérale de la région, notamment l'or. Selon lui, l'or extrait chaque mois dans cette zone pourrait rapporter près de 1,5 million de

dollars américains. Pourtant, les habitants continuent de vivre dans une pauvreté extrême, buvant de l'eau provenant de ruisseaux et de rivières. « J'ai parcouru le comté lors des élections présidentielles et législatives de 2023, et j'ai été témoin des conditions de vie déplorables des habitants de Bolloh et du Grand Kru. Je parle en connaissance de cause », a-t-il déclaré. Il a appelé les citoyens du Grand Kru, tant à l'intérieur qu'à l'étranger, à s'unir pour améliorer la situation de leur comté. De son côté, M. Jarbo Wreh, président de la communauté de Bolloh dans le comté de Montserrado, a retracé l'histoire de la communauté, en soulignant ses contributions et ses luttes depuis la création du district statutaire de Bolloh en 1912. Il a insisté sur l'importance de maintenir un

La dépendance excessive freine l'économie libérienne



L'ambassadeur d'Allemagne au Liberia, Dr Jakob Haselhuber, a exprimé son inquiétude face à la forte dépendance du pays aux importations, qu'il considère comme un obstacle majeur à la croissance économique. Lors d'une visite officielle dans le district n°4 du comté de Margibi, Dr Haselhuber et son épouse ont participé au lancement d'un programme de développement soutenu par la coopération allemande Deutsch Zusammenarbeit. Ce projet, mené en partenariat avec Welthungerhilfe et mis en œuvre par l'organisation Serving Humanity for Empowerment and Development (SHED), vise à améliorer les conditions de vie des Libériens. Dans une interview accordée à la presse locale, l'ambassadeur a exprimé sa surprise face à l'omniprésence des produits importés sur les marchés libériens. Selon lui, cette dépendance déplace à l'étranger non seulement la valeur ajoutée économique, mais aussi les revenus et les taxes, privant ainsi le Liberia de ressources cruciales. « Depuis mon arrivée, j'ai été frappé par cette dépendance massive aux importations. Sur des marchés comme celui de Catholic Junction, près de mon ambassade, la plupart des produits vendus sont fabriqués à l'étranger. Cela signifie que

les salaires et les taxes liés à ces produits bénéficient à d'autres pays, pas au Liberia. Une telle situation va à l'encontre des intérêts du pays », a-t-il déclaré. En réponse à une question sur les investissements allemands au Liberia, Dr Haselhuber a mis en avant les nombreux projets financés par son pays. Bien qu'il n'ait pas précisé les montants investis dans l'agriculture, il a révélé que l'Allemagne a injecté environ 130 millions d'euros dans des initiatives cruciales. Celles-ci incluent l'amélioration de l'accès à l'électricité, la construction de laboratoires et d'hôpitaux dans le Sud-Est, ainsi que le financement d'un centre de formation professionnelle à Bensonville, dans le comté de Montserrado. Malgré des terres fertiles et un climat favorable, le Liberia reste fortement tributaire des importations, y compris pour des produits essentiels comme le riz, aliment de base de la population. Le gouvernement dépense chaque année des millions pour combler ce déficit, alors même que le pays dispose d'un potentiel agricole considérable encore inexploité. Les observations de l'ambassadeur soulignent un défi majeur pour le Liberia : réduire sa dépendance aux importations en développant une agriculture locale robuste et en renforçant son autosuffisance alimentaire.

La Cour Suprême met en garde les magistrats contre les abus de pouvoir

La Cour Suprême du Libéria a adressé un avertissement solennel à l'ensemble des magistrats du pays, leur ordonnant de traiter les affaires de non-paiement de pension alimentaire dans un délai de deux jours. La Cour a également sévèrement critiqué les magistrats qui excèdent leur compétence juridictionnelle ou dépassent les délais légaux, qualifiant de « travestissement de la justice » de telles pratiques. Lors de son discours à la Convention 2024 de l'Association du Barreau National Libérien, tenue récemment dans le comté de Nimba, la Présidente de la Cour Suprême, Son Honneur Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh, a souligné que la lenteur dans le traitement des affaires judiciaires, en particulier celles relevant des tribunaux magistériaux, est inacceptable. Elle a rappelé que, selon la Règle 9 des Règles et Règlements pour la Gouvernance des Tribunaux Magistériaux et des Tribunaux de Circuit : « Aucune affaire civile ne doit être reportée au-delà de deux semaines, sauf pour une raison valable à la discrétion du magistrat. De même,

aucune affaire civile ne doit être prolongée de mois en mois sans une résolution rapide. » Pour les affaires criminelles, la Présidente a précisé qu'aucune affaire ne doit rester en suspens plus de trente jours après l'arrestation d'un individu. Son Honneur Yuoh a insisté sur le fait que les magistrats exercent une juridiction limitée, tant géographiquement qu'en matière de compétence. Elle a ajouté qu'ils ont l'obligation de rendre des décisions promptes afin de maintenir l'ordre et la paix au sein de leurs juridictions respectives. La Cour Suprême a mis en place un mécanisme de suivi strict pour veiller au respect de ces délais, notamment pour les affaires de non-paiement de pension alimentaire, fréquemment sujettes à des





Forestry Development Authority (FDA)

Whein Town, Bernard Farm, Montserrado County Liberia

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES)

Republic of Liberia

**Assignment Title: Individual Consultancy for the Position of Construction Supervisor
Completion of One Share Facility Centre and Construction of Two additional Share Facility
Canterers**

Name of Project: Scaling up the participation of SMFEs in the Secondary Wood Processing Industry_
Phase II

Sector : Forestry

Project ID No : P-LR-AAD-002

Grant No : 5900155018403

Issue Date : December 2, 2024

End Date : December 30, 2024

1. The Government of Liberia through the Forestry Development Authority has received financing from the African Development Bank toward the cost of the Scaling up the participation of SMFEs in the Secondary Wood Processing Industry Phase II, and intends to apply part of the agreed amount for this *grant* to payments under the contract for **Construction Supervisor**.
2. The services included under this project are [The individual consultant will be expected to undertake physical site assessments to support design of the three demonstration and storage facilities, support the review of designs, in coordination with the project teams and recommend approaches, Designs and responses to the resolution of comments, Daily monitoring of construction activities in accordance to the specifications and designs, cost, and schedule to ensure progress, Carry out site inspections and assessments as required, prepare periodic reports for submission to Project Coordinator (PC) and Project teams and Act proactively to identify key areas of concerns that relates to quality, health, safety and environmental issues at site and where necessary. The duration of the contract is Maximum Nine (9) months
3. The Forestry Development Authority now invites eligible Individual Consultants to indicate their interest in providing these services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.).
4. **Qualification and Experience:** i. Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering, Technical Diploma in Civil or Construction Engineering, Electrical or related field required. Applicants with a relevant Vocational Certificate with additional 2 years of relevant working experience may also be considered. ii. Working knowledge of MS Office applications iii. Demonstrated planning and organizational skills and ability to coordinate the works, work on tight deadlines, and handle multiple concurrent activities iv. Ability to translate engineering drawings into physical implementation v. Organized, attention to detail, able to prioritize construction activities vi. Proven experience in the construction industry, with a strong record of accomplishment of managing construction sites and teams vii. Strong leadership and team management skills, with the ability to motivate and direct workers viii. Excellent organizational and time-management skills ix. Knowledge of construction processes, materials, and legal regulations x. Ability to read and interpret construction plans and specifications
5. Eligibility criteria, establishment of the short-list and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with the African Development Bank's "Procurement Policy Framework for Bank's Group Funded Operations" dated October 2015, which is available on the Bank's website at <http://www.afdb.org>.
6. Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours [9:00 AM – 4:00 PM Liberian Time], Mondays through Fridays (except public holidays): emmanuellewis965@gmail.com with copy to: wynnbeyant12@gmail.com.
7. Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by December 30, 2024 at 1:00 PM and mention "Construction Supervisor".

Attn: *Project Coordinator
Project Implementation Unit
Forestry Development Authority
Whein Town, Bernard Farm
Montserrado County
Liberia*

E-mail: emmanuellewis965@gmail.com
0775-841-431/0886-570-320

Link for Clarification:
Email : wynnbeyant12@gmail.com
0776-063-643/0886-551-249

I've nothing against Koung

Ex-President Weah says there is no bad blood between him and current Vice President Jeremiah Koung despite public criticism of his (Weah) to shank hands with the Vice President at a mourning occasion.

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

Monrovia, Liberia, December 4, 2024 - Former President George Weah clarifies here that he has no issue or

to the residence, and instead, placed his right hand on his chest in a sign acknowledgement without any physical or bodily interaction. "I have nothing against Vice

Weah notes via mobile phone in his private Kings Fm station. The opposition leader's rebuffing handshake from VP Koung has drawn speculation of discord between the two prominent personalities, but Mr. Weah reiterates he has no personal beef with Koung despite their political differences.

The late Sen. Johnson, who supported Mr. Weah and practically led him to Presidency in 2017, fell out with the former President, and instead, supported current President Boakai in 2023, with Koung then standard bearer of his NUDP party emerging as Boakai's running mate, a move that saw Weah losing the poll. He conceded defeat, while results of the runoff election were being announced by the National Elections Commission, allowing a peaceful transition of power, much to the admiration of the International Community, including the U.N., A.U., ECOWAS and the United States.

But Mr. Weah has been hugely criticized here, for refusing a handshake with Vice President Koung, with the social media being flooded with public reaction.

Many criticized that the occasion meant to mourn the death of a renowned politician and senator, did not warrant such posture from the former President. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



personal hate for Vice President Jeremiah Kpan Koung despite publicly avoiding to shake hands with VP Koung last Thursday at the residence of fallen Senator Prince Yormie Johnson in Paynesville.

Former President Weah and entourage had gone at the residence to sympathize with bereaved family members, including Mrs. Johnson, widow of the late senator, when the unpleasant scenario occurred that has attracted public attention.

Upon arrival there, the former President avoided shaking hands with the Vice President, who had gone to greet him and welcome him

President Koung; in fact, he is my little brother. Kong was supposed to come and hug me when he saw me coming from out of my car, chest to chest", Mr. Weah explains.

According to him, his action was not intended as an affront but rather as a mark of respect.

"I consider Vice President Koung a younger brother. When I arrived, I expected him to come closer for a hug. Instead, he extended his hand from a distance, and I responded with a hand over my chest - a gesture of greater respect," he adds.

"Handshake is my liberty, and I have the right to my liberty to shake people's hands and not to shake people's hands", Mr.

Starts from back page

PYJ's death linked to war

the interview and read the information. "Now, he told me that it is troubling. It has always been troubling for this man (Senator Johnson) who has asked for forgiveness. His life has been troubling," Nimely explained. "When we signed the resolution here for the establishment of the war crimes court, he did not know." "The day we were preparing in the Pro-tempo's office, he was not there," Senator Nimely added. When they started the signature right in the Pro-Tempore's office, Nimely recalled that they told Sen. Johnson that about 29 senators had already signed the resolution for the court. He detailed that Senator Johnson asked if Senator Nimely had signed the resolution. Upon responding that he had signed it, Nimely disclosed that Senator Johnson took the paper with his hands trembling and signed the resolution. "Senator Johnson felt let down. He sat here, he never looked at me, neither did he say anything to me," Nimely recalled. "When we went home, he called me [at] 10:00, we talked and he asked me why did I sign the resolution because he was

depending on me." "I was left dumbfounded and had no answer to give my brother. And I said to him, let it go and we will work on it," Senator Nimely disclosed. Accordingly, he believes that Senator Johnson paid his due, and so those who are alive and don't want to forgive him, are not God. "As far as I am concerned, he paid his due. I want to tell my Krahn People that Senator Johnson paid his due." "How we lead this country to unity and friendship matters right now. And as we can see, we are not leading right. We have to regroup as a nation and decide what we do next," he stated. Commenting on Senator Johnson opening a church and devoting his time to prayer and fasting, he said that Senator Johnson did that because he was seeking spiritual redemption. He continued that the fallen Nimba County senator also devoted his time to community service. According to him, the only way the Senator could do that was to be alive and be a President maker. He argued that every presidential candidate Sen. Johnson supported in contemporary times or post-war Liberia won overwhelmingly.

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Liberia's development is now!

care." He says as the government aims to accelerate economic growth, officials must ensure that it is not limited to economic growth, but tangible development that benefits every Liberian. This, he continues, requires decisive actions that will address corruption, tackling governance challenges, and leveraging technology to improve public service delivery. United Nations Resident Coordinator to Liberia, Ms. Christine N. Umutoni, says it is a pleasure for the government to have included international partners in its development plan for 2025-2029, dubbed the Arrest Agenda for Inclusive Development and the 15 County Development Agendas. She recalls the launch of planning processes earlier, and the planning process itself, and on behalf of development partners, the UN and friends of Liberia, congratulates the government and the people of Liberia for reaching this important milestone. "Mr. President, we know very

well that Liberia's journey, with the government and the people leading their own development agenda, but we also are aware that partnership, collaboration, coordination are vital for everything to come together coherently towards common objectives; no single entity can achieve this", Madam Umutoni emphasizes. She calls for a united effort across institutions, government institutions, private sector, civil society, diaspora, and all development partners to achieve the plan. "We will continue to align our programs with Liberia's priorities, ensuring synergy and maximum development impact" she pledges. Towards 2029, basically towards the end of the SDGs circle, it is among the few plans which are being designed she adds. The National Steering Committee Meeting was graced by scores of local and international partners, including USAID Mission Director, UN Resident Coordinator, UN Women, Swedish and United States Embassies near Monrovia, among others. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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Invitation for Bids (IFB)

The General Auditing Commission
Old Executive Mansion Building
Ashmun Street, Monrovia, Liberia

Procurement of Repair & Maintenance of Non-Residential Building (Design and Renovate)
IFB No. GAC/NCB/010/2024

- The General Auditing Commission (GAC) has received funds for its operations and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this to payments under the Contract for Repair and Maintenance of Non-Residential Building (Design and Renovate) GAC/NCB/010/2024
- The General Auditing Commission now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Repair and maintenance of non-residential building. The delivery/construction period is three (3) weeks.
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures approved by the Public Procurement & Concessions Commission specified in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits*, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries (Liberia) as defined in the Bidding Documents.⁵
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the General Auditing Commission Procurement Unit, Musa C. Kamara (mckamara@gac.gov.lr) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below.
- Qualifications requirements include:
 - Article of Incorporation (if applicable)
 - Valid Tax Clearance
 - Valid Business Registration Certificate
 - Past performance records- including the names, and contact numbers of at least three clients.
 - PPCC vendors registration form.A margin of preference for eligible national contractors/joint ventures shall not be applied.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be obtained when a written communication requesting for a copy (s) is submitted to the address below. The communication should include the name of the business, name of contract package, signature of authorized person and official stamp of the business. Copy of bidding document will be available from November 26, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily.
- Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 10:00 a.m. December 20, 2024. Electronic bidding shall not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened physically in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the address below at 11:30 a.m. December 20, 2024.
- All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Securing Declaration in the format indicated in the attached forms.
- The address referred to above is
General Auditing Commission (GAC)
Attention: **Musa C. Kamara**
Procurement Manager/Procurement Unit
Old Executive Mansion Bldg.
Ashmun Street
Monrovia, Liberia
- Interested bidders are encouraged to attend a **Site Visit** at the General Auditing Commission office at the address indicated above on **Thursday November 28 and December 5, 2024**. The costs of visiting the Site shall be at the Bidder's own expense.

Prepared by:

Musa C. Kamara
Manager, Procurement Unit
Secretary/Procurement Committee

Approved by:

Hon. Foday G. Kiazolu, FCCA, CPA(LIB)
Deputy Auditor General/Administration
Chairman/Procurement Committee

-As Ex-rebel general cites fears of Court's establishment
Mr. Nimely believes that the late Senator Johnson died out of fear that Liberia is heading for the establishment of a establishment of a war and economic crimes court.

Monrovia, December 4, 2024: One of Liberia's top former rebel generals, Thomas Yaya

headed by President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, has established an office that is tasked to lead efforts for the establishment of the WECC.



Nimely, has alleged here that Sen. Prince Yormie Johnson died out of fear that Liberia is heading to the establishment of a war and economic crimes court (WECC).

The late Sen. Johnson headed the Independent National Patriotic Front of Liberia (INPFL), under whose command then-sitting President Samuel Kanyon Doe was brutally murdered.

Before his death, Johnson has been bitter about calls to establish the WECC.

But it is not clear what may have caused his death last week.

Meanwhile, Grand Gedeh County Senator Thomas Yaya Nimely who headed the Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL) rebel group during Liberia's civil war, has linked Johnson's death to the WECC.

Mr. Nimely cited Senator Johnson's continuous fear, worries, troubles, and pressure he expressed over the establishment of a war crimes court in Liberia.

Mr. Nimely made the claim while paying tribute on Tuesday, December 3, 2024, during the Senate plenary session. On Tuesday, the Liberian Senate dedicated its plenary session to the deceased Nimba County Senator.

According to Mr. Nimely, the fallen Nimba County Senator felt betrayed by the Unity Party government following the passage and President Boakai's subsequent signing of the resolution for the War Crimes Court's establishment. According to him, after Johnson watched the interview with Dr. Alan White seeking support for the establishment of the court, he sent the interview to him (Nimely) and told him to read and listen to the interview. When they got to the Senate the next morning, Senator Nimely explained that the late Johnson reminded him about the interview.

Nimely said he informed Sen. Johnson that he had watched

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The advertisement features a vibrant yellow background with colorful streamers. In the foreground, a woman with a joyful expression holds a smartphone. Behind her, a collection of prizes is displayed, including a yellow motorcycle, a flat-screen television showing a tropical beach, several bags of M-Star rice, and various mobile phones. To the left, a man is also shown celebrating with a smartphone. The bottom of the ad includes the MoMo logo, the Lonestar Cell logo, and the MTN logo.

A hand holding a pen, about to press a button labeled 'PRESS' on a colorful, abstract background. The background features vibrant, splashing colors like pink, yellow, and blue, suggesting a creative or artistic theme.