

"PEACE AND SECURITY ARE NOT OPTIONS; THEY ARE OUR OBJECT" ...EJS

MIA Renaissance



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LIBERIA WILL RISE AGAIN!



MEET MIA'S DEPUTY MINISTER FOR ADMINISTRATION



Hon. Varney A. Sirleaf

There are many young minds running the Ministry of Internal Affairs today.

These young and brilliant minds are greatly transforming the image of the Ministry.

One of those in charge is youthful Varney A. Sirleaf. At the Executive Mansion, Mr. Sirleaf served the Ministry of States as Assistant Minister for Logistics, a position he diligently occupied during the first term of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, until he was nominated and confirmed by the Liberian Senate to take the post of Deputy Minister for Administration at the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

At the Ministry, the Deputy Minister for Administration is among other things, charged with the responsibility of personnel and finance. Mr. Sirleaf has been able

Continued on page 6

Liberia's Quiet Transformation under Ellen Johnson Sirleaf



THEN



NOW

GRAND BASSA COUNTY The road to Buchanan, (Left) once riddled with muddy potholes, is now a stretching super highway (Right)

There is a quiet transformation spreading throughout urban and rural Liberia that is impacting the lives of thousands of people around the country. Roads, bridges, housing units, clinics, hospitals, schools, amongst other are been constructed.

Continued on pages 4 & 5



THEN



NOW

SINOE COUNTY The Sanquain River Bridge was a motorist's nightmare (Left) for many years until it was replaced with a modern bridge (Right)

County Profile



Nimba



Sen. P. Y. Johnson, Christina Dagadu Supt, Sen. Thomas S. Grupee and Teeko Tozay Yorlay, Asst Supt. for Dev.



Jeremiah K. Kounq, Prince Q. S. Tokpah, Samuel G. Z. Woleh, Garison Yealue, Samuel G. Kogar, Ricks Y. Toweh, Warlea S. Dunoh, Larry P. Younquoi & R. Matenokay Tingban

Nimba County is emerging as one of the most agriculturally fertile counties of the country. Created in 1964, Nimba County is in the north-central portion of Liberia. It has six districts.

Sanniquellie serves as the capital with the area of the county measuring 11,551 square kilometers (4,460 sq. mi), the largest in the nation.

The current County Superintendent, who is the Chief Administrative Officer, is Madam Christiana Dagadu.

Teeko Tozay Yorlay is the Assistant Superintendent for Development

year while gradually working towards the development of food supply line for the nation.

And the future looks good, too. Recently, a spontaneous outburst of jubilation reverberated around the county as street lights linked to the West Africa Power Pool were turned on in several towns.

Journalists on the scene said residents in Loguato, Karnplay, Saclepea, Tapita and Ganta rushed to the streets in frenzy as the street lights were turned on at 6pm, driving back pitch-darkness in these towns.



Jackson F. Doe Referral Hospital in Nimba



Back to the soil with a smile

and the County Inspector is Reginald Mehn

As of the 2008 Census, it had a population of 462,026, making it the second most populous county in Liberia.

Named after Neimbaa Tohn Mountain, the tallest mountain in the county, Nimba is bordered by Bong and Grand Bassa counties to the west, Rivercess County to the southwest, and Grand Gedeh County to the southeast.

Despite the county's development potential, it has also seen its share of woes. As a result of the serious post-election confrontations in neighboring Côte D'Ivoire in 2010 and 2011, more than 120,000 Ivorian refugees sought refuge in Liberia, thus depleting food stocks of host families and communities where they settled.

The Government and the FAO responded appropriately, first with a CERF Project in 2011. In early 2012, FAO and the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Agriculture increased support to Ivorian refugees and Liberian host families to produce nutritious rice and vegetables.

Through the assistance of NGOs and the sheer determination of the people themselves, the county is now resolved on sustainable farming practices, to produce more to feed themselves through the

Lands, Mines and Energy Minister Patrick Sendolo confirmed that the first phase of the electrification project via Cote d'Ivoire is nearing completion. He said the light up of towns in Nimba County is part of a test of the West Africa Power Pool agreement under the auspices of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

"The Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) is presently registering customers in Nimba. Customers will be connected to the system by mid-August. The electrification project will also connect Grand Gedeh, Maryland and Grand Kru Counties by the end of this year.

"Sinoe County will also be linked to the grid subsequently," Minister Sendolo said in a news program on the state broadcaster (ELBC).

Minister Sendolo stressed that the government is determined to make electric power affordable for all. The electrification of Liberia is one of the five pillars of the National Transformation Agenda earmarked by the administration of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

With the best referral hospital arguably the best in West Africa, steady electricity, the will to go back to the soil, Nimba is poised to become the new 'bread basket' of the country replacing Lofa.

Editorial

NGOs as a Conduit for Peace Building Activities

The Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon. Morris M. Dukuly struck a very important cord last Wednesday when he addressed members of the National Civil Society Council of Liberia, some of whom are involved with his Ministry's activities.

Civil society, he stressed, must begin to show 'measurable outcomes. More importantly, he wants a partnership with civil society groups to help educate and inform the public on such significant themes as peace building, reconciliation, decentralization and boundary harmonization.

“As I travel throughout the country, my desire and the quest of the people is to see results of the work we are doing, and the impact of our work be felt or seen, whether government or non-governmental”. In short, the Minister was saying: 'It's time to bring home the beef'.

This brings us to the perception, wrongly or rightly, of how many people view NGOs and their various activities across the country and elsewhere in the world. The view is that NGOs are corrupt and only in the business for the fast buck at the detriment of the people. This may or may not be true. There are well meaning internationally respectable NGOs. There are also corrupt ones.

Studies and reports have shown that the exact scale corruption in the humanitarian aid sector is by its nature very difficult to determine, but is assumed to be at much lower levels than corruption in the private commercial sector.

The way in which the international humanitarian system has developed in recent years, including the exponential growth in the number of NGOs and the development of the humanitarian 'industry', has also been a contributing factor.

The number of NGOs has mushroomed over the last 20 years, as has the scale of resources available. In 2010, it was estimated that humanitarian spending reached just shy of \$17 billion. Some NGOs have become transnational, with very large budgets. One American NGO, World Vision International, has a budget topping \$2.6bn.

NGOs are often reluctant to talk about corruption for fear that it will lead to bad publicity and, consequently, a loss of funding. Working across borders to reach people in need can also give rise to allegations of corruption.

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County Briefs

LOFA

Pavement of Voinjama City streets underway

Pavement of the streets of Voinjama City has begun in that northwestern county.

Funding for the pavement is being provided by the Swedish International Development Agency, SIDA. Superintendent George Dunor told MIA Renaissance that the ongoing work will cover 60% of the City, while negotiation for the remaining 40% is underway. Meanwhile, the County administration is reconditioning other streets in the city not included in the first phase.

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Effort leading the construction of Lofa's first sport stadium has begun in Voinjama. The county on Saturday began the layout of the site.

BOMI

Calm returns to Sime Darby

In Bomi, workers of Sime Darby Plantation and the Workers' Union were involved in a stand-off which resulted to road-blocks, demonstration and vandalism of the Union's offices.

The situation which lasted for two days (Monday to Tuesday), started when the Union decided to increase due fee by fifty cent (\$.50) from each worker, on grounds, that the Union's advocacy had resulted to an increment in wages to 2.50, and it was expedient to reflect in the due fees. This new measure was resisted by the workers. Intervention of Superintendent Samuel Brown has since calmed the situation.

MONTSERRADO

Development projects to kick off

In Montserrado County, several development projects are expected to begin simultaneously across sixteen electoral districts during this dry season. The projects include Town Halls, Multipurpose Centers, rehabilitation of community roads, etc.

The County administration has earmarked the construction of a 'Peace Park' in Bensonville.

County Superintendent, Madam Florence Brandy said the projects were approved by the County Council.

Meanwhile she has praised the relationship of the County Legislative Caucus. Sixteen districts are being targeted because electoral district #5 elected to purchase road building equipment. Madam Brandy clarified.

GRAND GEDEH

Facelift for Administrative Building

Renovation work has begun on the Administrative Building in Zwedru city, to be followed by complete furnishing of offices.

At the same time, the county administration has commenced construction works of administrative buildings in Jawondee, Gbarzohn District and Civil Compound in Zwedru, both at roof level. Funding for these project is drawn from the County development Funds, resolutely by the County Council.

The county administration has started working on the 'Agenda for Transformation', also known as the 'Second Generation'.

Superintendent Peter Solo will lead a district consultation exercise this week, intended to explain the outcome of the just ended JCCEM.

The district consultation will be reinforced by a planned county tour scheduled to be held from now to December. That's according, hon. Abraham Gbeway, Grand Gedeh County Assistant Superintendent for Development

Liberia's Quiet Transformation under Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

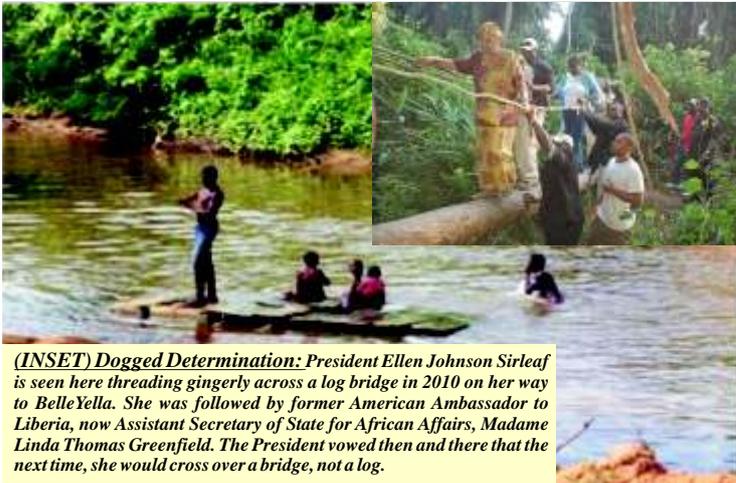
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The Buchanan highway, recently completed, is the joy of every driver and passenger who now take about 1 hour to and from Monrovia, a journey that previously took three punishing hours. The pothole-free tarmac surface is dotted with new bridges and galvanized-iron barriers. This gives the people of Buchanan easy access to Monrovia all year round. Previously, the rainy season that drenches the country for almost half the year, made the journey too difficult for most people. The ongoing transformation of the nation's infrastructures is part of the Poverty Reduction Strategy and it is all tied in with the Urban and Rural Infrastructure Rehabilitation Project for the country.

The development objective of the Urban and Rural Infrastructure Rehabilitation Project is in line with the government's goal of improving road access in Monrovia and targeted rural areas, as well as improving institutional structure for technical management of the road sector. The government has now turned its attention to another critical target. Liberia signed a USD 70.9 million agreement with the Chinese construction firm, China Henan International Cooperation Group Company Limited (CHICO) for the construction of 68.61 kilometers road connecting the central provincial city of Gbarnga to the Guinean border through Ganta in the northeast of the country.



SINOE COUNTY The Sanquain River Bridge was a motorist's nightmare (Left) for many years until it was replaced with a modern bridge (Right)



(INSET) Dogged Determination: President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is seen here threading gingerly across a log bridge in 2010 on her way to Belle Yella. She was followed by former American Ambassador to Liberia, now Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Madame Linda Thomas Greenfield. The President vowed then and there that the next time, she would cross over a bridge, not a log.



GBARPOLU COUNTY A boy is seen pulling his passengers across the Tumah River in a makeshift ferry. A modern bridge has been built where people were ferried on the road to Belle Yella Road



Pavement is now underway of the US\$70.9 million, 165 kilometer road linking Monrovia to Ganta to the Guinean border through Gbarnga in central Liberia.

Liberia's Quiet Transformation under Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

Travelers and motorists from Monrovia heading towards Gbarnga can see for themselves that that project is presently underway. There are already long stretches of paved road. The project under the Liberia Road Asset Management Project (LIBRAMP) is being funded jointly by the government of Liberia and several partners including the EU, SIDA, Irish Aid UKaid, and NORAD among others.

International experts, as well as the government itself, see a big challenge. It is not enough to get just the hardware (ports, roads, railways and airports) right, but also the human software. Both

combine to shape the prospects for growth and development. Hence, the government has stepped up its human development strategy by increasing the number of students and other youth for advance studies through its scholarship program.

More than anything, however, the success of Liberia's transition and transformation from war to peace pivots ultimately on the creation of jobs outside the public service. That requires a private sector and policies and practices that encourage its growth. The road to Buchanan shows the way.



Margibi County These models are of the new housing development project on Robertsfield Highway in Margibi County Liberia. They are small, but a major improvement to the make shift shacks and small one rooms many people called home in Monrovia. There seem to be an emphasis on using local material, including bricks and wood.



Bong County A partial view of the Naama Community Clinic in Bong County

River Gee County The Putuken Community Health Center in River Gee County



Bomi County The six compartment latrine of the Beafini Community School in Bomi County

Grand Kru County Picnicess Bridge under construction in Grand Kru County



Lofa County Gbongoma Box Culvert in Vahun District, Lofa County

Bong County Center for educational opportunity, capacity building, health care provision, mental, spiritual and infrastructural development in Bong County

Calm returns to Sime Darby

(\$0.50) from each worker, on grounds, that the Union's advocacy had resulted to an increment in wages to 2.50, and as such, it was expedient to reflect in the due fees. This new measure was resisted by the workers.

However, with the swift intervention of County Superintendent J. Samuel Brown and his team of local officials the situation was brought under control. The planned .50 increment was aborted and that the workers have since returned to work.

Meanwhile, the County administration of Bomi County on Friday, November 8, honored Madam Lena Sagnia, outgoing head of the UNMIL Field Office in Tubmanburg for what Superintendent Samuel Brown called, her numerous contribution to the county and its people.

Via mobile phone, Supt. Brown told MIA Renaissance that the 3-year assignment of Madam Sagnia has been a blessing to the people.

"That is why people from the various districts, mask dancers, chiefs, elders, health workers and others have gathered here in Tubmanburg to honor our friend, our daughter and sister for her work.

Hon. Brown said the honoree was also involved in women and youth empowerment efforts. He said under her leadership, UNMIL, through its Quick Impact Program carried out the following projects: Police Depots in Jenneh, Dowein District; Sueh in Suehn District, Gbar and Sackie Town in Senjeh District.

The Bomi Superintendent named the construction and renovation of magisterial courts in Gbar, Sackie Town and Tubmanburg City.

The Quick Impact program also constructed a Women's Resource Center in Juilayjauh, the home town of President Sirleaf and in Tubmanburg.

Expansion of health facilities in the county are among the numerous contribution of Madam Sagnia.

"Indeed she deserves this honor". Supt Brown concluded the telephone interview.

MEET MIA'S DEPUTY MINISTER

to ably handle these issues maturely and well on course.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs, possibly the largest ministry of the Liberian government, with its personnel cut across the nation; ranging from town, clan and paramount chiefs, commissioners, district and county workers as well as other traditional leaders and many others.

Under his watch, the Department introduced a Personnel Redocumentation Exercise, which will produce a computerized database and rationalize the payroll, distinguish between employees and non-employed staff and plan for capacity building.

Montserrado, Bomi, Gbarpolu, Grand Cape Mount, Grand Bassa, Rivercess, Margibi and Bong counties have been covered by the exercise.

The redocumentation team is expected to resume the nationwide exercise; this time in Sinoe, Grand Kru, and Rivergee counties soon. The rest of the counties to follow.

UNDP leads multilateral organizations

"UNDP should be congratulated for making significant improvements to its International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) publication and for updating its implementation schedule to be more ambitious – including plans to publish 88 percent of IATI fields," the authors of the report said.

The IATI sets a common global benchmark for more timely, accurate and comprehensive aid information. Financial flows, budgets, results, location, timelines and project documents are published into an online database that tracks how aid is spent. This not only increases the accountability of donor countries, but also allows developing countries to better align donor assistance with their national priorities and budgets, ultimately maximizing aid effectiveness.

More than 170 countries, UN agencies, multilateral banks and NGOs covering 76 percent of official development assistance input their information to IATI, and more than 20 recipient countries have endorsed the initiative.

As an original IATI signatory, UNDP began publishing to global standards in November 2011. Since, it has consistently met and even surpassed international transparency standards, recently launching an online portal (open.undp.org) that details more than 6,000 of its development projects across 177 countries and territories, and publishes over US\$5.8 billion in project data.

"Transparency is at the heart of the way we work," said Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator. "UNDP has a longstanding commitment to accountability, and is committed to making the most effective and transparent use of the resources for development entrusted to it."

This continued commitment to openness was recognized by the recent UNDP appointment to head of the IATI Secretariat this September. Leading a consortium of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), Ghana, Sweden and UK-based NGO Development Initiatives, UNDP will use its considerable reach across 177 countries and territories to continue to improve the transparency of international aid. The Secretariat is already undertaking pilot initiatives in developing countries to test the benefits of IATI on the ground.

"This new role puts UNDP at the forefront of global efforts to increase transparency in development cooperation, including through efforts to develop further the IATI common standard for publishing information about aid spending," Helen Clark said.

In 2013, UNDP began disclosing its internal audit reports, and moved from annual budget reporting to publishing on-going quarterly reports, which detail activities and result frameworks using sub-national geographical data.

By updating its Information Disclosure Policy, UNDP together with the European Investment Bank are leading multilateral organizations listed on the Aid Transparency Index for following best disclosure practices.

Meanwhile Dr. Kamil Kamaluddeen has been appointed as the new Country Director of UNDP in Liberia. He has extensive experience in human development and post-conflict management. His present work on conflict transformation and consolidation of peace focuses on strengthening institutional and policy framework for peace building, alternative dispute mechanisms and the control of illicit arms. He also manages substantial analytical and programming effort on the socio-economic dimensions of conflict management, community-

Dr. Kamaluddeen previously worked on the Liberia's Post-Conflict Needs Assessment and Results-Focused Transition Framework, RFTF (2004-2006) including its implementation framework, which he helped to develop.

Opinion

By Joe K. Roberts

The Significance of Women & Youth in Nation Building



I was sitting in the back seat of a cab with two other passengers the other day when the cab stopped to pick up a young lady of about 23 at the University of Liberia.

She squeezed herself in next to me and shut the door and the cab took off. She recognized the young man of about the same age in the front seat fidgeting with his phone. 'Steve! How are you? Where have you been? I haven't seen you in a while. My brother told me you will soon be leaving the country for studies abroad'. "Yes," the young man replied, "I will be going on a government scholarship to Uganda to do a combine masters/PhD program". "That's very good", the young lady said. "I wish you all the best in life. For me, I lost out on the one to Morocco but I am sure I will make the next one".

The cab came to a slow halt in front of the Immigration building on Broad Street and she got out, fumbling through her purse for money to pay her fare. "That's alright", the young man told her. "I know I probably won't see you for a long time I will take care of cab.

I was proud and impressed with these two young people. They were calm, collected and looking towards the future. That's the path for Liberia.

There is no reasonable counter argument that refutes the fact that a young man like Steve and the young lady – women and youth in general, can play an exceptional role in the overall development of our country.

Youth and women have historically been marginalized and excluded from participating in political life. Young people make up over 80% of the population but have had little opportunity to be part of decision-making processes, and had little access to people to articulate their own concerns.

We note here that all flourishing nations in the world have made it to the pinnacle of success simply because they were smart enough to integrate energetic and brilliant youthful intellectual minds; coupled with the intuitive, no nonsense common 'sixth sense' of women in their overall development drive.

This potentially, productive segment of society, long relegated to the back burner by past governments until now, is now exerting itself, proving once and for all that given the opportunity, they can

MIA CONDUCTS LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP ON ETHICAL BEHAVIOR

By: Guankehye Koso

The Ministry of Internal Affairs on Wednesday November 6 opened a leadership workshop on Ethical Behavior.

The three- day workshop held in the Ministry's conference room in Monrovia was organized by the Human Resource Division of the Ministry aimed at improving productivity.

Speaking at the opening exercise, the Ministry's personnel analyst Mr. JonakoBinda told participants that the workshop is geared towards sharpening the leadership skills of the employees for the common good in our nation building process.

He emphasized that at the end of the workshop, participants will, among other things, learn to reinforce Ethical Behavior at their various work places, enhance the spirit of team building, and manage public perception of the civil service in Liberia.

Facilitators of the workshop are drawn from the Civil Service Agency (CSA), and the Ministries of Internal Affairs, Lands Mines & Energy, and Post & Tele-Communications.

The MIA workshop is a result of a training of trainers workshop conducted in Accra, Ghana last month October, 2013, by the Japanese International Cooperative Agency (JICA), under the topic: Ethical Leadership for Quality Productivity Implementation", which was attended by personnel of the three facilitating Ministries to assist in training civil servants of Liberia.



Participants demonstrate team-building exercise

work wonders in contributing meaningfully to nation building.

Consider this: Think of any government institution or ministry including the Ministry of Internal Affairs, youthful faces now sits on swivel black leather chairs, eyes glued to computer screens, capably directing those institutions and ministries, thus, steering the country.

Hence, it flows to say that to harness the unique talent pool of women and youth and what they can contribute to the process of nation building, Liberia, as it has embarked on, must work towards the education and development of youth and women's skill and knowledge.

Equal opportunity in education ought to be laid bare to the feet of all, which can only serve to ensure an all-round growth of the country and bring prosperity.

Women's participation in nation-building is an important component in achieving an equitable, peaceful and more prosperous society.

Gender evenhandedness plays a central role, both as a litmus test and as an active variable shaping a more democratic, stabilized and developed society.

This is exactly where Steve and the young lady in the taxi cab fit in both as a litmus test and the foundation for a developed society.

Minister Dukuly to mediate Malawu Conflict this week, calls on Civil Society to show measurable results



Internal Affairs Minister Dukuly

Lofa County has seen several cases of conflict, the latest being a situation developing between members of the Christian Revival Church and traditional people of Malawu, a town in Zorzor District, lower Lofa County. Malawu is a long time traditional town. There have been claims and counter-claims of violation of rights by traditional leaders on one hand, and members of the church

on the other. Local authorities have been handling the situation in a peaceful manner.

This week, Internal Affairs Minister Morris M. Dukuly, will lead a team to Zorzor District with the purpose of mediating between the Malawu Christians and traditional leaders.

“I am going to Malawu with a message of peace, tolerance and accommodation”, Min. Dukuly told **MIA Renaissance**.

While in Lofa, Minister Dukuly will form part of an honoring ceremony for a long-serving former City Mayor of Voinjama City.

The trip to Lofa begins the minister's nation-wide tour, which will be followed by the 'Listening Tour' of President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf early next year.

Meanwhile, Minister Dukuly has been holding consultative meetings with a cross section of stakeholders involved with the Ministry's activities.

One of such stakeholders is the National Civil Society Council of Liberia, a conglomerate of civil society organizations operating in the country.

During meeting Wednesday at his Capitol Hill office, the Internal Affairs Minister said it was time to actualize results from whatsoever work being carried out in the country.

“As I travel throughout the country, my desire and the quest of the people is to see results of the work we are doing, and the impact of our work be felt or seen, whether government or non-governmental”, Min. Dukuly emphasized to CSO representatives during the meeting.

The minister has meanwhile called for partnership with civil society groups to educate and inform the public on peace building, reconciliation, decentralization, boundary harmonization, programs which are being led by the Ministry.

He wants the civil society to comprise of traditional, faith-based, youth and women groups, because according to him, each has a constituency.

The Internal Affairs Minister also wants collective effort from all stakeholders in the peace process.

Calm returns to Sime Darby



Some workers at the Sime Darby Plantation

In Bomi, workers of Sime Darby Plantation and the company Workers' Union were involved in a stand-off which resulted to road-blocks, demonstration and vandalism of the Union's offices.

The situation which lasted for two days (Monday & Tuesday), started when the Union decided to increase due fee by fifty cent

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UNDP leads multilateral organizations in global aid transparency



Dr. Kamil Kamaluddeen, UNDP Liberia Country Director

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the top-ranked multilateral organization in aid transparency, according to a leading

global ranking released recently.

'Publish What You Fund' 2013 Aid Transparency Index recognized UNDP for its “ambitious” efforts to publish information beyond international standards this year, placing it fourth overall out of 67 major donors evaluated worldwide.

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