



Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC)

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LIBERIA ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION (LACC)

FYI 2024, REPORTING PERIOD

SUBMITTED TO:

HIS EXCELLENCY JOSEPH NYUMAH BOAKAI
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

DECEMBER 31st, 2024

H.E. Joseph Nyumah Boakai

President of the Republic of Liberia
Ministry of State
Executive Mansion
Monrovia, Liberia

Your Excellency:

In Re: **Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission Annual Report for the Year 2024**

I respectfully present compliments on behalf of the Board of Commissioners, Management and Staff of the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) and under the cover of this letter, submit to you a copy of the Commission's Annual Report for the year 2024.

This report summarizes the highlights from January to December 2024, including a comprehensive overview of the Commission's activities, achievements, challenges, and future goals in our relentless pursuit of combating corruption and promoting integrity in Liberia. The year 2024 was challenging for the Commission due to setbacks in our activities growing out of late receipt of our quarterly budget allotment. Notwithstanding, the Commission received funding from the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) in the second, third and fourth quarters of 2024.

During the period under review, our investigations have exposed significant breaches of the law, and we have pursued appropriate actions. Furthermore, we have expanded our public education campaigns and strengthened collaboration with key stakeholders to enhance transparency and citizens' participation in the anti-corruption fight. While we have made progress, there are still systemic challenges that need to be addressed. As detailed in the report, we have provided recommendations that, with your support and leadership can strengthen the nation's anti-corruption framework and further our shared goal of a corruption-free society.

We are grateful for your unwavering commitment to combating corruption and your continued support of our institution's mandate. We remain resolute in our duty to uphold the values of integrity and accountability and look forward to working closely with your office and other key institutions to build a more transparent, just, and prosperous Liberia.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cllr. Alexandra K. Zoe
Executive Chairperson

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INTRODUCTION

The year 2024 marked a significant chapter in the ongoing fight against corruption as the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) continued to fulfill its mandate to monitor, investigate, and prosecute acts of corruption as well as educate the public about the ills of corruption and the benefits that come with its eradication. This annual report provides an overview of our efforts, accomplishments, and the challenges faced throughout the year in combating corruption and ensuring public trust in governance.

In a year characterized by global and local challenges, we have strengthened our collaborations with various stakeholders, including government agencies, civil society organizations, and international partners. Our investigative, preventive, and educational efforts have made tangible strides toward fighting corruption, fostering an environment of transparency, and supporting good governance.

Through enhanced enforcement of anti-corruption laws, comprehensive investigations, and effective public education campaigns, we have not only identified and prosecuted cases of corruption but also raised awareness of its negative impact on national development. Our partnerships with law enforcement, the judiciary, and oversight bodies have yielded significant progress in high-profile cases, helping to build public confidence in our institution.

For the year under review, the Commission also faced challenges such as resource constraints and emerging forms of corruption, which have tested our resilience and adaptability. However, these obstacles have only underscored the need for continuous improvement in our operations and strategic responses.

As we look ahead, our focus remains steadfast: to strengthen our institutional capacity, deepen our partnerships with key stakeholders, and enhance public engagement in the anti-corruption fight. By fostering a culture of integrity and accountability, we are committed to advancing the goals of good governance and sustainable development in the Republic of Liberia.

We are grateful for the continued support of our partners and stakeholders, whose contributions have been vital in achieving our goals. Together, we are creating a more just, transparent, and accountable society for the benefit of all.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) presents its Annual Report for the year 2024, providing a detailed overview of its activities, accomplishments, challenges, and strategic priorities. Established under the Amended and Restated Act of July 2022, the Commission operates as a governmental entity tasked with essential responsibilities in combating corruption across Liberia's public and private sectors.

In accordance with Section 14.2 of the Act, the Commission shall submit its annual report to the President of the Republic of Liberia and the Legislature on progress made in the pursuance of its mandate. This report consolidates the Commission's annual activities for the year 2024.

Throughout the year, the Commission has intensified its investigative and prosecutorial measures, yielding significant outcomes, including the prosecution of high-profile cases, and the effective implementation of the 2024 asset declaration regime.

With regard to investigations, the Commission completed investigation into a total of Twenty-Four (24) cases during the period under review. Fourteen (14) of these cases were completed in the in the Second Quarter (seven cases) and another (seven cases) were completed in the Third Quarter of 2024.

During the Fourth Quarter, ten (10) cases were completed by the commission thus bringing the total number of cases completed for the year 2024 to Twenty-four (24). The Twenty-four (24) cases have been submitted to the Board of Commissioners and the Department of Prosecution for review and considerations.

For our prosecution efforts, the Commission has forwarded to court for prosecution, six (06) high-profile corruption cases: Former Officials of the 1. Financial Intelligence Agency of Liberia (FIA), 2. Planned Parenthood Association of Liberia (PPAL), 3. Global Bank (Liberia) Limited, 4. Liberia National Red Cross, 5. Liberia Institute for Geoinformation Services (LISGIS) and the 6. Margibi County Health Team Case. Of the six (6) cases listed above, the commission obtained convictions in two (2) of the cases: (LACC vs. PPAL, LACC vs. Global Bank). The jury handed down a hung verdict in one (1) case, (Liberia Red Cross Case) and prosecution into three (03) cases from the aforementioned six (6) cases are currently ongoing: Financial Intelligence Agency of Liberia (FIA), Liberia Institute for Geoinformation Services (LISGIS) and the Margibi County Health Team Case.

In alignment with the Government of Liberia's "Rule of Law" pillar of the ARREST AGENDA, the Commission instituted an asset declaration regime for 2024, and facilitated the execution of "Integrity Pledge" by public officials. The statistics from the

asset declaration exercise revealed the compliance rate of 71% 1,374 (one thousand three hundred seventy-four out of the 1,932 (one thousand nine hundred thirty-two) public officials identified to declare thus leaving a total number of 558 (Five Hundred Fifty-eight) being the number of Non-compliant public officials.

The Commission has prioritized educational outreach by conducting training workshops aimed at enhancing public participation and service delivery through transparency and accountability mechanisms. Moreover, the Commission distributed three thousand (3000) copies of its Amended and Restated Act and eight thousand (8000) Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials, including resources on the Whistleblower and Witness Protection Acts and anti-Corruption flyers.

Additionally, the Commission through its Education and Prevention Department trained fifteen (15) Investigative Journalists to report acts of corruption in local newspapers and other media outlets. With support from USAID/INTERNEWS, the Commission convened three (03) Community Media Forums in Montserrado, Bong and Grand Bassa counties. The town hall-style forums at the county level provided a platform for community residents to understand and discuss issues of corruption in their communities and counties. Over Six Hundred Seventy-Five (675) residents of Cooper Farm, Gbarnga and Buchanan cities benefitted from these engagements.

Furthermore, the Commission trained four hundred ten (410) Justice Sector and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Actors during the reporting period. In addition, the Commission trained twenty-eight (28) Social Accountability Volunteers (SAVs). Still on LACC-UNDP collaborations, the Commission conducted anti-corruption public education awareness for one thousand nine Hundred (1900) community residents in four counties, including Bomi, Grand Bassa, Nimba and Grand Gedeh counties, respectively.

Looking ahead, the Commission is committed to strengthening partnerships, leveraging technology, advocating for legal reforms, and supporting the establishment of an Anti-Corruption Court to enhance its effectiveness in the fight against corruption. Despite the challenges faced, the Commission remains resolute in its mission to promote good governance and eradicate corruption in Liberia.

BACKGROUND-LIBERIA ANTI- CORRUPTION COMMISSION (LACC)

The Commission was established to address pervasive corruption that severe undermines good governance in Liberia. The Restated and Amended Act of 2022 reinforces the Commission's mandate, which encompasses investigating, prosecuting, and preventing corrupt practices while conducting public education initiatives to raise awareness about the detrimental effects of corruption.

The Commission currently has a total staff strength of Eighty-four (84) persons and a budgetary appropriation of United States Dollars Two Million, Nine hundred Sixty-six

thousand, Eight hundred Eleven dollars (US\$ 2,966.811). This amount included United States Dollars One Million, two hundred thousand and seventy-five dollars (US\$1,200,75.00) for compensation. For goods and services, the commission received an appropriation of US\$1,766,736.00) United States One Million Seven Hundred Sixty-six Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty-six United States Dollars). The Commission has reviewed obsolete policy documents as well as developed new policy instruments that are essential to the effective operation of the institution.

The year 2024 has seen increased emphasis on public engagements to support anti-corruption efforts, culminating in heightened awareness and advocacy for transparent governance.

Key Activities and Achievements

The Commission has engaged in several noteworthy activities throughout 2024:

- **Implementation of the Asset Declaration and Verification Regime:** The Commission successfully instituted the asset declaration and verification regime for 2024, requiring public officials to disclose their assets. This regime aimed to enhance accountability and prevent corruption at all levels of government.
- **Public Educational Initiatives:** The Commission conducted extensive training workshops for citizens and stakeholders, effectively raising awareness regarding anti-corruption measures and encouraging active public participation in governance.
- **Investigative Efforts:** The Commission intensified investigative efforts by investigating and concluding Twenty-four (24) corruption cases during the period.
- **Prosecutorial Efforts:** The Commission obtained six (06) indictments in 2024, prosecuted four (04), and obtained convictions in two (02) corruption cases to strengthen deterrent measures.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Commission has adopted a system of sound accounting and financial management policies in conformity with financial regulations of the Government of Liberia and International Public Sector Accounting Standards (Cash Basis IPSAS) to ensure prudent and efficient management of funds.

The Commission specifically caused to be kept proper books and records of accounts for funds and resources received and expenditures incurred during the year. The Commission's programs and activities are primarily funded by the Government of

Liberia through budgetary appropriations. The Commission from time to time receives external support from donor partners to deliver on its legislative mandate.

THE FY 2024 APPROVED BUDGET

At the onset of the Budget year FY-2024, the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning communicated to the Legislature a draft budget of Two Million Sixty-Six Thousand Eight Hundred Eleven United States Dollars (US\$ 2,066,811.00) for the Commission’s operations for the period under consideration (FY 2024). However, additional allocation was made to the commission affecting intelligence services and other legal fees in the tone of Nine Hundred Thousand United States Dollars (US\$ 900,000.00) which derived from Legislative adjustment needed to support the commission strategy to combat corruption in the public space. Thus, making the 2024 approved budget of the Commission United States Dollars Two Million Nine Hundred Sixty-Six Thousand Eight Hundred Eleven (2,966,811).

SUMMARY OF BUDGET

For FY 2024, the Legislature approved a total of Two Million Nine Hundred Sixty-Six Thousand Eight Hundred and Eleven United States Dollars (2,966,811.00) to enable the commission to discharge its legislative mandates of investigating, educating, and prosecuting acts of corruption. Of the total approved appropriation, US\$ 1, 200,075 representing 40% was approved for expenditure on personnel compensation whilst US\$1,766,736.2 representing 60% was approved for spending on goods and services for FY 2024.

No appropriation was made to finance capital expenditure despite management's quest to procure vehicles to support its strategy to combat corruption and to acquire land to commence the construction of the LACC facility in line with the commission long-term goal.

The total allotment received for the period under review from the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning stood at Two Million Twenty-One Thousand Fifty-Eight United States Dollars 82/100 (\$2,021,058.82).

The allotment is categorized in Table 1.0 as shown below:

Description	Allotment
Salary	908,707.82
Goods and Services	1, 112,351.00
Total	2,021,058.82

To support its programs and initiatives, the Commission developed and proposed a budgetary appropriation of USD \$4.5M; however, GoL's appropriation is USD \$2.9M. This under appropriation challenged the commission's ability to execute its initiatives and activities. The corresponding budgetary/appropriation shortfall is USD \$1.6M, as depicted in Table 1.1 below.

object of Expenditure	FY 2024 Approved Appropriation	LACC FY 2024 Proposed Budget	Budget shortfall FY 2024	Percent (%)
Compensation	1,200,075.00	2,058,324.00	(858,249.00)	0.715
Goods and Services	1,766,736.00	1,774,000.00	(7,264.00)	0.004
Non-Final Assets	-	752,000.00	(752,000.00)	100.00
Total	2,966,811.00	4,584,324.00	(1,617,513.00)	

AUTHORISED APPROPRIATION/ALLOCATIONS

Authorized allocations are recognized when received and under the control of the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission. For the period under review, the Commission received One Million Five Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Four Hundred Eighty-Five United States Dollars (US\$1,575,485.11) 11/100; as shown in table 1.2 below:

Item	Cash Receipt YT-D	Comment
Salary/Compensation	896,485.11	inclusive of income tax and other deductions
Goods and Services	\$ 679,000.00	
Total	1,575,485.11	

Actual compensation received and expended stood at United States Dollars Eight Hundred Ninety-Six Thousand Four Hundred Eighty-Five Dollars Eleven Cents (\$896,485.11) for the period under consideration.

On the other hand, the amount received for spending on goods and services for the same period stood at under United States Dollars Six Hundred Seventy-Nine Thousand Dollars (\$679,000.00).

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRPERSON-KEY ACTIVITIES

LACC BoC MEETS WITH HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT JOSEPH NYUMAH BOAKAI

During the period under review, the LACC Executive Chairperson met with His Excellency Joseph Nyumah Boakai, President of the Republic of Liberia for an introductory meeting. The Executive Chairperson briefed the President on the state of the Commission, noting gains and challenges inherited from predecessors.

The Chairperson of the Commission, Cllr. Alexandra K. Zoe, on behalf of the Body of Commissioners affirmed the commitment of the BoC to work with the President's administration to fight graft in Liberia. Additionally, Chairperson Zoe shared her vision for the LACC with the President and prayed his support to boost the fight against corruption in Liberia.

Still on the year 2024, the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission signed a Performance Contract with His Excellency Joseph Nyumah Boakai. The contract is in furtherance of a government-wide performance mechanism that requires public institutions to set performance target for a specified period. The Performance Management and Compliance System seeks to boost productivity of public institutions and improve public service delivery in the Country.

In addition, the Executive Chairperson had extensive engagements with the Legislature, the Media, as well as civil society organizations, which have led to increased collaborations with stakeholders in the fight against corruption.

Meeting with the Speaker of the House of Representatives

Upon taking of office, as part of the overall engagement with critical stakeholders in the country on key governance issues, the Executive Chairperson and colleagues on the Board of the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission met the Speaker of the 55th Legislature Cllr. Jonathan Fonati Koffa at his Capitol Building office.

The visit was a courtesy call to discuss ways the commission can collaborate with the lower house in the fight against corruption in Liberia. The Chairperson highlighted the need for the legislators to review draft anti-corruption legislations currently before the

House of Representatives, including the bill to establish the Anti-Corruption Court and amend the Statute of Limitation in the Penal Code for corruption, and corruption-related offenses, to name a few. As a result of this meeting, staff of the LACC were seconded to the House of Representatives to assist members of the House who would need guidance in filling out their asset declaration forms as the need arises.

The Executive Chairperson offered the availability of staff from the Asset Declaration Unit to give assistance to members of the House who will need guidance in filling out their asset declaration forms as the need arises.

Meeting with Senate Pro-Tempore

The Chairperson also led a delegation from the commission to meet with the President Pro Tempore of the Liberian Senate, Senator Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence. The meeting fostered collaboration between the Liberian Senate and the commission. The meeting was fruitful as the Pro Tempore promised the full cooperation of the Liberian Senate on all governance issues in the country.

The Pro Tempore also pledged to ensure that Senators take steps to declare their assets. The Pro Tempore welcomed the suggestion proffered by the Chairperson, to temporarily assign staff from the Asset Declaration Unit of the commission for the period of ten (10) days at the Liberian Senate. The assigned staff assisted Senators with their asset declaration process. During the secondment, asset declaration awareness was carried out among Senators and administrative staff of the Liberian Senate, leading to asset declaration compliance of fourteen (14) Senators and one (01) administrative staff.

LACC Collaborates with UN OHCHR in Freetown, Sierra Leone

The Commission represented by the Executive Chairperson and one Commissioner from the Prosecution Department participated in a five-day (05) exchange of experiences visit in Freetown Sierra Leone held from May 27-31, 2024. The exchange focused on the interplay between human rights protection and anticorruption efforts in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

While in Sierra Leone, the delegation paid courtesy visits to various entities such as the human rights working group, the UN Resident Coordinator, the UNDP Resident Representative, the Ambassador of Ireland, and the Deputy Minister of Justice of Sierra Leone.

The visit concluded with plans for a follow-up exchange visit and a dialogue between Liberia and Sierra Leone on the intersection of corruption and human rights. As a result of this visit, a forum was held in Monrovia on September 25, 2024, and a

communique was signed by the four regional anti-corruption and human rights institutions, stipulating areas of collaborations.

LACC PRESENTS AT CABINET RETREAT

The Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) made a presentation at the Cabinet Retreat convened at the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Ministerial Complex in Congo Town from May 23-25, 2024. The presentation focused on Asset Declaration, with emphasis on the processes and procedures, public officials required by law to declare their assets, legal frameworks for asset declaration, sanctions for noncompliance, and false declaration, amongst others. The presentation raised awareness about the Asset Declaration among public officials.

EXECUTIVE CHAIRPERSON ATTENDS WORLD BANK GROUP MEETING

The Executive Chairperson participated in a high-level forum of the World Bank on the Rule of Law and Good Governance held in the United States of America from June 25 - 26, 2024.

The Executive Chairperson honored the invitation from the World Bank Group (WBG) in Washington, D.C., to attend the forum which was held under the theme: "Justice and the Rule of Law Global Forum: Fostering Inclusive and Sustainable Development."

The forum was organized to foster dialogue and collaboration within a broad ecosystem of stakeholders to reaffirm the role of justice and the rule of law as essential elements of development. The Executive Chairperson served as a panelist alongside other anti-corruption experts and criminal justice specialists on the topic: "Fighting Corruption through Effective Justice Systems."

The forum brought together over 200 participants from across the world, including senior government and judicial officials, WBG leadership, international and civil society organizations, private sector representatives, and academia.

ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION OF SIERRA LEONE CHAIRMAN PAYS COURTESY VISIT TO LIBERIA ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION

The Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) was honored to receive Mr. Francis Ben Kaifala, Chairman of the Sierra Leone Anti-Corruption Commission (SLACC), during a courtesy visit on Tuesday, August 13, 2024. The visit significantly strengthened the long-standing collaboration between the two institutions, promoting enhanced information sharing and best practices in the ongoing fight against corruption in West Africa.

During the meeting, Mr. Kaifala reaffirmed the importance of collaboration between the SLACC and commission, emphasizing the role of mutual support and knowledge exchange in effectively combating corruption across borders. Mr. Kaifala also urged the commission to continue working closely with the ACC and other regional partners, noting that cooperation is key to achieving best practices and sustaining momentum in the fight against corruption.

The Executive Chairperson on behalf of the commission expressed deep appreciation for Mr. Kaifala's visit and his willingness to share the ACC's experiences and strategies. She emphasized the Commission's commitment to further strengthening ties with the ACC and other regional bodies, recognizing that joint efforts are essential in creating a corruption-free environment in Liberia and the broader region. This visit reaffirms the strong relationship between the commission and ACC, setting the stage for future collaborations aimed at enhancing transparency, accountability, and good governance in West Africa.

STRENGTHENING ANTI-CORRUPTION EFFORTS THROUGH INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

The Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) is pleased to announce a significant advancement in its ongoing battle against corruption. The Commission, during the reporting period, hosted a productive meeting with a team from the National Crime Agency (NCA) based in the UK, an esteemed international organization dedicated to combating serious crimes, including grand corruption. During this meeting, the NCA team elaborated on their mandate and expressed a strong interest in collaborating with the commission. Their expertise and resources will significantly enhance our capacity in several key areas: intelligence development, asset tracing, and information sharing. The NCA specializes in tackling grand corruption, focusing on high-level cases that have a substantial impact. Their support and collaboration will provide the commission with advanced tools and techniques to address complex corruption issues more effectively. This partnership represents a pivotal moment for Liberia as we continue to strive for greater transparency, accountability, and integrity within our institutions.

By joining forces with the NCA, the commission is poised to make significant strides in our fight against corruption and promote good governance.

The commission is committed to leveraging this collaboration to its fullest potential, ensuring that the fight against corruption remains robust and effective. The Commission looks forward to keeping the public informed about the progress and outcomes of this promising partnership.

LACC EXECUTIVE CHAIRPERSON PARTICIPATES IN SIXTH NACIWA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Executive Chairperson of the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC), who currently serves as the Vice President of the Network of Anti-Corruption Institutions in West Africa (NACIWA), attended the Sixth (06) General Assembly of NACIWA. The event, held at the ECOWAS Commission in Abuja, Nigeria, centered around the theme: "Implementing the ECOWAS Protocol on the Fight Against Corruption: Towards Strengthening Institutions for Regional Unity."

The three-day event gathered high-level delegations of heads of anti-corruption institutions from across ECOWAS member states, emphasizing the importance of regional cooperation in combating corruption.

The Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Honorable Kashim Shettima, delivered a message on behalf of His Excellency Bola N. Tinubu, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, underscoring the need for unity and collaboration in the fight against corruption across West Africa.

LIBERIA ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION MEETS WITH INTEGRITY WATCH-LIBERIA

The Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) met with Harold Aidoo, Executive Director of Integrity Watch-Liberia (IW-L), to discuss the ongoing collaboration with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the fight against corruption.

The discussions focused on enhancing and promoting the citizens' corruption reporting application, TALKAY! This app enables Liberians to anonymously report acts of corruption from anywhere using their smartphones. The commission previously provided collective feedback and recommendations for updating TALKAY to improve user experience, including the introduction of a simple seven-step questionnaire to assist the Commission in reviewing and investigating reports. The application now features a voice recording option, allowing users to report incidents of corruption directly through the app without having to write.

A text option is also available for citizens without smartphones. Both parties are looking forward to relaunching the updated application and presenting it to citizens, donor organizations, and the Government of Liberia (GoL).

The Commission acknowledges and values the role of CSOs in ensuring oversight and accountability in the fight against corruption. Both the LACC and IW-L reaffirmed the importance of continued collaboration between CSOs and the GoL to strengthen efforts toward accountability and transparency.

LACC EXECUTIVE CHAIRPERSON MEETS WITH NEW US AMBASSADOR TO LIBERIA

During the period under review, the US Ambassador, His Excellency Mark Toner paid a courtesy visit to the Commission and lauded the entity for the strides it is making in the fight against corruption in Liberia. He then made a generous donation of stationeries and assorted office supplies through the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs Office of the US Embassy accredited near Monrovia to boost the day-to-day operation of the Commission.

LACC EXECUTIVE CHAIRPERSON MEETS WITH NEW SWEDISH AMBASSADOR TO LIBERIA

Additionally, the new Swedish Ambassador, His Excellency Karl Backéus paid a courtesy visit to the Commission to familiarize himself with the work of the institution. Ambassador Backéus told the Executive Chairperson that the Swedish Embassy is in the process of preparing its next five-year strategy paper, and the two institutions would collaborate in areas that their priorities are aligned. He expressed the Swedish Embassy's willingness to collaborate with the Commission on its public education awareness program.

LACC EXECUTIVE CHAIRPERSON MEETS WITH GERMAN AMBASSADOR TO LIBERIA

Furthermore, the Ambassador of Germany accredited to Liberia, His Excellency Dr. Jakob Haselhuber, paid a courtesy visit to the Commission. During the meeting, LACC Chairperson, Cllr. Alexandra K. Zoe provided a brief background of the Commission, including the program departments of the institution, as well as challenges the Commission faces in the investigation. The Executive Chairperson highlighted challenges associated with the prosecution of corruption cases and the implementation of its public education initiatives.

Ambassador Dr. Haselhuber gave a concise update on the German Embassy programs in Liberia and indicated his government's interest in working with the Commission. Acknowledging the financial constraint faced by the Commission in delivering on its mandate, he proposed a donor conference to raise funds to support the Commission and promised to reach out to some development partners to actualize this plan.

ADMINISTRATION AND SUPERVISION DEPARTMENT

The administrative arm of the Commission under the direct supervision of the Executive Chairperson is charged with the responsibility under section 8.2 of the LACC Act of 2022 to run the day-to-day affairs of the Commission, including the supervision of personnel and the logistical duties of the Commission.

Key Achievements/Efforts under Administration

POLICY REVIEW AND AMENDMENTS

During the period under review, the Administration & Supervision Department of the Commission was involved in an extensive policy review of existing policy instruments of the institution. A Policy Review Team reviewed five internal policies, and these were approved by the Body of Commissioners.

The amended policies are:

1. Financial Handbook
2. HR Handbook
3. Procurement Policy
4. Transportation Policy, and
5. Asset Management Policy

PURCHASE OF VEHICLES

The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) approved the amount of US\$ 200,00.00 (Two Hundred Thousand United States Dollars) for the purchase of five (05) vehicles. The bidding process was launched in December 2023, for the purchase of four (4) Toyota Land Cruisers and one (01) bus to transport staff members to and from work. The vehicles were purchased in February 2024.

LACC DEVELOPS 2024 PROCUREMENT PLAN

As mandated by the Public Financial Management Law of Liberia, the commission developed a draft procurement plan based on the cash plan received from the Commission's Finance Unit, and the approved LACC budget by the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) for fiscal year 2024. The draft procurement plan was prepared and submitted to the Public Procurement and Concession Commission for review and approval. Upon the passage of the National budget, the approved plan was used to launch bidding processes for various contract packages for fiscal year 2024.

ASSET DECLARATION

As contained in Part IV, Section 4.1 (g) of the Amended and Restated Act of the LACC, the Commission has the power "To compile, verify, maintain, and update a comprehensive assets declaration register for all employees of the Liberian Government under the Code of Conduct Act of 2014. This provision makes the commission the sole repository of the Asset Declaration Regime.

To bolster this mandate, the commission through its Asset Declaration and Verification Unit has been keen to ensure compliance from public officials, especially those from the new government of 2024.

During the year under review, the Commission completed the 2024 asset declaration cycle for officials of the Government of Liberia. The Commission dispatched over One Hundred (100) Asset Declaration Regulations to MACs to increase asset declaration awareness and boost compliance. Additionally, the commission used print and electronic media to create awareness about the asset declaration regime for 2024.

The deadline for the 2024 Asset Declaration Cycle was July 31, 2024. However, due to the low compliance level amongst public officials, coupled with constraints affecting local government officials' compliance, the Commission extended the asset declaration period by one month, from August 1-31, 2024.

At the date of this report, the Asset Declaration & Verification Unit of the LACC has received 1,374 asset declarations from the three branches of Government out of the 1,932 (One Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty-two) public officials that were identified to declare. The commission has also received, One Hundred Eighty (180) copies of Integrity Pledge from Public Officials.

Below is the breakdown from the Branches of Government:

1. One Thousand Four Hundred Twenty-Three (1,423) public officials, civil servants and employees were identified in the Executive Branch, comprising One Thousand Three Hundred Thirteen (1,313) appointed officials and One Hundred Ten (110) non-appointed civil servants and employees of Government. Of the One Thousand Four Hundred Twenty-three (1,423), Nine Hundred Eighty-six (986) were compliant while Four Hundred Twenty-three (437) were non-compliant.
2. Three Hundred Thirty-three judges and administrative officers of the Judiciary were identified as persons required by law to declare their income, asset and liabilities. All Three Hundred Judges and Administrative Officers of the Judiciary declared their assets in keeping with law.

3. One Hundred Twenty-Nine (129) Representatives and administrative staff were identified in the House of Representatives to declare their assets. Of this number, forty (40) complied, consisting of Thirty-Eight (38) Representatives and Two (02) Administrative staff. Eighty-Nine (89) Representatives and administrative staff were non-compliant.
4. Seventy-four (74) Senators and administrative staff were identified in the Liberian Senate to declare their assets. Of this number, fourteen (14) Senators and One (01) administrative staff were compliant. Fifty-Nine Senators and administrative staff were non-compliant.

One Thousand Three Hundred Sixty-four (1,364), representing 71% of public officials and employees of the Government of Liberia fully complied with the asset's declaration exercise of the Commission.

Conversely, Five Hundred Eighty-five (585), representing 29% of the identified public officials who are required by law to declare their income, assets and liabilities did not declare their assets in keeping with law.

The compliance rate indicates progress but also highlights areas where further action is needed to ensure full adherence to the law.

As we move forward, Your Excellency, we reiterate our recommendations that all non-compliant officials and employees of the government be issued sanctions in keeping with Section 10.2 (h), Section 10.3, and Section 15.1 of the National Code of Conduct including the following manners:

1. An immediate suspension from office until full compliance is obtained. Salary, reimbursement of expenses, per diem, bonus, awards, or other fees will not be paid to any official or concerned public employee until a completed, signed, and notarized Asset Declaration form is filed with the commission which will confirm receipt of the completed form.
2. Payment of salary, reimbursement of expenses, per diem, bonus, award, or other fees to any official or employees as prescribed in section 10.1 and section 10.2 (h) of the National Code of Conduct who has not submitted his/her declaration form in keeping with the deadline as prescribed be suspended until a completed, signed, and notarized declaration form is received and validated by the commission.
3. The Commission most respectfully recommends to Your Excellency that the sanctions prescribed by law be enforced in collaboration with the office of the Ombudsman against the public officials and employees of the government who have not complied with the asset declaration requirements.

This is a clear message that non-compliance will not be tolerated, and that accountability is paramount in our public institutions.

The Commission notes that even though the asset declaration cycle for 2024 has elapsed, it is still accepting declarations from public officials and employees of the government in keeping with its statutory mandate.

Additionally, the commission is currently verifying the assets of 175 past and present public officials. The verification exercise will establish the veracity of the asset declaration claims by conducting physical verification of their assets and employing best practices to evaluate their financials.

The criteria that will be used for the selection of public officials and employees of the government whose asset declarations will be verified during the upcoming asset verification exercise include public officials from High-Risk Institutions, Locations of Assets, and Public Perception.

Moreover, the Commission through the Unit is amending and/or drafting policies and guidelines for the process. Hence, there is a need for budgetary allotment to the Commission to support the asset verification exercise for value-addition purposes. Without verifying the declared assets of public officials and employees of government, the declarations have no practical value. It is only when the commission verifies the declarations; it can evaluate the truthfulness of the claims about the income, assets, and liabilities. Discrepancies discovered during the verification process is the basis for demanding accountability.

In preparation for the ongoing assets verification exercises, the Assets Declaration and Verification Unit and the Education & Prevention Department jointly carried out asset declaration awareness on the procedures and business processes of the commission's asset declaration regime. In fulfillment of its mandate, the Unit is in the field to verify the assets of at least One Hundred Seventy-Five (175) past and current public officials from the three (03) Branches of Government.

G.R.E.A.T PROJECT

During the period under review, the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) was among government institutions that were selected to benefit from the Governance Reform and Economic Transformation and Accountability (GREAT) Project from the World Bank. The project will immensely improve the asset declaration regime of the Commission by transitioning it from manual declaration to e-declaration. The implementation of the project is expected to increase asset declaration compliance and promote transparency and accountability among public officials and other employees of

government. The intervention is a five-year project and beneficiary public institutions are implementing the Project Preparatory Activities (PPA).

THE COMMISSION PARTICIPATES IN THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN MEETING

During the period under review, the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission participated as a member of the Technical Working Group (TWG) that developed the National Development Plan (NDP). Designated by the Executive Chairperson as Technical Focal Point to the Committee, the LACC Acting Executive Director, worked with Assistant Ministers and National Development Planning point persons from various MACs. The meeting provided orientation for focal points on activities for the NDP and the County Development Plan (CDP), as well as the Public Sector Investment Plan for the period 2025 to 2029. The plan which encapsulates the Country's development priorities and strategies was validated and will be launched and implemented beginning 2025.

HUMAN RESOURCE UNIT RECRUITMENT

During the period under review, the Human Resource Unit of the Administration Department recruited three (03) new staff members: a Procurement Officer and a Public Relations Officer and One (01) investigator. The recruitment process for these positions began during the first quarter but were finalized in the third quarter, 2024.

The recruitment of the new staff will enhance the effective operation of the Commission in its procurement, public relations, and investigative functions. The Procurement Officer will add value to the procurement practices of the Commission and ensure that the LACC is fully compliant with the Public Procurement & Concessions Commission Act and Regulations; and there will be value for money for goods, services and works that are procured by the Commission. Additionally, the Public Relations Officer will timely inform the public about the progress the Commission is making in investigation, prosecution and education and prevention.

Through the work of the Public Relations unit, the public will know the progress the Commission is making in the fight against corruption, and will give the commission its buy-in, support and participation in anti-corruption initiatives. The investigator will boost the efforts of the Monitoring and Investigation Department in the investigation of corruption cases.

RESIGNATION

Conversely, five (05) staff members of the Commission ended their working relationship with the commission. These individuals include Emmanuel Tarlue (Comptroller), Moses V. Kowo (Executive Director), Cllr. Jerry D.K. Garlawolu (Chief

Prosecutor), Mr. Richard R. Korvayan (Investigator) and Mr. Titus A.A. Goeh, Sr. Investigator.

RETIREMENT

During the period under review, four staff members of the Commission, Mrs. Jeanet S. Sarsih, Program Manager for Administration; Mr. Edwin J. Clarke, Public Relations Officer; Mr. Ijaz T. E. Mason, Investigator; and Mr. Samuel N. S. Peterson, Deputy Chief of Intelligence of the Monitoring and Investigation Department were retired in accordance with the Civil Service Regulations on Retirement and Pensions.

The Commission organized a send-off program for its four retired staff and the Former Chief Prosecutor. Mrs. Jeanet S. Sarsih, Messrs Edwin C; arke, Ijaz Mason and Samuel N.S. Peterson were terminated based on the civil service regulation on retirement, while Cllr. Jerry D.K. Garwolu, was appointed by the President as Assistant Minister of Justice, thus ending his services with the Commission.

Furthermore, to ensure a smooth transition for the retirees, the Human Resource Unit completed and submitted the C-1 Form to NASSCORP on their behalf and is working closely with the NASSCORP to ensure that the retiree's benefits are paid.

PROMOTIONS AND RECRUITMENT OF STAFF

During the period under review, management through the Human Resource Unit, effected internal promotion, employed new staff and hired legal consultants, affecting the Monitoring & Investigation, Prosecution, and Administration Departments, respectively. Messrs. Rahoff Solomon was promoted as Deputy Chief of Operation while Elton Y. Livingstone was transferred laterally to the position of Deputy Chief of Intelligence. Investigators Mitchell D. Grant and Sembeth Davies were also promoted from Investigators to Senior Investigators. Additionally, two legal consultants were hired for a one-year period to bolster the human resource capacity of the Legal & Prosecution Department and strengthen the prosecutorial capacity of the Department to try more corruption cases. Cllrs. Boakai Harvey and James N. Nyenpan are serving a one-year contract with the Commission.

In total, four (04) investigators benefitted internal promotions and two legal consultants were hired for a one-year period. Furthermore, the Commission employed an additional Assistant Asset Declaration & Verification Officer.

The Commission employed the below staff effective November 1, 2024:

1. Jacob S. Browne, Investigator
2. C. Wonleh Sei Slehkie, Investigator

3. Arnold I Dixon, Investigator
4. Prince D. Toweh, Investigator
5. Daimuah Freeman, Assistant Asset Declaration & Verification Officer

The employment of the four (04) investigators further strengthened the work force capacity of the Monitoring and Investigation Department to investigate more corruption cases. In addition, the employment an additional Assistant Asset Declaration & Verification Officer has further boost the human resource capacity of the Asset Declaration & Verification Unit for improved performance.

The commission consistently reported understaffing as a challenge of the institution during the reporting period. These employments partly addressed the understaffing challenge of the commission and are significantly contributing to the performance of the concerned departments, and by extension, the commission as a whole.

During the reporting period, contractual staff of the commission were terminated following failed negotiations with the Civil Service Agency (CSA) to extend their contracts.

Salaries from the retirement and resignations were used to effect internal transfers and employment of some contractors who had been in the employ of the Commission prior to 2024. This management action bolstered staff motivation and is likely to improve the productivity and performance of the concerned staff and the Commission in general.

The total work force of the Commission for the year under review is Eighty-Four persons, including seven (07) commissioners, seventy-two (72) general staff, three (03) contractors and two (02) interns. This statistic highlights the staffing challenge of the Commission. The combined work force of the Education & Prevention Department; Monitoring and Investigation; and Legal & Prosecution Department is under thirty-five (35) employees, thereby affecting the scope of anti-corruption education awareness, investigation, and prosecution of corruption throughout Liberia.

RELOCATION OF THE LIBERIA ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION'S OFFICE

Pursuant to the Board of Commissioners' approval, the Asset Management Unit under the supervision of the Program Manager for the Administration & Supervision Department and the Executive Chairperson worked with the General Services Agency (GSA) to relocate to its new location at the Tupee Taylor's Curve, God Give Community, Sinkor, Old Road. The new office space is being leased by the government through the General Services Agency (GSA).

LOGISTICS AND TRANSPORT UNIT

During the year under review, the Commission has eight (8) vehicles (four new, two used and two depreciated) as well as one motorcycle in its fleet. The commission worked with the GSA to code all the vehicles and motorcycle and issued new license plates.

As a way of ensuring regular repair and maintenance on the Commission's vehicles, the institution entered service contract with Uptown Garage for repair and maintenance vehicle to timely service and repair the LACC vehicles. The Commission also utilizes GPS services from Kappagee, Inc. to track its vehicles to avoid theft. The commission through the unit also provides daily transportation services for its staff to and from work.

INTERNAL AUDITOR

During the reporting period, to ensure fiscal probity, there were robust internal control mechanisms as required by the Internal Audit Standards (IAS) before disbursements were made. There was a checklist on every component to certify transactions before they were processed, and applicable financial management laws and regulations accompanied a clearing memo for all payments.

The Commission's accounts with the Central Bank of Liberia were reconciled monthly with the cash ledger or cashbook and reports were generated monthly to ensure that our financial records accurately reflected the entity's actual bank account balances.

During the period under review, the Internal Audit Unit ensured that disbursements were free of material errors and fully compliant with all applicable laws and regulations. A clearing memo accompanied all payments. In addition, monthly reports were produced to show the entity's cash balances for the period. Furthermore, the Unit actively followed up audit recommendations from the Internal Audit Agency (IAA), ensuring that audit recommendations from both the IAA and the General Auditing Commission (GAC) were being implemented.

Moreover, the Unit is also followed up the implementation of previous audit reports from the General Auditing Commission (GAC) and the Internal Audit Agency (IAA).

Of the twenty-six (26) audit recommendations presented by the IAA, the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) has implemented fifteen (15), three (3) have been forwarded to the Ministry of Justice, and eight (8) are a work in progress. The audit reports cover the period 2018-2020 fiscal years, respectively.

ASSET MANAGEMENT UNIT

During the period under review, the LACC received a donation of stationery and office supplies from the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs office of the United States Embassy accredited near Monrovia. The value of the donation of assorted offices supplies is placed at United States Dollars Five Thousand Two Hundred Ninety-Four Dollars Seventy-Six Cents (\$5, 294.76).

In brief remarks, Madam Sally Schlegel, Director of the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs indicated that she takes pride in working with the LACC, noting her office is collaborating with various MACs in the Country.

Ambassador Mark Toner, US Ambassador to Liberia acknowledged the long bilateral ties between Liberia and the United States of America. He recognized the good work that the Commission is doing and encouraged the LACC to do more to promote a culture of transparency and accountability in Liberia's public sector. The donation will improve the Commission's capacity to adequately handle its day to-day operations, including clerical duties, printing investigative reports, sharing inter-office memoranda, and the overall effectiveness of the LACC Secretariat.

In addition, the Asset Management Unit is collaborating with the General Services Agency (GSA) to code assets of the Commission that were not previously coded. The Unit is also working on updating the LACC Asset Registry to ensure an accurate record of all the Commission's assets.

PROCUREMENT UNIT

During the reporting period, the Procurement Unit completed and submitted the LACC's 2024 Procurement Plan to the Public Procurement & Concessions Commission (PPCC) for both Core Budget and Small Business Act (SBA) Procurements. The Executive Director of the Public Procurement and Concessions Commission approved these plans. Additionally, the Unit initiated procurement processes for the procurement of goods and services to meet the operational needs of the Commission. From the (SBA) Procurement Plan, the Unit initiated procurement processes for Scratch Cards, Petroleum Products, Guard and Security Services, Advertising and Public Relations, Air Tickets and Office Building Rental.

For the Core Budget Procurement plan, the Unit initiated procurement processes for Vehicle Repairs and Maintenance Services and Computer Supplies and ICT Services.

A contract was signed between the LACC and the recommended Vehicle Repairs and Maintenance Service Provider, while bids were received for Computer Supplies and ICT Services recently and were evaluated by the designated Bid Evaluation Panel.

During the year under review, the Procurement Unit continued to provide operational support to various departments of the Commission. The Unit conducted procurement processes to purchase two vehicles, an SUV and a Utility Pick Up by submitting a procurement request to the Public Procurement & Concession Commission (PPCC) in November 2024. The bidding process for said procurement was launched using the Restricted Bidding Method as approved on the Procurement Plan. The Unit gave Bid Invitations to eight (8) vendors, but only two vendors submitted bids up to the November 12 deadline. However, the Unit requested approval to extend the bid submission deadline to November 17, 2024. The entire process ended on December 31, 2024.

Moreover, in keeping with its mandate, the Unit carried out routine procurement services throughout the year as support to program departments of the Commission, ensuring they had the requisite equipment and logistics to effectively fulfill their respective mandates.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) UNIT

Information & Communication Technology (ICT) Unit is responsible to provide ICT services and ongoing technological support to the smooth digital operations of the commission. During the reporting period, the Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) Unit made scores of achievements, including Rebranding the LACC Website, Publication of vacancy announcements for Recruitment, Social Media support, cancellation of staff who resigned and retired, respectively, and creation of emails for incoming staff.

The Unit collaborated with the Office of the Executive Chairperson and Commissioner Randolph Tebbs, the Commissioner for Monitoring and Investigation, to rebrand the LACC website. Recognizing the importance of an effective website for fulfilling the Commission's mandate, the LACC signed a one-year service contract with Blue Sea to host and manage the site. The revamped website is now fully functional and interactive, featuring updated content such as quarterly reports, the LACC Restated and Amended Act of 2022, press releases, and the Asset Declaration Regulations and performance listing. All Old information has been archived, and the user-friendly site serves as a valuable resource for anyone interested in the Commission's activities. The LACC Website is user friendly and is useful for research purposes for individuals who might wish to follow the programs and activities of the LACC.

Moreover, a donor partner and the Government of Liberia conducted an assessment on the Unit. A team from Ernest & Young along with the Chief Information Office (CIC) of the Ministry of Post and Telecommunication assessed the ICT infrastructure of the Commission to identify the needs and challenges before the implementation of the GREAT Project.

During the reporting period, the Unit participated in three Virtual E-digital platform meetings, workshop, training, and survey organized and conducted by the World Bank in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance & Development Planning. Additionally, the Unit

worked along with Ernest & Young Consultant Firm to submit the findings of the needs assessment survey for ICT staff of the Commission to the World Bank.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND PREVENTION

The Education & Prevention Department of the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission is the department of the Commission that carries out the prevention and public education mandate of the Commission. The Department comprises four distinct anti-corruption units, including the Prevention Unit, Community Relations Unit, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, and the Research Unit.

INTERNAL CORRUPTION RISK ASSESSMENT

During the period under review, the department carried out an internal corruption risk assessment on the programs and operations of the Commission. Corruption risk assessment is a structured process to identify, analyze, and evaluate vulnerabilities of institutions to corruption. Initiated in February 2024, this assessment aimed to test existing systems and procedures at the Commission to prevent corrupt practices. Led by Prevention Officer John E. Tommy, the team completed all related tasks, including desk reviews and interviews with program managers and sectional heads, identified areas of possible vulnerabilities to corruption and recommended a mitigation plan to prevent the likelihood for the occurrence of corruption.

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ANTI-GRAFT/ INTEGRITY INSTITUTIONS

The Education and Prevention Department of the LACC, during the reporting period, partnered with Integrity Watch Liberia under the UNDP's Anti-Corruption Innovation Initiative Project. This collaboration led to the establishment of the Citizens Corruption Reporting Platform (CCRP), which uses mobile and web technology to allow citizens to report corruption in real time. To enhance its effectiveness, the commission engaged in public awareness campaigns across three counties, including Bomi County, facilitated by Community Relations Officer Alfred D. Karnley. These efforts included anti-corruption training sessions in Tubmanburg, focusing on the CCRP, corruption concepts, and eradication strategies, benefiting over 100 local participants, including students.

A CALL FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (AfDB)

During the reporting period, the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) submitted a funding proposal to the African Development Bank for €1 million (approximately \$1.3 million). This initiative aims to enhance human and institutional capacities within the commission to improve its effectiveness in executing its mandate. Key components of the project include upgrading the LACC's Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure to facilitate secure collaboration and strengthening legislative and policy frameworks in line with the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). Additionally, the project focuses on identifying corruption risks in critical public and private institutions, as well as fostering national and international stakeholder engagement. The

funding proposal has been approved, with budget adjustments made to align with the project's goals, and the Commission is set to receive USD 290,000.

STRENGTHENING RULE OF LAW PROJECT

The collaboration between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) during the reporting period focused on the "Strengthening Rule of Law in Liberia: Justice and Security for the Liberian People II Project." This initiative was implemented across Montserrado, Bomi, Nimba, and Grand Gedeh counties and aimed to enhance public education and awareness about corruption among citizens and train LACC staff on relevant legislation and policies, such as the Public Procurement & Concessions Commission (Act (PPCCA) and Regulations, Whistleblower Act, Witness Protection Act and Public Financial Management (PFM) Laws.

The project successfully distributed over 3,000 copies of the amended LACC Act and more than 8,000 information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials, including resources on the Whistleblower and Witness Protection Acts and anti-corruption flyers. To raise public awareness, four anti-corruption banners were installed in Bentol, Tubmanburg, Saniquellie, and Zwedru. Additionally, 40 LACC staff members received training that deepened their understanding of various anti-corruption frameworks, including the Amended Anti-Corruption Act of 2022, the Public Procurement & Concessions Commission Act, the Public Financial Management Act, and the Code of Conduct.

USAID/ INTERNEWS- LACC MEDIA PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

During the reporting period, the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) submitted a proposal to the USAID/INTERNEWS for funding support for its Media Partnership Project, designed to involve the media in encouraging citizen participation in the fight against corruption. The Media Partnership Project comprises three key components: training programs, a radio talk show, and community media forums. The radio talk show facilitates live discussions, allowing participants from diverse professional backgrounds to engage with the public on corruption-related issues.

As part of the initiative, a two-day workshop was held to focused on key skills, such as understanding corruption, examining documentary evidence, navigating legal frameworks, conducting cross-border investigations, and recognizing warning signs of corruption. This training was organized by the Center for Media Studies and Building (CEMESP) in collaboration with LACC. The radio discussions began on May 14, 2024, and ran through July 2024.

The Community Media Forum covered Montserrado, Bong, and Grand Bassa counties. The town hall-style fora at the county level provided a platform for citizens to understand and discuss corrupt practices in their counties and communities. The Montserrado County Media

forum convened at the Covenant High School in Cooper Farm Community with more than Seventy-Five (75) students from the University of Liberia in attendance.

LAUNCH OF THE UNDP SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT

During the reporting period, the Education & Prevention Department initiated the Social Accountability Project in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This project represents a critical advancement in promoting transparency and accountability within Liberia's governance systems, while also facilitating inclusive citizen participation in anti-corruption efforts across all fifteen counties.

The project brought together various community-based organizations (CBOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs), including those focused on women, youth, and local leaders. Its goal was to empower citizens and communities in advocating for social accountability and transparency in governance and public service delivery. The project utilized PowerPoint presentations, interactive workshops, and public outreach initiatives to achieve these objectives. This comprehensive approach equipped participants with essential knowledge and skills to understand anti-corruption frameworks better, enhanced their capacity to monitor community projects and service delivery and engage effectively with local government authorities. Key training topics included the Amended Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission Act of 2022, the Whistleblower and Witness Protection Acts, the concept of corruption, the asset declaration regime, and how to report corruption using the TALKAY APP.

The project aims to cultivate a culture of transparency, accountability, and responsive governance by positioning participants as anti-corruption ambassadors within their communities. This strategy empowers citizens to express their concerns, collaborate with authorities, and work collectively to improve public service delivery and report suspected corruption to the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission. Additionally, the project seeks to bridge the divide between citizens and their elected representatives, fostering constructive dialogue and collaborative problem-solving for community development.

Furthermore, the project is dedicated to strengthening social accountability mechanisms and equipping citizens in the fight against corruption. Over 320 participants from Grand Cape Mount, Gbarpolu, Bong, and Lofa counties have been trained, engaging more than 5,000 individuals through public outreach in these regions. The Social Accountability Project is a collaborative effort involving the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC), UNDP, UN Women, and Integrity Watch Liberia, supported financially by the Peacebuilding Fund.

LAUNCH OF THE NATIONWIDE TRAINING FOR PERSONNEL OF THE JUDICIARY AND INTEGRITY INSTITUTIONS

This sub-component of the Social Accountability Project focuses on strengthening the capacity of personnel of the judiciary and integrity institutions on legislation and accountability instruments. The Executive Chairperson of the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission, Cllr. Alexandra Kormah Zoe launched the project on September 12, 2024, in Gbarnga, Bong County. Participants were drawn from a cross-section of judiciary personnel, including judges, magistrates, bailiffs, and integrity institutions from Margibi, Lofa, Bong, and Nimba Counties.

CONTINUATION OF THE MEDIA PARTNERSHIP

During the reporting period, the Education & Prevention Department partnered with the Liberia Media for Democratic Initiative and received funding from USAID/INTERNEWS to host a Community Media Forum at the Intellectual and Athletic Center in Gbarnga, Bong County, on September 14, 2024. This collaborative event, involving the LACC, USAID/INTERNEWS, and the Liberia Media for Democratic Initiative (LMDI), aimed to raise awareness against corruption and encourage public participation.

The forum, the second of three scheduled Community Media Fora, attracted a diverse group of Gbarnga residents. It specifically focused on educating citizens on the 2008 and 2022 Acts of the LACC, exploring their differences, strengths and weaknesses and implications for the fight against corruption in Liberia. Discussions included the commission's corporate governance and functions and a comparative analysis of both legislative acts.

Commissioner Hon. Ernest R. Hughes also participated in a month-long training course on financial crimes investigations sponsored by the US Embassy in New Mexico.

Furthermore, the Education & Prevention Department organized a three-day workshop on social accountability mechanisms for staff of integrity institutions and Judiciary personnel. The Department also conducted a two-day training for Social Accountability Volunteers from Region Three, which includes Gbarpolu, Bomi, and Grand Cape Mount counties. These volunteers will gather information on corruption and report it to the Commission to aid in investigations.

To extend the Social Accountability Project into Region Four, which includes Montserrado, Margibi, and Grand Bassa counties, the Department created a concept note and budget for the recruitment, hiring, and deployment of Social Accountability Volunteers in these areas.

During the reporting period, the Department conducted a project debrief with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) following the Tubmanburg workshop. This session aimed to evaluate the project's successes and challenges and to discuss lessons learned for enhancing the execution of forthcoming project activities. Additionally, two Department staff members attended a two-day UN Joint Rule of Law Review and Planning Workshop in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County, where they assessed past project implementations to inform future activities. The review will improve project implementation strategies and enhance the attainment of project expected outcome.

In alignment with its commitment to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission organized a one-day event on December 6, 2024, to mark the observance of International Anti-Corruption Day (IACD). The festivities began with a street parade that started at the Vomoma House and concluded with an in-door program at the Monrovia City Hall. Highlights of the event included remarks from the Executive Chairperson, an anti-corruption debate, speeches from partners and civil society organizations, and a keynote address from a guest speaker.

This year's IACD was celebrated under the theme: "Uniting with Youth in the Fight Against Corruption: Shaping Tomorrow's Integrity." Over 350 participants joined the parade and in-door events, including students, integrity institution staff, representatives from civil society organizations, and various local and international partners. (see [Appendix A](#))

DEPARTMENT OF MONITORING AND INVESTIGATION

The Investigation and Monitoring Department is a charged with the mandate to gather intelligence and conduct investigation of corruption cases. The department comprises two program units: Investigation Unit and Intelligence. The program manager of the department is the operational head of the department that is assisted by the Chief of Investigations, Deputy Chief of Investigations, Deputy Chief of Operations and Deputy Chief of Intelligence. Additionally, the department was three oversight commissioners who coordinate the administrative affairs of the department.

Key Achievements/Efforts during the Period under Review

During the review period, the Monitoring and Investigation Department of the Commission has been proactive in its approach to tackling corruption, engaging in numerous investigations and legal proceedings that have resulted in significant outcomes:

Investigations: In 2024, the Commission undertook investigations into notable cases involving officials from various government bodies, including the investigation into alleged misappropriation of funds by Margibi County Health Team and the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS), the Director General of the Financial Intelligence Agency (FIA), the National Oil Company of Liberia (NOCAL) the Ministry of

Public Works, former Ministers of the Ministry of State in Payroll, paddling, Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC) amongst others.

In summary, twenty-four (24) cases were reported as completed from January 2024 to December 2024.

Breakdown of Investigations: Between January and December 2024, the Commission received from the General Auditing Commission (GAC) one hundred & Seven (107) audit reports spanning from the period 2018 to 2023 in addition to seventy-eight (78) cases previously lodged with the Commission as of December 2024 thus bringing the total cases being handled by the Commission to one hundred Eighty-Five (185) cases. Of the One Hundred & Eighty-Five Cases, ten (10) cases were completed in the Fourth Quarter thus bringing the total number of cases completed for the year 2024 to Twenty-four (24) and the said 24 cases were submitted to the Board of Commissioners and the Department of Prosecution for review and considerations.

On May 20, 2024, the LACC formally established the Monitoring and Intelligence Team to monitor suspicious activities and investigate potential corruption, reporting findings to the Executive Chairperson and Department of Prosecution.

The Monitoring and Intelligence Team collaborated with the UNDP and Integrity Watch Liberia on the TALKAY APP, a platform for reporting corruption. A meeting reviewed the app's status and suggested enhancements to improve user experience, adding educational videos to guide Liberians in app usage and reporting processes. A total of 252 cases were reported via the app from 2023 to the current period, with only 52 cases containing adequate data.

The team categorized cases into financial (e.g., money laundering, embezzlement) and non-financial (e.g., cronyism, misuse of office) issues. For non-corruption cases, plans are in place to collaborate with relevant ministries to ensure prompt escalation and support, fostering transparency.

Feedback from the TALKAY APP highlighted the need for a Corruption Reporting Hotline, potentially in collaboration with Orange and Lonestar Telecommunications. During this period, we conducted field operations and an arrest concerning National Oil Company of Liberia (NOCAL) officials connected to procurement fraud.

Special intelligence operations examined money laundering and corruption within various agencies, and thorough investigations were launched into cases sanctioned by the BOC, including issues identified in the "GAC Audit Reports" and others involving the Central Bank of Liberia.

Commissioner Atty. Samuel F. Dakana attended a Financial Crime Investigations training in the USA, and department investigators received various training, enhancing their

capabilities. A three-day workshop under LACC and UNDP focused on Anti-Corruption Laws and related areas, facilitating knowledge exchange. Program Manager Baba M. Borkai also co-facilitated a session on Public Procurement & Concessions Law with other key personnel.

The department has been actively enhancing its skills through various training programs. Six investigators participated in a workshop organized by the Ministry of Justice, focusing on information gathering, crime scene security, and police report writing. Additionally, the Chief Investigator and one Investigator attended a Real Estate Risk Assessment workshop at the Financial Intelligence Agency (FIA).

Moreover, the oversight Commissioners and staff took part in an in-service training workshop organized by the commission, with support from the UNDP. This training familiarized participants with crucial Anti-Corruption Laws, including the Restated and Amended LACC Act of 2022, Public Financial Management Law, Whistleblower and Witness Protection Acts of 2022, Public Procurement and Concession Act, the Statute of Limitation, the Code of Conduct, and the LACC Asset Declaration Regime.

These efforts reflect our ongoing commitment to strengthening our capacity to effectively combat corruption and uphold transparency in government operations. By leveraging training opportunities, collaborating with international partners, and utilizing advanced technological tools like the TALKAY APP, we aspire to build a more accountable and corruption-free society.

OPERATIONS

During the period under review, the Department undertook routine field investigative operations such as issuing citations to persons of interest, following up with persons and institutions of interest, maintaining surveillance, and gathering information from informants and other stakeholders.

The Department also continued its special intelligence operations related to several cases under investigation, including the General Auditing Commission (GAC) Audit Reports on the Executive Protective Service (EPS), Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA), Liberia Petroleum Refining Corporation (LPRC), Central Bank of Liberia (CBL), Ministry of State (MoS), among others.

The total estimated financial value of these cases is United States dollars Two Hundred Seventy-Five Million Two Hundred Twenty-Four Thousand Five Hundred Ninety-six dollars Twenty-One Cents (\$ 275,224,596.01) and Liberian Dollars One Billion Nine Hundred Eighty-Six Million Seventy-One Thousand Five Hundred Eight Dollars Thirty-One cents (LD\$ 1,986,071,580.31), respectively. [\(see Appendix b\)](#)

DEPARTMENT OF PROSECUTION

The Prosecution Department of the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission is one of the major departments of the Commission. The department is charged with the responsibility of prosecuting cases of corruption after the conduct of the investigation.

During the period under review, six (6) high-profile corruption cases were under prosecution. Three (3) cases were completed during the first and second quarters. The Commission obtained a unanimous guilty verdict in the corruption trial involving officials of the Planned Parenthood Association of Liberia (PPAL) with a US\$135,000 conviction. The defense counsels of convicted PPAL officials appealed the ruling and perfected the appeal process with the Supreme Court.

Additionally, the Commission secured a conviction against the Global Bank (Liberia) Limited. The Commission also tried the Liberia National Red Cross Case during the period under review. The case concluded with a hung verdict. The commission is currently working out modalities for a new trial in this case.

Furthermore, the Commission has three (03) active cases ongoing: the case involving the Financial Intelligence Agency, the FIA, which is currently be adjudicate before Criminal Court C. The arrival in the country of the former Minister of Finance and Development Planning during the year under review added further impetus to the case which has been pending before Criminal Court C. However, the department notes that the trial of this case is being led by the Prosecution Team of the Ministry of Justice in collaboration Prosecution Department of the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission.

The commission is also prosecuting another case involving the Margibi Health Team, which is a Jury trial currently ongoing in at the 9th Judicial Circuit Court, in Gbarnga, Bong County.

During the period under review, the prosecution team of the commission engaged the Criminal Court C to commence trial in LISGIS case during the May 2024 Term of Court. The effort of the team proved futile even during the August 2024 Term of Court, as the Judge of Criminal Court C was inundated with cases, thereby which causing delay in the prosecution of said Case. Notwithstanding, the LACC Prosecution Team attended two Pretrial Conferences on this LISGIS matter.

Additionally, the Department prepared, filed, and argued resistance to the Motion to Dismiss and the Motion to Dismiss for Failure to Proceed file by Defendant, Wilmot Smith of LISGIS in the Wilmot Smith, former Deputy Director, LISGIS, of the City of Monrovia Movant, Movant versus Republic of Liberia, by and through the Liberia Anti-Corruption, Respondent.

The Department also prepared and filed Resistance to the Motion to Dismiss for Failure to Proceed filed by Defendant, Enree Bee Neeplo in the case: Neeplo, Former Program Manager, PPAL, of the City of Monrovia, Movant versus the Republic of Liberia by and through the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission, Respondent.

CHALLENGES OF THE COMMISSION

The Commission faced several challenges throughout the year, including:

Operational Constraints: The Commission suffered from limited and delay in receipt of fundings from the MFDP, inadequate staffing levels exacerbated by the MFDP's unilateral decision to remove several positions from our payroll thereby hindering the enforcement of our mandates, and low staff morale due to salary issues (low salary), which collectively impacted its overall effectiveness in executing its mandate.

Judicial Delays: The Commission has encountered significant delays within the judicial system that complicate the prosecution of corruption cases, undermining the enforcement of anti-corruption initiatives. For example, Criminal Court C is the only court in Monrovia to hear Corruption cases, the court is currently overwhelmed with other criminal cases. With the establishment of the Anti-Corruption Court, there will be speedy trial and disposition of cases which will ultimately lead to asset recovery.

The following recommendations are proposed to address these challenges:

Enhance Financial Support: In 2025, the commission will increase advocacy for increased budgetary and timely disbursement of allocations from the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning to ensure that the Commission has the necessary resources to fulfill its mandate effectively.

Expedite Judicial Processes: The commission will also increase collaboration with judicial authorities to implement reforms aimed at expediting case processing, including the establishment of specialized anti-corruption courts to facilitate prompt adjudication of corruption cases.

Strengthen Independence: The commission will continue to assert its need for complete operational independence to maintain its integrity and effectiveness in fighting corruption and to protect against political interference.

Community Engagement: Cultivate deeper relationships with civil society organizations to expand public participation in anti-corruption initiatives and to enhance monitoring efforts at the local level.

WAY FORWARD

As the Commission looks to the future, the following strategic priorities will guide its initiatives:

Enhancing Investigative Capacities: The Commission aims to expand its investigative team and resources to increase the number of cases addressed and improve the quality of investigations conducted.

Advocating for Legislative Reforms: Prioritize efforts to establish an Anti-Corruption Court to streamline prosecutions, reduce judicial backlogs, and enhance the overall effectiveness of corruption-related legal proceedings.

Expanding Public Awareness Campaigns: Broaden outreach efforts to promote a culture of integrity, emphasizing citizen participation and education, targeting youth, community leaders, and local stakeholders to increase engagement in the fight against corruption.

Strengthening Institutional Capacity: Develop a dedicated Programs and Projects function within the Commission to mobilize resources effectively, securing funding from both national and international partners to support operational needs.

Implementing Technology Solutions: The Commission will continue to leverage technological advancements, such as the ongoing development of an electronic asset declaration system, to improve transparency and streamline operational processes.

Recommendations to Strengthen the Fight Against Corruption in Liberia:

Your Excellency President Joseph Nyumah Boakai, as part of the Commission’s ongoing efforts to enhance governance and reduce corruption within Liberia, the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) respectfully submits the following recommendations to support a more robust, coordinated, and effective anticorruption strategy. These recommendations are based on our experiences, findings from investigations, stakeholder engagements, and global best practices.

1. Strengthening Institutional Capacity

To increase the effectiveness of the Commission, we recommend enhanced investment in human, financial, and technological resources. This will make the Commission adequately equipped to conduct timely investigations, prosecutions, and adjudications of corruption cases.

2. Improving Legal and Regulatory Frameworks

We recommend a comprehensive review of existing anti-corruption laws and regulations to identify gaps and ensure alignment with international standards. This may include:

- Updating procurement laws to minimize loopholes and ensure transparency and fairness in government contracts.
- Enacting legislation that mandates asset disclosure by public officials and facilitates the recovery of illicitly acquired assets.
- Amending our Penal Code to increase the statute of limitations from five years.

3. Implementing the National Anti-Corruption Strategy

We recommend the revision of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy to set clear objectives, timelines, and responsibilities assigned to various institutions. This amendment should reflect both national priorities and international commitments and serve as a blueprint for coordinated anti-corruption efforts across the country.

4. Increasing Accountability for High-Level Corruption

We recommend adopting a zero-tolerance approach to high-level corruption by ensuring that all individuals, regardless of their position, are held accountable under the law.

This may involve:

- Strengthening oversight mechanisms for elected officials and senior public servants.
- Prioritizing the prosecution of high-profile cases to send a clear message of deterrence.
- Enforcing recommendations from the Commission regarding violations of the National Code of Conduct etc.

Your Excellency, we believe that the above measures, when implemented, will significantly improve the fight against corruption and contribute to greater public trust in government institutions. We remain committed to working closely with your administration and other stakeholders in the pursuit of a more transparent, accountable, and corruption-free Liberia.

CONCLUSION

The Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission is steadfast in its commitment to eradicating corruption and promoting good governance in Liberia. Despite the challenges faced throughout the year, the Commission has made significant progress in its investigative and prosecutorial measures, educational outreach, and capacity-building efforts.

The unwavering commitment of the President, legislative bodies, partners, and the community at large is essential for the Commission to continue making progress in the fight against corruption. Through these collective efforts, the Commission seeks to uphold the principles of transparency, accountability, and integrity in governance, ultimately fostering a corruption-free society in Liberia.