



## **Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC)**

*Tupee Taylor Curve, Sinkor Old Road, Monrovia Liberia – Cell: +231-886560851  
laccliberia@gmail.com, www.lacc.gov.lr*

### **QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE LIBERIA ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION**

*July 1-September 30, 2024, REPORTING PERIOD*

**SUBMITTED TO:**

**HIS EXCELLENCY JOSEPH NYUMAH BOAKAI**  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

**September 2024**

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	3
<b>SUMMARY</b>	4
Background of the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC)	4
Financial Matters	4
FY 2024 Approved Budget	4
Summary of Budget	5
<b>OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRPERSON</b>	
6	
Anti-Corruption Collaboration with Sierra Leone	6
Strengthening Anti-Corruption Through International Collaboration	6
LACC Executive Chairperson and NACIWA Assembly	7
Collaboration with COLINBO	7
LACC and Integrity Watch-Liberia Meeting	8
<b>DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>9</b>
Human Resources	9
Resignations and Retirements	9
Insurance	10
Asset Management Unit	10
Procurement Unit	11
Public Relations Unit	11
Information & Communication Technology Unit	13
Transport Unit	14
Asset Declaration & Verification Unit	15
Internal Auditor	15
<b>EDUCATION AND PREVENTION DEPARTMENT</b>	
16	
Launch of the UNDP Social Accountability Project	17
Nationwide Training of Judiciary and Integrity Institutions	18
Continuation of the Media Partnership	18
<b>MONITORING AND INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT</b>	
18	
Achievements	19
Operations	20
<b>DEPARTMENT OF PROSECUTION</b>	<b>21</b>
Achievements	21
Cases	21
<b>GENERAL CHALLENGES OF THE COMMISSION</b>	
22	
<b>THE WAY FORWARD</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>CONCLUSION</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>APPENDICES</b>	<b>25</b>

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) is pleased to present its Third Quarter Report as of September 30, 2024. This report provides a comprehensive overview of the Commission's activities, achievements, and challenges encountered from July 1, 2024, to September 30, 2024.

The Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission is required by section 14.2 of its restated and amended Act of 2022 to report quarterly to the President and National Legislature on its progress. In the interest of transparency and accountability, this report emphasizes the significant progress made in our ongoing fight against corruption in Liberia. This quarter, our efforts concentrated on key areas: investigations, education and prevention, policy advocacy, and partnerships with national and international stakeholders.

The third quarter featured intensified investigative actions, leading to the exposure of several high-profile cases being brought to light. Our public education campaigns have successfully raised awareness about the detrimental effects of corruption and the need for ethical behavior. Additionally, we made significant strides in advocating for the establishment of an Anti-Corruption Court in Liberia and for amendments to existing anti-corruption laws, working closely with the Legislature and other Government bodies.

Furthermore, the Commission has enhanced its collaborations with civil society organizations, development partners, and international bodies. These partnerships have been essential in supporting our mission and improving our effectiveness in combating corruption.

This third quarter report highlights key achievements in the investigation, prosecution, and education programs of the Commission. This report also emphasizes key findings from the conclusion of the asset declaration exercise for the year 2024.

Despite the progress, we acknowledge that significant challenges remain. The Commission is dedicated to overcoming these obstacles through strategic initiatives, capacity building, and sustained efforts to promote a culture of integrity and accountability throughout all sectors of society.

In submitting this report, we reaffirm our commitment to the principles of accountability, transparency, justice, and good governance. We express our gratitude to all stakeholders for their steadfast support and collaboration. Together, we are making meaningful progress towards a corruption-free Liberia.



## **SUMMARY**

### **BACKGROUND-LIBERIA ANTI- CORRUPTION COMMISSION (LACC)**

An Act of the National Legislature in July 2022 established the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) as an independent Commission of government. The Commission has a broad mandate and functions to implement appropriate measures and undertake programs geared towards investigating, prosecuting, and preventing acts of corruption, including educating the public about the ills of corruption and the benefits of its eradication. The preamble of the Act establishing the Commission presents a background to the establishment of the Commission based on the severe nature of corruption both in the public and private sectors of the Liberian society, which has undermined the institutional framework of good governance in Liberia.

### **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

This report provides commentary and analysis of the cash receipts and payments (as well as the financial performance) of the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission for the Third Quarter ended, September 30, 2024, as well as its financial position as of this date. The Financial Statement covers the Third Quarter (July 1 to September 30, 2024) of the budget year FY 2024, and its contents are consistent with the provisions of section I.9 captioned "Quarterly Government Agency or fund accounts" of the 2009 Public Financial Management Regulations. The Commission has adopted a system of sound accounting and financial management policies in conformity with the financial regulations of the Government of Liberia and International Public Sector Accounting Standards (Cash Basis IPSAS) to ensure prudent and efficient management of funds. Specifically, the Commission keeps proper books and records of accounts for funds and resources received and expenditures incurred during the quarter. The Government of Liberia through budgetary appropriations primarily funds the Commission's programs and activities. The Commission from time to time receives external support from donor partners.

### **FY 2024 APPROVED BUDGET**

At the onset of the budget year FY-2024, the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning submitted 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 fiscal year 2024. Through Legislative intervention, an additional allotment was made to the Commission in the amount of Nine Hundred Thousand United States Dollars (US\$ 900,000.00) to support the Commission strategies to combat corruption. The final approved budget of the Commission stands at Two Million Nine Hundred Sixty-Six Thousand United states Dollars Eight Hundred Eleven Cents (US\$ 2,966,811.00).

## SUMMARY OF BUDGET

For FY 2024, the Legislature approved a total of Two Million Nine Hundred Sixty-Six Thousand Eight Hundred Eleven United States Dollar (2,966,811.00) to implement measures and undertake appropriate programs geared towards investigating, prosecuting, combating and preventing acts of corruption, including educating the public about the ills of corruption and the benefits of its eradication. Of the total appropriation, One Million Two Hundred Seventy-five United states Dollars (US\$ 1, 200,075.00), representing 40% was allotted for expenditure on personnel compensation whilst One Million Seven Hundred Sixty-six Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty-six United states Dollars (US\$ 1,766,736.00) representing 60% was approved for spending on goods and services for FY 2024. Despite management’s requests to procure capital items such as vehicles and land, no allocation was allotted for capital spending for the fiscal year 2024.

The total amount allotted for the Third Quarter from the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning stood at Four Hundred Twenty-Two Thousand Fourteen United States Dollars (US\$ 422,014.00). The allotment is categorized in Table 1.0 as shown below:

**TABLE 1.0 Quarter 3 Allotment**

Allotment Category	Amount
Salary	304,661.94
Goods and services	117,353.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>422,014.00</b>

The Commission plans to roll-out several programs in FY 2024, including: (1) strengthening the assets declaration regime by setting up an “E-Asset Declaration System”; (2) increasing investigative caseloads by 50% from 20 to 30 cases; (3) increasing prosecutors’ throughput from an average of six (6) to ten (10) cases per annum; (4) rolling out a key prevention as well as public education programs to focus on public awareness and education, and (5) training of staff of the commission on need basis, including investigators, prosecutors as well as education, and prevention officers (7) verification of public officials asset declarations,(decentralization, among others. To support these programs and initiatives, the Commission developed and proposed a budgetary appropriation of Four Million Five Hundred Thousand United States Dollars (USD\$4,500,000.00); however, Government of Liberia’s appropriations is at Two Million Nine Hundred Thousand United States Dollars (USD \$2,900,000.00). This reduced appropriation will challenge the Commission’s ability to execute its initiatives and activities as planned. The corresponding budgetary/appropriation shortfall is at One Million Six Hundred Thousand United states Dollars (USD \$ 1,600,000.00) as depicted in Table 1.1 below.

**TABLE 1.1 Budgetary Shortfall**

Object of Expenditure	FY 2024 Approved Appropriation	LACC FY 2024 Proposed Budget	Budget short fall 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-Financial Assets	-	752,000.00	(752,000.00)	100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,966,811.00</b>	<b>4,584,324.00</b>	<b>(1,617,513.00)</b>	

**SEE APPENDIX B FOR FULL REPORT**

## **THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRPERSON**

During the period under review, the Executive Chairperson, Cllr. Alexandra Kormah Zoe, actively engaged in a series of local and international initiatives. These efforts focused on combating corruption, investigating, and prosecuting acts of corruption, promoting transparency and accountability, raising public awareness, building institutional capacity, providing training and development, advocating for reform, and fostering partnerships and collaborations.

## **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 LACC, emphasizing the role of mutual support and knowledge exchange in effectively combating corruption across borders. Mr. Kaifala also urged the LACC 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 of the LACC, Cllr. Alexandra Kormah Zoe 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 LACC 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 recently 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 LACC. 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 LACC 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 LACC is poised to make significant strides in our fight against corruption and promote good governance.

The LACC 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), Cllr. Alexandra Kormah Zoe, who currently serves as the Vice President of the Network of Anti-Corruption Institutions in West Africa (NACIWA), led a three-member delegation to the Sixth 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.

On the first day, the Executive Chairperson represented Liberia in a significant panel discussion alongside other heads of anti-corruption institutions. The panel focused on the "ECOWAS Protocol on the Fight Against Corruption: Prospects and Way Forward," exploring strategies to enhance the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures within the region. Accompanying the Executive Chairperson were Cllr. David Wilson, Commissioner with oversight for prosecution, and Ms. Vivian S. Akoto, Executive Assistant & Program Manager in the Office of the Executive Chairperson. The delegation's presence reaffirmed Liberia's commitment to active participation in regional anti-corruption efforts and the implementation of the ECOWAS Protocol. The Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Honourable 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.

#### **COLINBO LEADERSHIP MEETS WITH LACC EXECUTIVE CHAIRPERSON TO DISCUSS ANTI-CORRUPTION EFFORTS**

The leadership of COLINBO, a consortium of Liberian business professionals, met with the Executive Chairperson of the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC), Cllr. Zoe, on Wednesday, August 14, 2024. The meeting, held at the LACC headquarters, focused on the ongoing efforts in the fight against corruption and the role of the business community in this crucial national endeavor.

Mr. Joseph Koda, President of COLINBO, expressed his appreciation to the Executive Chairperson on behalf of his team for the significant progress being made by the LACC in combating corruption.

He highlighted the direct benefits that small business groups like COLINBO experience when corruption is curtailed and pledged the organization's cooperation with the LACC for any future



needs. Mr. Koda also expressed COLINBO's interest in participating in the procurement of goods and services for government agencies, including the LACC. The Executive Chairperson, speaking on behalf of the Body of Commissioners and the staff of the LACC, thanked Mr. Koda and the COLINBO leadership for their visit. She acknowledged that COLINBO is the first business organization to formally commend the LACC for its efforts in fighting corruption and expressed her gratitude for their positive feedback. The Chairperson noted that the meeting serves as strong motivation to continue working diligently in the interest of the Liberian people. She further encouraged COLINBO to act as whistleblowers and to report any instances of corruption they may encounter, thereby contributing to the broader fight against corruption. The LACC remains committed to fostering partnerships with all sectors of society, including the business community, as part of its mission to eradicate corruption and promote good governance in Liberia.

### **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 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 LACC 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 LACC 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 LACC 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.

### **DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION**

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 Amended 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**

#### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

##### **RECRUITMENT OF NEW STAFF**

During the period under review, the Human Resource Unit of the Administration Department recruited two (02) new staff members: a Procurement Officer and a Public Relations Officer. The recruitment process for both positions began during the second quarter but were finalized in the first month of the third quarter.

The recruitment of the two new staff will enhance the effective operation of the Commission in its procurement and public relations 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 also 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 LACC its buy-in, support and participation in anti-corruption initiatives.

### **RESIGNATION**

Conversely, three (03) staff members of the Commission ended their working relationship with the LACC. These individuals include Cllr. Jerry D.K. Garlawolu, Mr. Richard R. Korvayan, and Mr. Titus A.A. Goeh, Sr., who served as Program Manager, Prosecution & Legal Department, and Investigators of the Monitoring & Investigation Department, respectively. The resignations of the three staff members took effect on July 31, 2024, and August 26, 2024.

### **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.

These positions have been filled pursuant to recommendation from the Monitoring and Investigation Department for internal replacements within the department due to the dire need for additional investigators.

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.

### **RESUMPTION OF DUTY**

During the period under review, the Assistant Information Communication Technology (ICT) Officer was reinstated by management and resumed official duties with the Commission on August 5, 2024. Mr. Mitchell Tokpah recently returned to the Country from study leave in India.

### **INSURANCE**

During the period under review, the Commission launched a procurement bid for a private health

and life insurance scheme for the staff of the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission. After a competitive procurement process, and based on broad consensus of staff members, the service contract with SAARL Insurance Company was extended for an additional one year, from August 1, 2024, to July 31, 2025.

### **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. For his part, 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. The Office Building Rental contract was signed and is in force while the contract for Petroleum Products and Scratch Cards are being signed by the LACC and the respective recommended vendors.

Bids are expected to be received for Air Tickets on October 10, 2024, while Bid Evaluation Report for Guard and Security Services was submitted to the Procurement Committee for

approval or rejection, and is currently being reviewed. Bids are expected to be received for Advertising and Public Relations on October 10, 2024.

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 has been 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 are being evaluated by the designated Bid Evaluation Panel.

### **INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) UNIT**

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. Old information has been archived, and the user-friendly site serves as a valuable resource for anyone interested in the Commission's activities.

Additionally, in collaboration with the Human Resource Unit, the ICT Unit published a Vacancy Announcement (VA) for several positions, including Executive Director, Chief Prosecutor, Procurement Officer, and Public Relations Officer. These vacancies, along with advertisements for goods and services, were posted on the newly revamped website. A total of four job vacancies and five procurement-related publications were uploaded.

Consequently, the website is fully functional now, with interactives feature. Old information, reports, press conferences, have been moved to the archives, The site is replete with up-to-date information, such as LACC Quarterly reports, LACC Restated and Amended Act of 2022, press releases, press conference, and the Asset Declaration Regulations.

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.

Additionally, the Unit, in collaboration with the Human Resource Unit published a vacancy announcement for recruitment processes. The vacancies for the positions of Executive Director, Chief Prosecutor, Procurement Officer, and Public Relations Officer were advertised on the LACC

website using the Vacancy Announcement page. Advertisements for goods and services were also done using the same page.

A total of four (4) job vacancies and five (5) publications for goods and services were posted on the LACC website via the same page.

During the reporting period, the Unit provided support to the functionality of the Social Media pages, such as Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, and have also created a channel that enables the public to follow our podcast after it has been carried live.

Further, the Unit cancelled or removed all retired and resigned staff of the Commission from the LACC email chain. Similarly, the Unit created individualized corporate email accounts for all new employees. The exercise removed four retirees and three staff who resigned from the Commission.

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.

On the policy front, the Unit has developed and submitted a revised ICT Policy to the Policy Review Committee of the Commission for review and onward submission to the Board of Commissioners for adoption as a guide for ICT services and equipment.

## **ASSET DECLARATION & VERIFICATION UNIT**

During the period under review, the Unit successfully completed the 2024 asset declaration cycle for officials of the Government of Liberia. The Unit dispatched over One Hundred (100) Asset Declaration Regulations to MACs to increase asset declaration awareness and boost compliance.

The deadline for the 2024 Asset Declaration Cycle was on 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 conclusion of the August 31<sup>st</sup> deadline, the Commission herewith reports that we identified additional 1,900 employees and public officials of government that are required to declare assets and liabilities with the Commission. We hereby report that only 48% of public

officials participated in this exercise as per our record.

#### Compliance Levels:

The Legislative Branch: In the Legislative branch, of the total number of 73 elected Representatives, only 26 Representatives complied demonstrating their commitment to the rule of law, while 47 were non-compliant. The 56 administrative staff of the House of Representative that were identified, only 1 staff complied, demonstrating commitment to rule of law.

After the July 31, 2024, deadline, the Asset Declaration Unit received two (2) additional asset declarations from member of the house of Representatives.

Still in the Legislative branch, of the total number of 30 elected Senators, only 12 complied demonstrating their commitment to the rule of law, while 18 were non-compliant. The 44 administrative staff of the House of senate that were identified, none complied.

Also, after the July 31, 2024, deadline, the Asset Declaration Unit received three (3) additional asset declarations from member of the house of Senate, one (1) Senator and Two (2) Administrative Staff.

The Executive Branch: In the Executive Branch, of the 1,281 officials appointed who are required to declare their assets, only 322 officials fully complied with the declaration requirements, while 959 are non-compliant. We also received 84 asset declarations from non - appointed employees of government thus bringing the total number of asset declaration received from the Executive branch of government to 406 demonstrating their commitment to transparency.

Furthermore, the Asset Declaration & Verification Unit received an additional of Two Hundred & Forty-Five (245)-asset declaration after the July 31, 2024, deadline.

The Judiciary Branch: In the Judiciary branch a total number of 333 persons are required to declare, only 29 officials were in compliance, including 7 judges and 21 administrative staffs were in compliant demonstrating their commitment to transparency, while 305 were non-compliant.

The Judiciary Branch has topped the list with an additional of 287 declarations filed at the LACC.

There are other members staff from the three branches of government who are also non-compliant in declaring their assets. Our next course of actions will be to request the listing of staff from government institutions, match them against our current records and address them like we will address all other non-compliance.

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 herewith recommend that all noncompliant officials and employees of government be sanctioned 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 LACC who 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 shall be suspended until a completed, signed, and notarized declaration form is received and validated by the LACC.
3. The Commission most respectfully recommends to Your Excellency that the sanctions prescribed by law be enforced against the public officials and employees of 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 government in keeping with its statutory mandate.

Additionally, preparation has begun for the verification of 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 were 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 we verify the declarations; we are able to evaluate the truthfulness of the claims with regard to

the income, assets and liabilities. Discrepancies discovered during the verification process is the basis for demanding accountability.

**See attached Appendix D for the full report**

**INTERNAL AUDITOR**

In an effort to ensure fiscal probity, there is a robust internal control mechanism as required by the Internal Audit Standards (IAS) before disbursements are made. There is a checklist on every component to certify transactions before they are processed, and applicable financial management laws and regulations accompanied with a clearing memo for all payments.

Additionally, our accounts with the Central Bank of Liberia are reconciled monthly with the cash ledger or cashbook and reports are generated monthly to ensure that our financial records accurately reflect 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. Additionally, monthly reports were produced to show the entity's cash balances for the period. Furthermore, the Unit is actively following up on audit recommendations from the Internal Audit Agency (IAA), ensuring that audit recommendations from both the IAA and the General Auditing Commission (GAC) are being implemented.

Moreover, the Unit is also following up on 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.

**EDUCATION AND PREVENTION DEPARTMENT**

The Department of Education & Prevention shall without limiting the generality of its powers, be responsible to: Undertake research into the causes, manifestations and dimensions of corruption in Liberia; and advise on appropriate programs and practices needed to be adopted by the Government of Liberia, public and private institutions, organizations, and entities to prevent and combat corruption; design and implement programs aimed at educating and sensitizing the public about the menace of corruption and its debilitating effects on the social and economic fabric of Liberia and what should be done to prevent and combat corruption.

The (E&P) Department is a core Department of the Commission (LACC) and is comprised of three (3) units: the Prevention Unit, Community Relations Unit and the Monitoring & Evaluation Unit. A program officer leads each unit; a program manager leads program officers. The oversight commissioner, the Vice Executive Chairperson, and the Executive Director, oversee the Department's activities.



The Prevention Unit undertakes programs and activities, as well as develops strategies to prevent the occurrence of corruption. It also raises anti-corruption awareness at national, sub-national, community and household levels throughout the Country. The Community Relations Unit serves as the liaison between the Commission and anti-corruption stakeholders. It builds networks in the fight against corruption and works through these networks and collaborations to expand the operations and programming scope of the Commission to counties and communities where the Commission has no physical offices or presence. The Monitoring & Evaluation Unit tracks the outcome and impact of the anti-corruption interventions of the Commission. It catalogues lessons learned and uses them for planning purposes for future program implementation guidance for improved program impact and outcome.

## **Notable Achievements of the Department:**

### **LAUNCH OF THE UNDP SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT**

During the period under review, the Education & Prevention Department, through a United Nations development Programme initiative launched the Social Accountability Project. This project marks a significant milestone in enhancing transparency and accountability within Liberia's governance systems and promoting inclusive citizen participation in anti-corruption initiatives across all fifteen counties.

The project brought together diverse groups of community-based organizations (CBOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs), including women and youth groups, and local leaders, to empower citizens and communities in promoting social accountability and transparency in governance and public service delivery. In pursuit of these objectives, the project combined PowerPoint presentations and interactive workshop sessions with public outreach activities. These efforts equipped participants with the knowledge and skills to enhance their understanding of anti-corruption frameworks, build their capacity to effectively monitor community projects and service delivery, and engage with local government authorities. Key training areas included the Amended Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission Act of 2022, the Whistleblower and Witness Protection Acts, concepts of corruption, the asset declaration regime, and reporting corruption using the TALKAY APP, among others.

By engaging participants as anti-corruption ambassadors at the community level, the project aims to foster a culture of transparency, accountability, and responsive governance. This approach empowers citizens to voice their concerns, collaborate with authorities, and work together to improve public service delivery and report suspected corruption to the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission. The project seeks to bridge the gap between citizens and their elected representatives, encouraging constructive dialogue and collaborative problem-solving models for community development.

Moreover, the project aims to strengthen social accountability mechanisms and empower citizens in the fight against corruption. The intervention has trained more than 320 participants from

Grand Cape Mount, Gbarpolu, Bong, and Lofa counties and engaged over 5,000 people through public outreach in these areas. The Social Accountability Project is a joint initiative of the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UN Women, and Integrity Watch Liberia, with funding support from 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 period under review, the Department, in collaboration with the Liberia Media for Democratic Initiative and with funding support from USAID/INTERNEWS, convened a Community Media Forum at the Intellectual and Athletic Center in Gbarnga, Bong County, on September 14, 2024. This tripartite engagement involved the LACC, USAID/INTERNEWS, and the Liberia Media for Democratic Initiative (LMDI). The forum is part of a collaboration aimed at enhancing anti-corruption awareness and promoting public participation.

The Media Forum gathered a cross-section of residents of Gbarnga. The second in a series of three Community Media Fora focused specifically on the 2008 and 2022 Acts of the LACC. The forum aimed to increase citizens' knowledge of these pieces of legislation by unpacking their differences. Deliberations included discussion of the corporate governance of the commission, its functions and mandate, and a comparative analysis between the two Acts.

Key takeaways from the Gbarnga Community Media Forum included:

Modification of the corporate governance structure of the commission, including an increase in the number of Commissioners from five to seven, and tenure from five years to seven.

- Granting of Direct Prosecutorial Powers to the commission.
- Enhancing the power of the commission by making it the sole repository of the Asset Declaration and Verification regime of the country.
- Granting police powers to all investigators of the LACC.
- At the end of the engagement, participants thanked the LACC and partners for the knowledge acquired and promised to collaborate with the commission.

During the reporting period, Commissioner Hon. Ernest R. Hughes Oversight commissioner of the Department and Vice Executive Chairperson participated in a month-long training in New Mexico, USA. The training focused on Financial Crime Investigations, Money Laundering, and

Terrorist Financing. The US Embassy near Monrovia sponsored the training through the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs office of the Embassy

**See attached Appendix C for further details**

## **MONITORING AND INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT**

### **Notable Achievements of the Department**

During the period under review, the Monitoring and Investigation Department (MID), in consultation with the oversight Commissioners, developed a work plan covering activities and/or investigative operations for the reporting period and presented it to the entire Board of Commissioners (BOC) for consideration.

Further, as per its mandate, the MID commenced full-scale investigations into cases reported to the Department and sanctioned by the BOC for investigation. These include cases such as: 1. "GAC Audit Reports" 2. "Allegation of Conflict of Interest and Corruption involving former officials of the Ministry of State," 3. Cases involving suspicious transactions reported by the Financial Intelligence Agency, 4. Allegations of financial malpractice and corruption involving some past and present officials of the Central Bank of Liberia, among others. Field verification operations and intelligence gathering were also carried out in some of these investigations.

During the period under review, the affairs of the Monitoring and Investigation Department were administered and overseen by the three Oversight Commissioners, supported by the senior and junior staff members of the department. Together, they provided investigative services in line with the mandate of the Commission.

To enhance the effective operation of the Department, the Program Manager, and the leadership of the MID convened regular and emergency meetings to obtain updates on cases and intelligence operations. They also organized rehearsals and in-service training for investigators, especially new ones. Topics covered included Essential Investigation Activities, Case Management, Enforcement Actions, Logistics, and Resources to Enhance the Productivity of the Department.

During the reporting period, Commissioner Atty. Samuel F. Dakana, one of the oversight commissioners of the Department, participated in a month-long training in New Mexico, USA. The training focused on Financial Crime Investigations, Money Laundering, and Terrorist Financing, among others.

Additionally, six investigators from the Department participated in a one-week training workshop conducted by the Ministry of Justice on Information Gathering, Securing the Crime Scene, and Police Report Writing, among other. The Chief Investigator, along with Investigator Sambeth O.

Davies, attended a one-day Real Estate Risk Assessment workshop held at the Headquarters of the Financial Intelligence Agency (FIA) on August 21, 2024.

During the period under review, the oversight commissioners and staff participated in a three-day in-service training workshop organized by the LACC with support from the UNDP. The training aimed to familiarize LACC investigators and corruption prevention officers with Anti-Corruption Laws, including the Restated and Amended LACC Act of 2022; the Public Financial Management Law (PFM Act); the Whistleblower and Witness Protection Acts of 2022; the Public Procurement and Concession Act; the Statute of Limitation; the Code of Conduct; and the LACC Asset Declaration Regime.

The Program Manager, Baba M. Borkai, co-facilitated a presentation on the Public Procurement & Concessions Law and regulations, along with Mr. Ernest R. Hughes, the Vice Executive Chairperson of the Commission.

To enhance its capacity-building program, the Department utilized the findings from a training needs assessment to prepare and submit a concept note to the Oversight Commissioners for onward submission to donor partners, including the World Bank and African Development Bank. This initiative aims to secure funding for training in Basic Police Science, Financial Crimes Investigation (beginner and advanced), Digital Evidence Recovery, Procurement Fraud, Money Laundering, Tax Fraud Investigation, and Senior Management Training in Crime Management and Police Administration. The Department has submitted the proposal to the partners and is awaiting feedback on the on the proposal.

Due to the growing number of high-profile investigations and emerging threats, the Department recommended to the Board of Commissioners (BoC) that investigators undergo firearm training at the National Police Training Academy and thereafter be assigned firearms for their protection. In this connection, the Program Manager of the Department prepared and submitted a draft letter requesting the Inspector General of Police that investigators of the Commission should acquire firearm training and be assigned firearms for their protection. The communication is still with the Executive Chairperson for her review, consideration, and subsequent action.

## **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 case 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 attached Appendix A for further details.**

## DEPARTMENT OF PROSECUTION

### Achievements

#### CONTRACT MANAGEMENT

During the reporting period, the Prosecution Department drafted, reviewed, and provided legal opinions to the Executive Chairperson on contracts, memoranda of understanding (MOU), and legal matters to ensure compliance with relevant state laws and LACC's rules and policies. Some contracts reviewed during the period include a contract between the LACC and Blue Ocean Company in collaboration with LACC's IT Unit; reviewing and signing off on the MOU between the LACC and the Financial Crimes Commission of the Republic of Mauritius; and providing a legal opinion on other routine legal matters at the Commission.

In the preparation of state witnesses for trial, the Legal and Prosecution Department conducted intensive review sessions for relevant investigators to produce evidence for the successful prosecution of the case involving the Margibi County Health Team at the 9th Judicial Circuit Court in Bong County which is currently ongoing for the August A.D. 2024 Term of Court.

The Prosecution and the Monitoring and Investigation Departments, in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice, successfully obtained a True Bill in an indictment in the Financial Intelligence Agency (FIA) investigation involving the Former Minister of Finance, the former Director General of the FIA, the former Solicitor General of the MOJ, as well as the former Security Advisor to **former** President Weah.

#### CASES

During the period under review, the Department tried three cases, namely: Republic of Liberia by and through the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission vs Former officials of the Planned Parenthood Association of Liberia (PPAL); Miatta K. K. Cojola, former Executive Director of PPAL, and others indicted amount of US\$135,000. LACC v. LISGIS where the indictment alleges US\$ 128,198.64, and LACC v. LWSC in the amount of US\$80,570.00. at Criminal Court C. It is important to note that one out of the three above named cases, which is LACC v. PPAL trial, the LACC emerged victorious with a **Unanimous** guilty verdict on all four counts in the Plan Parenthood Association trial of US\$135,000.00, where the Defendants announced an appeal to the Honorable Supreme court sitting in its October Term A.D. 2024 and they have taken steps to

perfect the appeal process.

- a. Republic of Liberia by and through the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission vs Former Officials of The Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LIGIS): Francis Wreh, Former Director General, and others: During this period, we began and conducted a discovery process on LISGIS. We attended notice of assignment and a pre-trial conference at Criminal Court C. Additionally, we opposed two motions, which are awaiting arguments in open court and rulings from the judge, the LACC anticipates trial of this case to be during the November A.D. 2024 Term of court. The two motions include a Motion for Separate Trial and a Motion to Dismiss Indictment in the LISGIS Case. LACC v. LISGIS indictment alleges US\$ 128,198.64.
- b. Republic of Liberia by and through the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission vs Former Officials of the Margibi County Health Team officials and vendors which is currently on trial at the 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit court in Bong County presided over by His Honor George Wiles, Jr. The indictment alleges **US\$ 122,591.00** to be recovered from six defendants. The Prosecution Team has rested evidence while the Defense is on the stand.
- c. The LACC also anticipates conducting pretrial activities in the LACC v. LWSC former officials' case for US\$80,570.00 by effecting some arrest to bring all the defendants under the jurisdiction of criminal court 'C' for the November A.D. Term of court.

Earlier before trial commenced, during the May A.D. 2024 Term of court, the resident judge His Honor Boima Kontoe entertained arguments into the defendants' motion for a separate trial and a motion to dismiss the indictment filed in favor of Barkollie Kollie of MJK Business Center and Odoshall Oldpa Karnue of God's Willing Incorporated. Arguments having rested, the Judge denied the defendant's motions and ruled the matter to trial. Currently, the department does not have a Chief Prosecutor as Cllr. Jerry D.K. Garlawolu has resigned and taken up assignment at the Ministry of Justice. Notwithstanding, the two oversight Commissioners of the department, Cllr. Oretha Synder Davis and Cllr. David AB Wilson are leading a team in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice represented by Cllr. Jerry D.K. Garlawolu to conduct the trial in Bong County. (Please state the estimated loss to government in this case). The indictment alleges US\$122,591.00 expected to be recovered at the conclusion of the case.

## **GENERAL CHALLENGES OF THE COMMISSION**

The Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission has made notable achievements since its establishment in 2008, and even after its Act was restated and amended in July 2022. The Commission has had a perennial challenge of low budgetary allotment in the National Budget for programs and operations. The LACC is largely understaffed, especially the three program departments: Education and Prevention Department, Monitoring and Investigation Department, and Legal and Prosecution Department.

The staffing challenge of the Education & Prevention Department is critical. The Prevention Unit and the Community Relations Unit each has one staff. There is no staff to backstop either the Prevention Officer or the Community Relations Officer. Such

situation is dire and has the potential to impede continuity in the work of the both units, and the departments as whole in case of illness or any other unforeseen circumstance. The Monitoring & Evaluations has only two staff.

The staffing challenge is not unique to the Education & Prevention Department; it also affects Monitoring and Investigation and Legal and Prosecution departments. The Commission has only 18 investigators to investigate the overwhelming caseload of investigations. Additionally, there are no outstation offices to receive and investigate cases at the county level. Accordingly, Investigators, Corruption Prevention Officers and Legal Staff have to commute between headquarters and counties to make interventions in prevention and education, investigation and prosecution.

Disappointingly, the Commission lack logistics, including operations vehicles to convey program staff to field activities, thus making the LACC to rely heavily on donor partners to provide funding for program support. Sometimes, these funding are limited and therefore cannot support sustainable program interventions most of the times. This hampers the achievement of project objectives, outcome and impact.

The lack of operational vehicles coupled with irregular supply of fuel and scratch cards to middle level managers and program officers is cutting deep into the disposable income of staff, as they have to buy fuel/gasoline every day to commute to work and back, as well as buy scratch cards daily for internet access to enable them meet work deadline for core functions and assigned tasks.

Another challenge of the Commission is the lack of a permanent office. Since the establishment of the Commission nearly sixteen years ago, the institutions does not still have a permanent headquarters. As a result, the Commission has relocated four times from 2008 to 2024.

The salary harmonization had a negative effect on staff morale at the LACC. The program affected staff salary on the average by between 25%-50%. Yet, the LACC is not like any other public institution. Staff are required to report to work and stay at work until knockout time. However, their salaries do not commensurate with the services they offer to government. This situation has the tendency to cause high staff turnover if nothing is done to address the economic burden of the staff compounded by the risk of working for an anti-corruption Commission.

Internet connectivity is crucial for the contemporary Workplace. Contrary to this premise, there is hardly internet access at the Commission to facilitate workflow. Notwithstanding, the staff have to work under such poor condition of service. In fact, the burden to provide internet for work purposes has shifted from management to staff.

### **THE WAY FORWARD:**

The staffing need of the Commission is dire and requires a swift remedy. Therefore, the Commission should prepare a long-term (comprehensive) staffing plan and disaggregate it into shorter implementation phases. The plan should clearly articulate the staffing needs of the institution annually and the resource requirements for implementing the plan. This can be submitted to the Ministry of Finance & Development Planning to be affected on a year-by-year

basis until the Commission is fully staffed to adequately carry out its mandate.

The Commission should collaborate with partners to hire key staff for the commission as contractors, and after their contract, they can transition from contractual staff to GoL employees over time. To actualize this ambitious plan, the Board of Commissioners must engage the Legislature for improved budgetary allotment to the Commission every budget year to source additional funding to enable the Administration and Supervision Department of the LACC to provide the needed administrative and logistical support services to the other three program departments.

Additionally, the Commission needs to create a Programs and Projects Department and charge it with the responsibility to raise funds for the sustainable implementation of the programs and activities of the Commission. To achieve this goal, the institutions need to headhunt professionals with proven track records in program development, implementation and management; donors' relations and networking capabilities to exploit funding opportunities. This innovation is in sync with Part VIII: Independence and Cooperation, subsections 13.1 and 13.2 "the Commission shall be independent in all its operations. It shall enjoy financial autonomy and operational independence; and shall generally formulate policies and discharge its functions without regards to political, religious or other social concerns, except to the extent reasonably necessary to further the commission's general mandate to investigate, prosecute and generally combat corruption (LACC Act of 2022).

In furtherance of the independence of the Commission, the full amount of each annual budgetary appropriation made for the Commission in the National Budget shall be disbursed to the Commission on a quarterly basis in advance.

Similarly, the Commission should establish a Corporate Affairs Department that will focus on improving conditions of service, staff remuneration and benefits, financial and non-financial incentives, in an effort to motivate employees, strengthen commitment and enhance performance. In this regard, research is needed to identify and replicate regional best practice for the establishment and operationalization of the Corporate Affairs Department of the LACC.

Moreover, the current Board of Commissioners should consider reactivating prior discussions initiated by its predecessors regarding the construction of an office complex as the permanent headquarters of the LACC. In this connection, the Commission should make appropriation for the procurement of land and architectural design of the office in the FY 2025 budget. Later, the Commission can engage partners, including the World Bank, African Development Bank, International Monetary Fund, as well as bilateral partners, such as the Republic of China and other friendly governments to support the office building project of the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission

## **CONCLUSION:**

To conclude Mr. President, I can report that the Liberia Anti-corruption Commission is on a steady course to implementing its mandate as enshrined in the LACC Act of 2022. The rebranding process is well on course and Commission has again garnered the respect among its peers in the sub- region. We acknowledged the need to cover more ground on the local front in respect of the conduct of more investigations and prosecution of corruption cases. The LACC leadership sees these objectives as achievable given the strong political will demonstrated by



your leadership.

The Commission has seen the direct commitment of several Civil Society Organizations to re-engage the LACC on our overall mandate to fight fraud, waste and abuse in the society.

Your Excellency, despite series of operational challenges facing the Commission; we have taken substantial steps to intensify the prosecution of cases around the country and increase corruption prevention efforts in different government ministries and Parastatals.

In subsequent reports, we will build on the gains made thus far and keep a keen eye on the implementation of the July 2022 act establishing the Commission.

While we continue the fight against corruption, we thank you Mr. President for the opportunity provided us to serve our nation, Liberia.

**See attached appendices A, B, C and D for further details**