



Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission



2018/2019 Annual Report

Website: www.lacc.gov.lr

Message from the Officer In Charge:

Mr. President and Members of the Legislature:

I dutifully submit to you the Annual Report covering the period July 2018-June 2019 of the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC). I extend thanks special thanks to the President of the Republic of Liberia for appointing me as Officer In Charge at the Commission following the expiration of the tenures of the former Executive Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. Also, I wish to thank members of the National Legislature and our international partners for their supports and cooperation with the Commission.

The expiration of tenures of all five Commissioners at the LACC coupled with economic situation by extension low budgetary support challenged the anticipated plans of implementation. However, we provided the needed steadwarship and deliver in these difficult period.

Like in previous report, I reiterate the need for critical complimentary legal instruments to enhance the work of the LACC. The Commission needs other critical legal instruments such as the Corrupt Offences Act and the Illicit Enrichment Act, Whistle-blower and Witness Protection Bills to enhance its work and strengthen the Commission's enforcement powers. In order for the administration to maintain its gains in the fight against corruption, it is imperative that all the relevant legal instruments to fight corruption holistically and compellingly are available.

I. INTRODUCTION:

In fulfillment of Part XIV of the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission's ACT of 2008, which required the Commission to submit its Annual Report to the President and National Legislature on the activities of the Commission, the Senior Management Team, a temporary leadership acting in the absence of the Body of Commissioners (BOC) through the office of the Officer In Charge develops and submits this report covering the period July 2018/ June 2019.

This report represents foremost achievements of the Commission's activities for the FY 2018-2019. These achievements are as a result of activities implemented by the four Divisions of the Commission as per their core mandate areas. It manifests and outlined the main achievements and challenges facing the Commission and advances means to remedy situation.

LACC's mandate focuses on educating and preventing acts of corruption, which is directed by the Education and Prevention Division. Investigate acts of corruption which is executed by the Division of Investigation. Prosecute acts of corruption which is led by the Division of Legal and Prosecution. And all administrative programs are implemented by the Division of Administration.

This report reveals numbers of cases reported, investigated, and sent for prosecution including those closed as the result of lack of evidence to continue. It also covers actions taken to strengthen the capacities of the staff, professionalize the Commission and make it more robust and efficient.

Courageously, the Commission has made significant progress amidst limited resources and support during the reporting period. National budgetary support dwindled further to the Commission during this reporting period. The Commission has also received some support from its partners such as the African Development Bank, United Nations Development Programme, USAID, and the World Bank which aided capacitated the Commission in its delivery drive.

The deliverables and or achievements are mentioned under each thematic areas or division along with challenges.

1.1 Legal Status of the Liberia Anti- Corruption Commission (LACC)

An Act of the National Legislature in 2008 established the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission as an independent Commission of the 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 as based on the severe nature of corruption both in public and private sectors of the Liberian society which has undermined the institutional framework of good governance in Liberia.

1.2 FINANCIAL MATTERS:

According to Section 12.1 of the LACC's Act, the LACC shall be financed through the National Budget by Legislative appropriations. It shall be the responsibility of the Chairperson to ensure that the Annual budget is prepared and submitted in time to the appropriate agency of government. Section 13.1 of the same Act states the Commission shall enjoy independence in all its operations including financial autonomy and operational independence.

Financial appropriation to the Commission for the period under review was far below the approved National budget. The Commission received budgetary support less than the budget submitted to the National Legislature. Budgetary allotments were not disbursed on time, and in violation of the Commission's Act which required quarterly disbursement, but instead were released monthly. Also, the Ministry of Finance, Development Planning, did not pay some critical financial requests made to fund key programs and obligations which led to lawsuits against the Commission by vendors.

The Commission however received supports from its international partners especially the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), USAID, and the World Bank supporting the programmatic work of the Commission.

1.3 The FY2017/18 Approved Budget:

At the onset of the fiscal year, the National Legislature appropriated a total of \$ 2,108,246.90(Two million One hundred Eight Thousand, Two hundred Forty Six 90/100 United Sates Dollars). During the period under review, no supplemental budget was approved.

1.4 Summary

1.4 BUDGET 2018-2019

US \$ 2,108,246.90

EDUCATION DIVISION	US \$ 426,533.90
ENFORCEMENT	643,795.00
ADM.	1,037,918.00
LEGAL DIVISION	-0-

COMPENSATION, RENT & FIXED UTILITY COST PER DIVISIONS:

ADM: SALARY	874,129
RENT	50,000
FUEL	13,024
EDU SALARY	247,001
RENT	50,000
FUEL	14,743
ENF SALARY	549,828
RENT	50,000
FUEL	8,742
LEGAL SALARY	9,108???
FUEL	-0-
PROSECUTION	-0-

1.5 FIXED APPROPRIATION: 2018 - 2019

DISCRETIONARY FIXED COSTS & NON-DISCRETIONARY FIXED COST	
NON-DISCRETIONARY FIXED COSTS:	
SALARY	US \$ 1,670,058
Total Non-Discretionary Fixed Cost	1,670,058
DISCRETIONARY FIXED COSTS	
FUEL	US \$ 45,617
RENT	150,000
GUARDS	40,500
REPAIRS & MAINT. VEH.	13,200
TOTAL Discretionary Fixed Cost	249,317
GRAND TOTAL FIXED COST	1,919,375

2.0 Divisions:

This section covers thematic programed areas sanctioned under the approved budget and including projects/programs sponsored by donor partners.

2.1 Enforcement Division:

This division is the cradle of the Commission. It is charged with the responsibility to manage all investigations including receiving, reviewing, assessing and launching full scale investigations into complaints of corruption received by Commission.

The Division is headed by a Program Manager and assisted by four deputies, Chief of Investigation, Deputy Chief of Investigation, Deputy Chief for Operation and Deputy for Intelligence, and 13 investigators.

2.2 Key Achievements/Deliverables:

The Division of Enforcement and Investigation received increased number of complaints of corruption cases for period. The Commission received forty (40) complaints of corruption cases during the period as oppose to last year when the Commission received thirty three (33) cases.

Following the assessment of these complaints, the Commission is pleased to report that it successfully investigated and completed seventeen (17) of the forty (40) cases received. The actual cases handled are fifty four (54). Hence, fourteen cases were closed / No recommendation for prosecution due to the lack of sufficient evidence to prosecute.

The targeted cases of investigation per year is sixteen (16); four (4) per quarter. Since the establishment of the Commission, only in this period and last year report that the Division met its target.

Six cases were sent to the Ministry of Justice for prosecution.

2.3 Join Investigations:

The Enforcement and Investigation division along with other law enforcement agencies such as Liberian National Police, National Security Agencies, and the Financial Intelligence Unit(FIU) jointly investigated the allegation of the missing 16 Billion Liberia money; the allegation of corruption at the National Housing Authority and Manna World Holding Trust.

2.4 Special Investigations and Operations:

During the period of report, several special operations and investigation of act of bribery were conducted. Surveillance on the Liberia National Police Traffic Officers regarding reports of taking bribes from drivers especially taxi drivers was conducted. Similarly, surveillance on Liberia Revenue Authority /Custom Officers commenced at major port of entry. Custom officers collect taxes from business people especially business people trading in cross border in the West Africa countries. They are prone to acts of corruption which also undermines the Government's capacity to raise realistic revenue.

Surveillance and Investigative Operations on Trafficking in persons at various borders with Sierra Leone, Guinea and Ivory Coast.

2.5: Summary of cases:

Cases handled during the periods (July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019)

No.	Description	Qty.
1.	Cases Brought Forward	14
2.	Cases Reported to the Division	40
Total number of Cases Handled during the period		54
3.	Cases Completed and submitted to BOC	17
4.	Case(s) Closed/Pending	16
5.	Cases Forwarded to MOJ for Prosecution	6

2.6 Challenges and plans of the Division of Enforcement

Due to the very scarce resources for operation of the Commission, this heavily affected the operations including logistics of the Division.

None of the vehicles assigned to the Division is in perfect running condition. The Division could not travel to the interior to assess and conduct investigations lot of the counties where reports/ complaints of corruptions were reported.

Logistics such as computers, laptops and other office machineries are damaged. The Investigator poll room and little offices of senior investigators are without ACs which makes working environment uncomfortable.

III Legal & Prosecution Division:

This Division is the newest of all divisions of the Commission. It was created under section 7.1, Part VII of the Commission's Act of 2008. The Legal comprises one Manager who is the lead prosecutor of the Commission assisted by four other lawyers (One Counsellor-At-Law and three Attorneys-At-Law).

Following submissions of reports to the Ministry of Justice as required under the Commission's Act, the Division collaborates with the Ministry of Justice to prosecute cases of corruption jointly. However, the Division prosecutes cases directly after LACC takes seize of cases retrieved from the Ministry of Justice after the ninety days period of NO action on the part of the Ministry of Justice as provided in Section 11.2, Part XI of the Commission's Act.

3.1: Achievements:

a. Indictments:

The Commission through the Division obtained Two (2) indictments involving thirteen (13) defendants following the retrieval of the report from the Ministry of Justice.

One of the indictments involved three(3) defendants, Kau Kidor, Rixck Barsi-Giah and Sie Wonkemie Gahn severally charged with the offenses of theft of property and Economic Sabotage as former presidential appointees who fraudulently took salaries from Government when they were no longer in the employ Government or had render no service to justify their taking of the salaries. The alleged fraud practiced by the defendants on the Government deprived it of a total of L\$2,572,667.57 and US\$114,449.63; additionally, they

are yet to be brought under the jurisdiction of the court by service of the writ of arrest upon them since their whereabouts are unknown.

The second indictment involved ten (10) defendants who were also indicted during this reporting period. The indictment was obtained against defendants-Liberia China United Investment Group (LCUIG) represented by its CEO Lian Zhi, George S. Mulbah, former Bong County Representative; Tokpah Mulbah, former Bong County Representative; Edward Karfiah, former Bong County Representative; Rennie Jackson, former Bong County Superintendent; Melvin Cole, Bong County District#3 Representative; Thomas Cisco MIA specialist; Dr. John Flomo, former president of Bong County Technical College; Kenneth Awadjie, former MPW Assistant Chief Architect; Marcus Berrian, former Bong County Project Engineer of the Project Implementation Unit. The defendants were charged for the offenses of violation of the PPCC Act, Theft of Property, Economic Sabotage (Fraud on the Internal Revenue of Liberia) Criminal Conspiracy and Criminal Facilitation in the award and execution of the contract(s) for the construction of the Bong County Technical College in Gbarnga, Bong County.

The writs of arrest growing out of this indictment remained unserved because of the hold placed by the MOJ on their service upon the respective defendants.

b. Trial(s)

During this reporting period, the Legal Division collaborated with the MOJ, in the trial of the two defendants in the Matilda Parker case which was concluded by the trial court dismissal of the matter without prejudice to the Government to re-indict the Defendants. The defendants were charged with the offenses of Economic Sabotage, Violation of the PPCC Act and Misapplication of Entrusted Property for acts of corruption in the awarding and execution contract to dredge the Buchanan Port in Grand Bassa County. The contract was awarded by defendant Parker then Managing Director of the National Port Authority (NPA) and her comptroller at the time contrary to law and there was no evidence of performance.

c. Case pending

As at this reporting period, there are five (5) cases of corruption pending before the Honorable Supreme of Liberia for final determination. The Division made

several legal representations for the hearing and final determination of these cases but because of competing interest and priority, final determinations are yet to be made in these cases.

<u>C A S E</u>	<u>A C T I O N</u>
1. R/L Vs. Albert N. Bropleh	Economic Sabotage, Misuse of Public Money, property or record; thief & illegal Disbursement & expenditure of public money
2. R/L Vs. M. Munah Sieh Brown	Economic Sabotage, Thief of Property Criminal Conspiracy, Criminal Facilitation and violation of PPCC processes & procedures
3. R/L Vs. Jeseфу M. Keita	Economic Sabotage, Misapplication of Entrusted property and Criminal conspiracy
4. R/L Vs. Miata Beysolow	Economic Sabotage, Misapplication of Entrusted Property, Criminal Conspiracy and Criminal Facilitation
5. R/L Vs. T. Nelson Williams II	Economic Sabotage, Misapplication of Entrusted Property, Criminal Conspiracy and Criminal Facilitation

d. Assets Recovery

While our laws emphasize recovery of proceeds of corruption after conviction and affirmance on appeal, the LACC was however able to recover the total of US\$56,300 as proceeds of corruption without reaching the appeal stage:

In February 2019, the amount of US\$50,000 (Fifty Thousand United States Dollars) was recovered from convict Milton Teahjay and deposited into GOL revenue; he was convicted for violating the PPCC Act for wrongfully awarding construction contracts when he served as superintendent of Sinoe under Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf led government.

As a result of an out-of-court stipulation during this reporting period, the amount of US\$1,300 out of a total of US\$7,622 was recovered from Amos

Taweh former employee of Government as restitution for using of GOL funds to settle his personal obligation out of GOL money mistakenly deposited into his account when he was no longer an employee of GOL.

Also during this reporting period, an out-of-court stipulation was made by Potential inductee, Mohammed Passawe for the restitution of monies that he wrongfully and illegally received and used. Of the total amount of US\$11,215.63 and L\$293,980.58 that he is being had liable for growing out of an investigative report, the amount of US\$5,000.00 has been restituted and deposited into GOL revenue. Mohammed Passawe was found criminally liable for fraudulently taking those amounts of monies as Superintendent of Grand Cape Mount County and employee of GOL when he was no longer in either of those capacities.

e. Investigative Reports Review

During this reporting period, the Legal Division in collaboration with the Enforcement Division reviewed and vetted a total of sixteen (16) draft reports on alleged corruption cases that were finalized and forwarded to the Body of Commission for review and appropriate actions.

The cases are:

- 1 CARI Corruption Case
- 2 FPA's complaint on financial improprieties at NTA
- 3 Allegation of corruption at NAFAA
- 4 Allegations of missing containers of 16 b L\$
- 5 Complaint from the Deputy Minister for Fiscal Affairs, MOFDP between Republic of Liberia and Westlea Holdings
- 6 Allegation of double emolument by Hon. Abu Bana Kamara
- 7 Allegation of fraudulent sale of NDS's land by Dr, Walter Gwenigale
- 8 Allegation of LIFZA leadership unauthorized use of US\$509,864.37 outside of the PRM law of Liberia
- 9 Allegation of misapplication of Montserrado County Administration funds for the periods July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014/14
- 10 Allegation of unsupported expenditure of US\$686,985.47 and US\$179,796.00 respectively by the administration of NIC
- 11 Allegation of corruption against Jay Nabge Sloh, Director General of the Liberia News Agency (LINA)
- 12 Complaint by concerned citizen alleging payroll paddling by official of Ministry of Commence (MoC)

- 13 Allegation of mismanagement and financial improprieties by to Management of the Liberia Institute of Public Administration (LIPA)
- 14 University of Liberia allegation nonperformance by Mwetana IT Firm hired to build website.
- 15 Allegation of illegal transaction and tax evasion involving CAMUSAT Ltd.
- 16 Allegation of fraud and corruption in salaries disbursement by official of the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social protection (MCSP).

f. Presidential Investigative Team:

As part of its mandate, during the period under review the Legal Division served and provided legal opinion and advice on the Presidential Investigative Team constituted by the President of the Republic of Liberia, His Excellency George M. Weah to investigate the facts and circumstances surrounding the printing of the LD16 Billion New Liberia Dollars Bank Notes. A Final Presidential Investigative Report was subsequently generated and submitted to the President of the Liberia through the Justice Ministry. Growing out of this report was the launch of a special investigation by the President into facts and circumstances surrounding the infusion of US25millions Dollars into the Liberian Economic to mop up excess Liberian Dollars in the market that the Legal Division has provided legal opinions and advise to date.

i. UNCAC Peer Review :

During this reporting period (2019), the Legal Division began a peer desk review of Albania's self-assessment of the country's compliance with chapters II (Preventive Measures) and V (Asset Recovery) of UNCAC. Subsequently, a peer desk review report was compiled and submitted to UNODC in Vienna, Austria.

3.2. Challenges:

The Division like many others is faced with challenges. Key amongst them are:

The reluctance of the MOJ to commit itself by reviewing, contributing to and signing a MOU for collaboration and coordination in the prosecution of corruption related offenses.

Competing priorities and interest between corruption cases and other offenses under the jurisdiction of the same court;

Competing priorities and interest between prosecutors dealing with one court; inadequacy of budgetary and logistical support for prosecution; lack of a specialized court to prosecute corruption cases;

Lack of an enabling law against illicit enrichment; delays in appellate disposition of cases;

The LACC lacks direct power to prosecute cases of corruption even though it is government's lead institution on corruption. The Commission continues to seek the support of the Legislature in granting it direct powers to prosecute rather than first submitting its recommendations to the Ministry of Justice and waiting for three months

No budgetary allotment in the National budget for prosecution knowing that prosecution is financially intensive.

4.0 Education and Prevention Division:

The Education & Prevention Division of the Commission derives its mandate from the LACC Act as contained in Part V Section 5.2(k) of the LACC Act states “to conduct research, survey and related studies about both (1) the dimensions, manifestations, and causes and effects of corruption, and (2) the practices, procedures and systems of governance and management that need to be promoted to combat, and eradicate and prevent acts of corruption.

Part V Section 5.2(i) further states “to lead the implementation of the Anti-Corruption Strategy of Liberia, including the Code of Conduct for Liberian Public Servants.

Hence, for the purpose of effectively implementing its programs and activities, the Division is sub-divided into program units. The units of the Division include Community Relations Unit; Research & Prevention Unit and Assets Declaration & Verification Unit.

The Community Unit is the link between the Commission and the public. The Unit is responsible for anti-corruption outreach and engendering public participation in the fight against corruption.

The Research & Prevention Unit is tasked with the responsibility to conduct survey, assessments and system reviews and recommend measures to strengthen internal controls and general system improvement programs to combat and prevent acts of corruption.

The Assets Declaration & Verification Unit receives and verifies assets declarations of public officials and other civil servants, raises assets declarations awareness, and endeavors to prevent the acquisition of illicit wealth by public officials.

4.1 Achievements:

4.2. Community Relations Unit

In line with this mandate, the unit carried out programs and activities geared toward the fulfilment of its mandate during the reporting period. Programs and activities implemented by the unit during 2018/2019 fiscal year include:

Corruption Prevention Training for Local Government Officials on Corruption in the Budget Process

The training for local government officials targeted new public officials in local government administration. The goal of the training was to ensure that public officials at the local government level get in depth understanding of corruption, what constitutes corruption and how to use their understanding of corruption to prevent or control it in the normal discharge of their duties and responsibilities. The training also enhanced local government officials understanding of assets declaration and verification, with emphasis on the who is required to declare assets, when to declare assets and why it is important to declare assets, incomes and liabilities.

More than one hundred local government officials participated in these trainings.

Corruption Prevention and Procurement Compliance Training for Local Government Officials

In furtherance of its mandate, the unit in collaboration with the Public Procurement & Concession Commission conducted two separate Corruption Prevention and Procurement Compliance trainings in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County and Kakata, Margibi counties, respectively. This is the first time the PPCC and the LACC have formed a synergy in the program implementation in recent years. As you may be aware, procurement is a corruption hotspot in the Liberian Public sector. Therefore, a corruption prevention training that highlighted procurement irregularities and malpractices was a step in the right direction. During the trainings the LACC elaborated on corruption and its various manifestations and dimensions as well as

its causes and effects on lives of ordinary Liberians. The PPCC on the other hand accentuated how corruption in procurement has undermined development and aggravated poverty, thereby leading to lack of basic development infrastructure, such as road, hospital, pipe borne water, school, etc.

The training brought together superintendents, development superintendents, fiscal affairs, superintendents, project management committees' chairmen, and other related county officials who perform crucial roles in the administration of the counties.

Consequently, local government officials acquired skills to identify various form of corruption and the capacity to establish internal control mechanisms to prevent acts of corruption, as well as increased compliance with procurement regulations to ensure value for money and boost development programs at the local government level.

Anti-Corruption Awareness Training for New Public Officials and other Civil Servants

On the advent of the new administration, the Community Relations Unit of the Commission proactively designed a corruption prevention intervention targeting new public officials. This intervention was intended to manage the transition from the outgoing administration and the ushering in of a new one. It seemed likely that some new public officials would come to public well-informed about some policies of government while other would come to public service completely unfamiliar with existing policy instruments and practices. Hence, it became urgent to address this gap and bring some new public officials to speed on policies instruments, such as the PPCC Act and Regulation, the PFM Law and the civil service standing order on recruitment and termination, among others.

The anti-corruption awareness training targeted sixteen (16) high risk Ministries, Agencies and Commissions (MACs). More than forty (40) Pubic officials at the Ministry of National Defense, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Mines & Energy and Ministry of Finance and Development Planning had greater understanding about corruption and the government Assets Declaration process.

Establishment of Civil Society Anti-Corruption Coalition

During the reporting Period, the unit coordinated the establishment of a civil society coalition as a way of building alliance in the fight against corruption. The establishment of the Liberia Civil Society Anti-Corruption Coalition will now assist

the LACC work with other organizations to increase advocacy efforts to generate political will in government to strengthen the fight against corruption in Liberia. In this regard, advocacy for the passage of the Whistle blower and Witness Protection Bills, the establishment of a Specialized Corruption Court and the Amendment of the LACC Act will be key advocacy considerations.

Further, the Coalition will create public awareness on the Commission's Assets Declaration and Verification Program geared to increasing assets declaration compliance and real time verification for value addition to the ADV regime.

The coalition will also increase public participation in the fight against corruption by encouraging community residents at the sub-national level to report corrupt activities in their counties, districts, communities, towns and villages.

Anti-Corruption Training for Mayors and Commissioners

Another key component of local government that was not covered in the outstation trainings for local government officials is mayors and commissioners in Monrovia and its environs. Municipal government occupies a rather crucial place in the governance arrangement of the state. Therefore, as budget holders and drivers of development programs, understanding corruption and institutionalizing real time corruption prevention mechanisms in city and townships administrations will inevitably have ripple effects on development programs as well as improve the economic well-being of locals. Hence, the training for mayors and commissioners increased the understanding of mayors and commissioners about corruption.

More than twenty (20) mayors and commissioners from Monrovia and Paynesville City Corporations, as well as commissioners from Gardnerville, Barnersville, Brewerville, Johnsonville, among others participated in this anti-corruption capacity building training.

Inter-Agency Collaboration

The Community Relations Unit is currently collaborating with the Ministry of Gender, Children & Social Protection on the implementation the Liberia Social Safety Net (LSSN) Project. The objective of the project is to provide cash transfer to very poor households in Maryland, Grand Kru, River Gee and Bomi counties. Research findings show the four counties are the poorest and food-in secured counties in Liberia. The LACC is mainstreaming anti-corruption mechanisms into the project's implementation for twofold purposes: 1.) to promote transparency and accountability for donors' funds by monitoring the implementation of all project

activities; and 2.) to ensure that project funds reach the target beneficiaries for their improved economic and social well-being.

The World Bank has approved \$150,000 as funding support to the Liberia Anti-Corruption to perform its roles under the Project.

4.3 The Research & Prevention Unit

In line with this mandate, the unit conducted corruption risk assessments at Ministry of Health and Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Corruption risk assessment is a corruption prevention tool that reviews systems, procedures, processes and internal controls in institutions. The goal of risk assessment is to identify and strengthen weak internal controls, optimize systems and procedures, thereby leading to effective functioning institutions or organizations.

The corruption risk assessment program of the Commission targeted hotspot functions within the aforementioned institutions. At the Ministry of Health, the assessment focused on the work of the Bureau of Vital Statistics; at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, it focused on the work of the Passport Section.

A. Ministry of Health Corruption Risk Assessment

The primary purpose of this risk assessment was to identify and measure institutional factors that contribute to corruption, bottlenecks and vulnerability in the processes leading to the issuance of death and birth certificates within the Bureau of Vital Statistics of the Ministry of Health.

The assessment identified both strengths and weaknesses. The most significant strength of the Bureau is that management makes it mandatory and a policy for all staff of the Bureau to wear jacket with the Ministry name and logo. This system allow customers to directly interact with staff wearing the jacket of the Bureau, which is a means of curtailing imposters or hustlers hanging around the Bureau and posing as the Ministry of Health employees ready to assist customers in processing birth & death certificates.

Another strength of the Bureau is its policy framework which is the Birth & Death Registration Policy which was put in place since November, 2017. The policy was developed under the guidance of the Department of Planning, Bureau of Vital

Statistics of the ministry of Health (MOH), with technical and financial support provided by UNICEF.

However, the Bureau is also buffeted by challenges. Most of the staff feels a state of abandonment when it comes to salaries and benefits issues. Salaries and benefits of some staff with the same education level and same number of years of experience but are not paid the same salaries and benefits, is a situation which has discouraged the daily performance of the affected staff. At times, they hear their bosses saying that” there are many people looking for job out there so if you don’t want the little salaries and benefits, others are waiting for it so you can decide to resign”.

There is very limited human capacity development coupled with unfair salaries and benefits structure that has weakened staff to give their maximum productivity at times. Office supplies and logistics are in non-existent. As a consequences, essential logistics, equipment, offices and other supplies are either totally lacking or severely limited to support the daily processing of essential documents at the Bureau.

Consequently, the following recommendations were proffered by the LACC’s assessment teams for management’s consideration in order to promote institutional growth and optimize performance. Management should ensure that staff has the needed equipment and logistics such as computers and data software to do their job efficiently instead of the manual system currently in place at the Bureau.

The study also recommended that management should review the salaries structures of all staff with CSA qualifications and other policy instruments so as to narrow the disparities and gaps for increased motivation, high performance, honesty and transparency of each and every staff of the Bureau.

B. Corruption Risk Assessment at Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

As indicated earlier, corruption risk assessment targets possible corruption hotspot functions at Ministries, agencies and commissions. In this connection and based on analysis of the various functions and mandate areas of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the LACC Research & Prevention team considered the Passport Section of the Ministry as an area of concern for corruption prevention through internal control mechanisms that salvage loopholes and too much discretion on the part of service providers.

Findings:

1. Employees Handbook helps to ensure key organization's policies are clearly and consistently communicated. Employees' Handbook accurately communicates the organization's policies regarding employment, conduct, behavior, compensation, other policies and procedures that the organization follows. However, it was observed that almost all the employees of Ministry of Foreign Affairs have neither seen nor have copies, if any, of the Employees Handbook. This makes it practically impossible for adherence to laid down policies and regulations as well as compliance to said documents on the part of employees
2. Bulk Press has not been able to transfer knowledge and skills to at least two Liberian staffs of the Division of Passport since the contract became operational. This is a disincentive for the continuous viability of the Section as the contract of the service provider is time-bond and will expire any time soon. This will leave the Section with no actual accrued benefits in terms of technical skills transferred by Bulk Press during the tenure of its contract with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
3. The collaborative efforts between the Division of Passport and Immigration Officers is not elaborate and in-depth as there is no available documentations on applicants who are rejected or denied on issues of nationality in keeping with the Aliens and Nationality Law of the Republic of Liberia: This will ensure that applicants rejected due to lack of legitimate documents would be required to produce said document the next he/she returns for passport
4. The Corruption Risk Assessment Team observed that information of Applicants for the Liberian Passport, who were interviewed by the LIS personnel/officers assigned to the Division, was scanty. There is no adequate information on applicants who have been denied on neither legal grounds nor proper filing system for easy reference.
5. There were no records to show how many copies of the Liberian Passport had been printed by (Bulk Press) and how many are outstanding according to the contract. Against this backdrop, there is no way of determining the blank passports in stock in order to determine the remaining number of passports or the amount of money(USD) remaining for the consummation of the contract between the government of Liberia and the Ghanaian based company, Bulk Press.. The idea that the staffs do not have the information readily available creates a serious problem, as lack of transparency generates opportunity for corruption.

E. Recommendations

1. Increasing and enhancing the knowledge and skills of any work force is essential for the growth and productivity of any given institution and or organization. There can be no growth and optimization of output without a trained manpower. Conversely, the Corruption Risk Assessment observed that bulk of the staff of the Division of Passport have not had the requisite training to enhance the skill sets and proficiencies on the job. Therefore, the team recommends specialized trainings and capacity building program for staff of the Passport Section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for efficiency and optimal job output.
2. The Division of Passport within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs does not provide extra benefits for employees that work beyond the regular eight hours of work. Moreover, there is disparity of allowances among employees of Division of Passport and Visa. In addition, it was indicated that there is an apparent huge salary disparity between the employees of the Division of Passport and Visa and that of LRA. This apparent Salary disparity of said employees could serve as a recipe for corruption, especially when employees of Division of Passport and Visa feel cheated and demotivated. Therefore, the team recommends equity in salaries and benefits for staff of the Passport Section to dissuade temptations for corruption, boost performance and commitment to go beyond the call of duty.
3. Bulk Press has not been able to transfer the knowledge and skills to two Liberian staff of the Division of Passport since the contract became operational. The team recommends that Bulk Press should be made to transfer knowledge and skills to national staffs during the tenure of its contract. This will ensure that there is national capacity for the sustainable delivery of passport services to the public at all times.

At all MACs where corruption risk assessments have been conducted risk mitigation plans have been developed to systematically address identified gaps and effect systems improvement program to enhance the operational and programmatic efficiency of the assessed institutions.

4.4 Assets Declaration & Verification Unit

The Assets Declaration & Verification Unit of the Division is responsible for the receipt and verification of assets, liabilities and incomes declarations of all public officials and civil servants who are required by law to declare their assets. Section 10.1 of the Code of Conduct for Public Officials and Civil Servants specifically prescribes that all public officials and civil servants responsible for procurement, contracting and licensing of all types shall be required to declare their assets.

The assets declaration and verification regime of the government of Liberia has been in place since the previous administration. In 2017, the regime gained traction as it recorded five hundred seventy three (573) declarations in a single fiscal year. In 2018, the assets declarations of public officials declined as a result of political transition from one administration to another. However, a new development ensued when the LACC for the first time recorded declarations from the Judiciary Branch of Government. This is particularly commendable, as the fight against corruption is multi-stakeholders and multi-dimensional, soliciting all hands on deck to achieve sustainable success.

Assets declaration and verification is a corruption prevention tool use by governments and corporate entities to curtail illicit enrichment and other form of corruption. Below are assets declaration and verification statistics for the period under review:

4.5 Assets Declaration in the Executive Branch

The Asset Declaration and Verification Unit is pleased to report the following:

- a) That the Unit received from the various Ministry, agencies and commissions (MACs) including the Presidency a total of four hundred seventeen (417) Asset Declarations to date, representing 75% of five hundred ninety (590) total declarants listed for Asset Declaration compliance within the Executive Branch.

Caution: Please note that we did not include Comptrollers, Chief Accountant, Heads of Procurement Units and their deputies who may have been on-boarded since January 22, 2018 to present into this data since it is yet to be determined the actual changes that occurred since January 22, 2018.

- b) That to date, there are still eighteen plus (18+) very important persons who are yet to file their Asset Declaration within the Executive Branch.

- c) That the Unit received from the Office of the Clerk of the Supreme Court a total of three hundred thirty-three (333) copies of notarized Asset Declaration for Judiciary Officials.
- d) That the Unit received from the Office of the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives, copies of Acknowledgement Slips for seven (7) staff and forty-four (44) Representatives (Past and Present). However, the Commission has maintained through formal communication to that body that, it needs to have copies of the notarized asset declaration and not copies of the Acknowledgement Slips.
- e) That the Unit did not receive any filing notification from the House of Senate during the period in review.

4.6. Assets Verification:

The Unit is pleased to report the following verification activities for the reporting period:

During the period under review, the Commission established an Inter-agency collaboration team comprising LACC, IAA and LRA to conduct assets verification.

The team conducted verification exercise during the period under review, and met, the European Union special condition for additional budget support of One Million Euro to the Government of Liberia. In short, the LACC's work contributed one million to the National budget support.

The Unit commenced conducting verification of assets of local and judiciary officials within the fifteen (15) sub-divisions of Liberia sponsored by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) under the STAOP project.

The Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission is collaborating with the Ministry of Youth & Sports on the implementation of the Youth Opportunities Project (YOP). The project seeks provide labor subsidies and entrepreneurial skills to youth to promote economic empowerment among youth. The project covers the fifteen counties and has a five year life span.

The LACC is mainstreaming anti-corruption mechanisms into the project's implementation for twofold purposes: 1.) to promote transparency and accountability for donors' funds by monitoring the implementation of all project activities; and 2.) to ensure that project funds reach the target beneficiaries for their improved economic and social well-being.

The World Bank has approved \$100,000 as funding support to the Liberia Anti-Corruption to perform its roles under the Project

Challenges:

The Community Relations Unit has only one staff. This can cause a hiatus in the work flow of the unit whenever the officer is on annual leave, sick or travels abroad in line with his work. To the extent resource availability will permit, there is a need to recruit additional staff for the unit to address the problem of break in workflow and ensure continuity in the implementation of programs and activities of the unit.

Further, there is hardly budgetary appropriation for anti-corruption awareness and information, education and communication purposes. Therefore, it has been an uphill task to carry out sustained anti-corruption awareness and sensitization at the national and sub-national levels.

V: ADMINISTRATION DIVISION:

The administrative arm of the Commission is charged with the responsibility under section 8.7(a) of the Act creating the Commission to run the day to day affairs of the Commission, including the supervision of personnel and the logistical duties of the Commission.

The Chief administrator of the Commission is the Executive Chairperson, assisted by the Vice Chairperson. However, a commissioner is designated as “Oversight” for administration.

Key Achievements/Activities under Administration:**1.6 FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

According to Section 12.1 of the LACC’s Act, the LACC shall be financed through the National Budget by Legislative appropriations. It shall be the responsibility of the Chairperson to ensure that the Annual budget is prepared and submitted in time to the appropriate agency of government. Section 13.1 of the same Act states the Commission shall enjoy independence in all its operations including financial autonomy and operational independence.

Financial appropriation to the Commission for the period under review was far below the approved National budget. The Commission received budgetary support less than the budget submitted to the National Legislature. Budgetary allotments were not disbursed on time, and in violation of the Commission's Act which required quarterly disbursement, but instead were released monthly. Also, the Ministry of Finance, Development Planning, did not pay some critical financial requests made to fund key programs and obligations which led to lawsuits against the Commission by vendors.

The Commission however received supports from its international partners especially the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), USAID, and the World Bank supporting the programmatic work of the Commission.

1.7 The FY2017/18 Approved Budget:

At the onset of the fiscal year, the National Legislature appropriated a total of \$ 2,108,246.90 (Two million One hundred Eight Thousand, Two hundred Forty Six 90/100 United States Dollars). During the period under review, no supplemental budget was approved.

1.4 Summary

1.8 BUDGET 2018-2019

US \$ 2,108,246.90

EDUCATION DIVISION	US \$ 426,533.90
ENFORCEMENT	643,795.00
ADM.	1,037,918.00
LEGAL DIVISION	-0-

COMPENSATION, RENT & FIXED UTILITY COST PER DIVISIONS:

ADM: SALARY	874,129
RENT	50,000
FUEL	13,024

EDU SALARY	247,001
RENT	50,000
FUEL	14,743

ENF SALARY	549,828
RENT	50,000
FUEL	8,742

LEGAL SALARY	9,108???
FUEL	-0-

PROSECUTION

-0-

1.9 FIXED APPROPRIATION: 2018 - 2019

DISCRETIONARY FIXED COSTS & NON-DISCRETIONARY FIXED COST

NON-DISCRETIONARY FIXED COSTS:

SALARY	US \$ 1,670,058
Total Non-Discretionary Fixed Cost	1,670,058

DISCRETIONARY FIXED COSTS

FUEL	US \$ 45,617
RENT	150,000
GUARDS	40,500
REPAIRS & MAINT. VEH.	13,200

TOTAL Discretionary Fixed Cost	249,317
---------------------------------------	----------------

GRAND TOTAL FIXED COST	1,919,375
------------------------	------------------

5.1: Personnel:

The period witnesses the expiration of the tenures of the Executive Chairperson Cllr. James Verdier ending his five years along with his principle deputy Cllr. J. Augustin Toe, Vice Chairperson.

Also, the Chief Accountant resigned during the period. However, the Recruitment for the replacement of Chief Accountant is still ongoing.

Mr. Kayibanda Doe resigned his post as Prevention Officer effective October 2, 2018.

Mrs. Saydah Nimely left her post of Program Assistant to the Executive Director without submitting a resignation letter.

Additionally, there were few staffs that were transferred/ promoted during the reporting period. Mr. Edwin Clarke who was assigned in the office of the Commissioner with oversight for Administration was transferred to the position of Public Relations Officer. Mr. Clarke has protracted years of experience as journalist. He placed Mr. Ben Kolako. Mr. Kolako graduated from the University of Liberia with LLB degree in law and got admitted as an Attorney-At-Law. Atty. Kolako was transferred to the legal division to increase the capacity of that Division that has been understaffed.

5.2: Training:

In all effort to improve and meet the mandate of the Commission, seven staffs who began training during the last report, completed training in different disciplines.

The African Development Bank sponsored capacity building program in the area of human resource, research, forensic investigations, interview technique and evidence gathering.

General Administration:

With the introduction of the National Identification card, and its mandatory requirement to prepare payroll and salary for staff, efforts were made to have National Identification Registry come at the LACC and processed staff and issued seventy-five (75) staffs their national ID Cards, while the balance five (5) staff are completing the process.

The Human Resource Unit conducted a Job Satisfaction Survey during the period. The objective was to strengthen employees' capacity and their ability to perform their job effectively and efficiently. The survey was conducted to provide management with the information to improve in building positive employee relations and positive work environment..

During the period under review, an institution's recruitment framework completed and submitted to the BOC for review and endorsement.

The LACC owns a total of 18 vehicles; of this, 14 are in running condition, 3 are parked for repairs, 1 is out of use and needs to be sold or turn over to General Service Agency.

PROTECO security firm was contracted in keeping PPCC regulation to protect the Commission's facilities and homes of the Commissioners and its Executive Director. Under this agreement, PROTECO providesecurity guards that serve during the day and night.

SAAR insurance company was contracted on behalf of the staffs to provide third-party insurance coverage to staffs. The decision to contract SARR was made by staff members in general meeting following review of proposals from several insurance companies.

5.3: Foreign Travels:

During the reporting period, the Officer In Charge, Commissioner Charles J.L. Gibson III represented the Government of Liberia through LACC at the observance of Democracy Day program in Nigeria. Democracy Day is a public holiday to commemorate the restoration of democracy in the Federal Republic of Nigeria. These were done to commemorate the democratic election of MKO

Abiola on June 12, 1993, in what has been adjudged to be Nigeria's freest and fairest elections

Several leaders including His Excellency President George Weah attended:

- Paul Kagame of Rwanda –
- George Manneh Weah of Liberia
- Denis Sassou Nguesso of Congo Republic
- Hage Geingob of Namibia
- Macky Sall of Senegal
- Mohammed Ould Abdel Aziz of Mauritania
- Mahammadou Issoufou of Niger
- Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo of Ghana
- Idris Deby Itno of Chad
- Yoweri Museveni of Uganda
- Moussa Faki Mahamat of Head of African Union Commission, AUC

5.4: Donor Support:

With the economic crisis faced by national government, the need to seek external supports from donor community have become overwhelm and unavoidable.

The Commission enjoyed strong partnership with few agencies and donors. One of which is the United Nations Development Programme(UNDP). During the period of this report, UNDP sponsored several activities of the Commission under the project titled” Strengthening Transparency, Accountability and Oversight Program”- **STAOP Project**. The STAOP programme which prioritizes strengthening governance and promoting transparency and accountability. It aims to contribute to government and other actors’ efforts to strengthen corruption prevention, transparency and accountability in Liberia as well as provide support to both state institutions and civil society organizations to increase transparency and accountability in governance processes by (i) establishing a broad consensus on need for incorporating the principles of integrity, transparency and accountability in governance (ii) strengthening institutional capacity and coordination to promote transparency and accountability and curb impunity (iii) creating opportunities for civic engagement to monitor public sector and engage in transparency and accountability mechanisms.

Between 2018 to 2019, UNDP and the Government of Liberia approved the Annual work plan covering several activities that amounted to One hundred, ninety three thousand, two hundred (\$193,200.00. This amount was intended to support the following thematic areas:

- 1. Capacity Building for senior staff(ED/PMs for Enforcement & Prosecution) in Anti-Corruption and Corporate Governance**
- 2. Compensation for six investigators and two support staffs to investigate corruption cases for six months**
- 3. Operationalize Cyber-crime lab by procuring server and remaining equipment.**
- 4. Technical support to evaluate and appraise construction/ civil works under investigation.**
- 5. Set up e-library to provide resource materials for prosecution.**
- 6. Compensation for prosecutor for the prosecution of corruption cases for six months**
- 7. Conduct in country training in digital evidence recovery and management.**
- 8. Conduct Property (Asset) verification and valuation for three branches of government by appraising, and auditing assets.**
- 9. Support to the International Anti-Corruption Day**

Due to delays in processing request from LACC to UNDP, several of the activities mentioned above were not implemented and moved to the next reporting year. During this period, the project several investigators at the Commission obtained advance training sponsored by the UNDP.

However, LACC established and operatized its cyber-crime lab. The equipment were procured, delivered and installed.

Salary compensations were provided for one lawyer and several investigations for first half of the year 2028.

The International anti-corruption day celebrated annually on December 9, was funded under this project.

All of the other activities :-Conduct Property (Asset) verification and valuation for three branches of government by appraising, and auditing assets ; Technical support to evaluate and appraise construction/ civil works under investigation.; Set up e-library to provide resource materials for prosecution Capacity Building for senior

staff(ED/PMs for Enforcement & Prosecution) in Anti-Corruption and Corporate Governance.

World Bank support: The World Bank is providing funding to the Youth Opportunities Project(YOP) being implemented by the Ministry of Youth and Sport. The project provides access to income generation opportunities for targeted youth. Though the Ministry of Youth and Sport has the overall responsibility to for the coordination and implementation of the project, the project requires a third party institution to independently monitor and ensure transparency and integrity during the project circle.

LACC and the Ministry of Youth and Sport signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) primarily to minimize the risk of error , fraud and corruption during the implementation of the project. LACC is allotted One Hundred Thousand United States dollars (\$100.000.00) to perform its roles. Tasks performed under this project during this reporting period are captured under the Education and Prevention Division.

X.APPENDIXES

A. Detail of Cases reported to the Commission:

a. Cases:

..