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# LIBERIA Exhibit

J U L Y - D E C E M B E R 2 0 1 9

ISSUE 2

*Feature*

PAGE 10

## LIBERIA THE DESTINATION OF CHOICE

★ PAGE 12  
**CURSORY REVIEW  
OF GRAND BASSA**

★ PAGE 19  
**THE 'Ehni Ka Se Fa'  
OF BASSA CULTURE**

★ PAGE 21  
**IMODILS**  
- Modeling for social  
and cultural change

★ PAGE 18  
**THE FUTURE  
OF AVIATION**  
- Can Buchanan  
Airport Be Revived?

PAGE 24  
**YOUNG  
ENTREPRENEURS  
OF LIBERIA**  
**MAHMUD JOHNSON**  
- Turning Waste To  
Wealth For All

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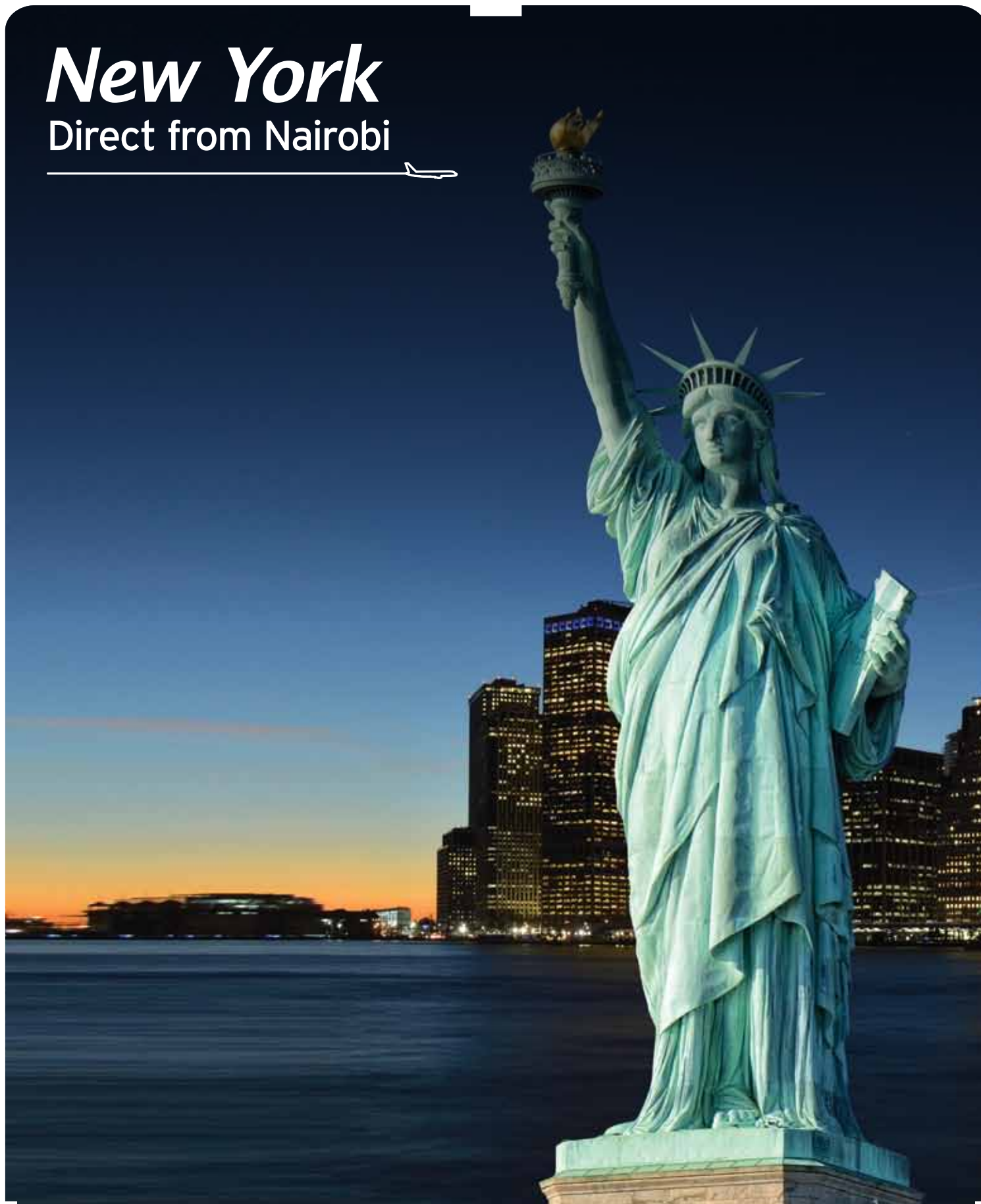
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# Contents

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## COVER STORY

10. Liberia: The Destination of Choice
12. Cursory Review of Grand Bassa
16. Grand Bassa is Haven for Tourism Gems -Superintendent Baikpeh Says
18. The Secret Gems Of Bassa - The Coastline
18. The Future Of Aviation - Can Buchanan Airport Be Revived?
19. The 'Ehni Ka Se Fa' of Bassa Culture
21. Imodils - Modeling for social and cultural change
22. COOKSHOP - Groceries, Restaurants Shelves In Your Palm

## Young Entrepreneurs of Liberia

24. Mahmud Johnson- Turning Waste To Wealth For All
25. NASAL Organization Profile

## Made in Nimba

26. LDREZ -The Newest Hot Hipco Kid

## Tasty Liberia

28. Our Version of Events
29. Dudu - The Dumboy's Spicy Companion
30. Ellefoodie - Eco-friendly, plastic-free Alternative

## Natural Luxury

32. Exquisite Sunset Beach
34. A Glimpse of Buchanan
36. St. John River - A Potential Source of Energy

## 38. TourLiberia

## Historical Sites

40. Edina - Home of Liberia's Historical Lineage
42. Genealogy of the Methodist Church in Grand Bassa
43. Artifacts of the Colony of Liberia (Presidential Grave Sites in Edina)
46. The Role of Bob Gray In Bassa Existence





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# EXHIBIT

## *The Torch To Liberia's Hidden Treasures*

**A**frica is tagged "the dark continent" for racial incentives and along its west coast lays its lone star and oldest independent republic- Liberia.

Across its 43,000 square miles, Liberia is bejeweled with superb beaches, vast green Guinea forest that hosts diverse rare species with high rate of endemism; the Gola National Forest, situated in north-west Liberia, is one of the largest remaining intact areas of seasonal dense moist evergreen and semi-deciduous forest in the whole region- the hotspot of biodiversity in West Africa. The oldest African republic boasts of 2000 species of vascular plants (including 225 tree species), approximately 140 species of mammals, and over 600 species of birds.

For many years, these naturally endowed assets remain untapped despite the mammoth economic relevance they possess. This negligence leaves much to desire. All that is seen on web pages and even on the lips of Liberians is that Liberia is a war-ravaged country with the gloom of hopelessness hovering over it. It is this negative trajectory that The Exhibit is working to rewrite to bring Liberia's hidden treasures in tourism, culture, and business to the world's limelight for the government's quest to diversify the economy to be enhanced.

The 300 years old Kpaiyea fortification wall located in Yealleh, Zorzor District, Lofa County, signifies a significant insight about the military lives of the early Liberians especially the historical manifestation of the Lorma tribe's guts and a symbol of barrier maintained by them to repel attacks by other tribe groups and to exert control over its residents.

Also, the sixty (60) meters high and awe-inspiring Wongan waterfall with cascading water, in Kokoyah Statutory District, Bong County represents a unique place of mesmerizing beauty, exciting activities, or simply where you can lounge in sheer tranquility. The Wongan is open to visitors throughout the year and has a park that is boosted by a thick patch of the rain forest, which is home to a variety of plants and animal life that are exclusive to the area. The deafening roar of the waterfall from its falling point that enters into the St. John River gives tourists a vantage point to view this breathtaking gem.

In a series of periodic publication, The Exhibit magazine takes a cursory review of undiscovered gems in Liberia that are unheard of in the global tourism market.

The desire to do this drew out of the passion to tell the Liberian story positively so that corruption and bad governance will not be the only tag Liberia carries.

Liberia as a country by itself is a tourist attraction, the country being the first and oldest independent state on the continent of Africa and the rich history of the country establishment is enough for tourism activities notwithstanding the lip service from the national government.

It is palpable that tourism is a bastion for many developing countries across Africa and it is creating thousands of jobs for young people. But Africa's oldest republic is treating the industry with disdain. This, however, does not take away the prospect of a private sector-driven effort to get the tourism industry living up to its usefulness.

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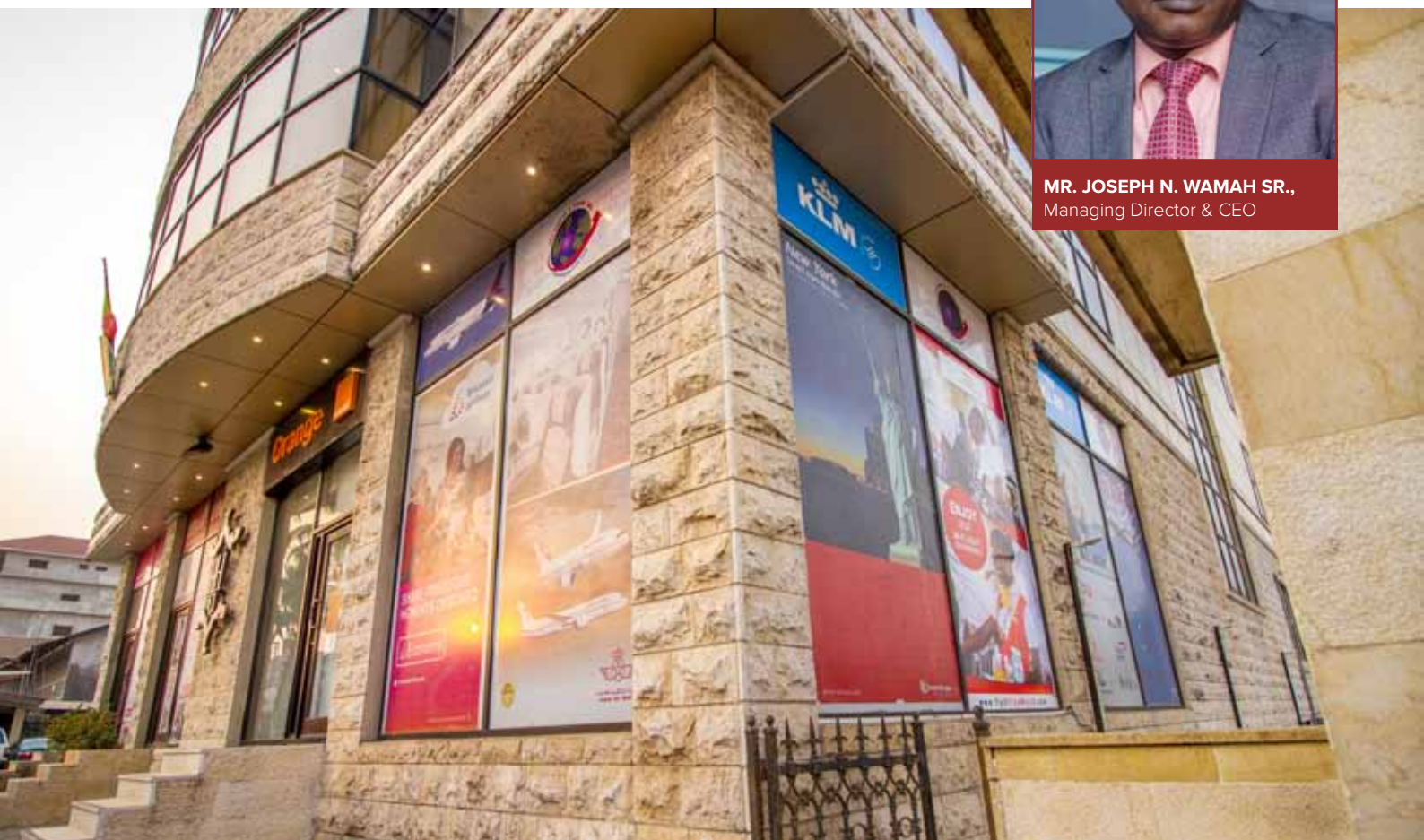
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# Profile

## ON JOS TRAVEL & TOURS INC.



**MR. JOSEPH N. WAMAH SR.,**  
Managing Director & CEO

Jos Travel & Tours Incorporated (Inc.) wishes you a very warm welcome aboard this exhibition. We hope to make your Liberian experience a memorable one and if you're not already with us, we hope to see you soon! Jos is the leading travel agency in Liberia and has been at the forefront of constantly introducing new ideas and innovations, making it one of the most recognized and respected travel houses in the region. Our founding principle of warm and welcoming service continues to attract and retain customers.

Jos began operations in Liberia December of 2011 and provides numerous travel services, including but not limited to ticketing, tour packages, and transport services to people in Liberia, specifically in Monrovia and its surrounding cities. In order to become a viable and quality service provider, she has established affiliations with some of West Africa's top travel agencies in the sub-region. With this collaboration, Jos is highly regarded among all other travel agencies operating in Liberia. With capabilities of issuing all of the frequently flown airlines in the world, she is unique. Jos is the most functional agent in Liberia and serves as consolidator for many Travel Agencies in Liberia.

Headed by Managing Director & CEO Mr. Joseph N. Wamah Sr., the majority shareholder in Jos which is 100% Liberian owned. Mr. Wamah Sr. with his vast aviation edification and experiences has placed JOS as the number one travel agent in Liberia. Jos now serves as a local and regional travel consolidator and Mr. Wamah has to his credit

over 34 (thirty-four) years of working experience in the aviation industry.

At Jos, we strongly believe that the potentially vibrant tourism industry of Liberia has the prospect of being a productive, impactful and lucrative one. The tourism industry remains the fastest growing and the largest generator of jobs. It brings in the most foreign exchange only second to petroleum. It serves as the principal export for many developing countries in Africa. It gives rise to rapid infrastructure and superstructure developments alike.

At Jos, we always adhere to the truth and deliver on our promise of providing great services at the lowest rates. We will remain as a customer and market-driven Travel Agency, providing value-added services in Liberia. The Travel industry is one that is rapidly changing with more players and competitors than ever before. We pride ourselves on an exceptional reputation that results from dedication and hard work of our employees and incomparable services.

## Services

JOS TRAVEL & TOURS INC.



### AIR TICKETS

Jos Travel issues airlines tickets in Liberia with flight origin and destination anywhere on the globe. Enabled to ticket for all Airlines operating in Liberia. Moreover, with our HR Selling Platform, we ticket for more than 250 carriers operating worldwide. Jos pre-finances genuine corporate clients travel and deliver the air tickets before payment. We are prepared to meet and assist passengers should the need be, for a minimum fee. We are also in readiness to handle your needs on the last minute basis and even at odd times.



### VEHICLE RENTALS / LOGISTICS

Allow Jos to provide you with the right vehicles, at the right price, at the right time, giving you the best service in the industry. We provide access to the widest range of cost-effective vehicles. Our fleet of cars ranges through buses, SUVs, and sedan which are driven by some of the most experienced chauffeurs in the country allowing easy access to your desired destinations. Our reliability can help take the stress out of your vehicle acquisitions.



### HOTEL BOOKINGS AND RESERVATIONS

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### TOURS

Jos arranges tours & excursions packages worldwide. We facilitate



Meet & Assist globally. Our trained and well-experienced tour guides give you the experience and the feeling of home away from home. We guarantee a relishing experience with maximum satisfaction.



### CARGO

Our trained and well-equipped staff can move your cargo from and to anywhere around the world effortlessly.

### TRAVEL INSURANCE





# LIBERIA: *The Destination of Choice*



*Abounding in rivers, mountains, islands, pristine beaches along its 250 miles long coastline with background canopy of greenery, superb waterfalls, and cultural villages, Liberia exudes the complexities, beauty, and serenity of mother nature, generating a recurrent love for nature that tourists can find nowhere else.*

Liberia is swarmed with more than 2,000 species of endemic flora and fauna, including the pygmy hippo- unique to the oldest West African nation, and boasts numerous waterways and beautiful rain forest vistas. The country, established by freed slaves in the 1800s holds one of West Africa's most untouched rain forests, the Sapo National Park regarded as a natural wonder for eco-tourists. The Park is the country's largest protected reserve and home to 125 types of mammal and 590 types of bird. You'll also find African forest elephants, crocodiles, leopards, seven species of monkey and three species of pangolin, one of the weirdest looking animals and gives visitors an exclusive peek into the unbound natural beauty of the surrounding landscape.

Liberia is a genuinely viable tourist destination now, especially if you combine a couple of days' sightseeing in Monrovia with stints at the beach resorts a few miles outside the capital; several surfing heavens of the coast of Gran Cape Mount County- the undiscovered surf spot in Africa, offering vast stretches of deserted beaches.

Undeniably, scars of Liberia's civil unrest remain fresh but more than a decade has put the country back on the trajectory of tranquility. Webpages, radio

stations and various sources of news are tinted with scaring imageries but the reality contradicts those doomsday naysayers.

In the extreme north of Liberia lies the Nimba Nature Reserve that harbors birds, exclusive butterflies, and elusive pygmy hippo. The Island of rescued chimpanzee that is enclosed by swimmable lagoons and golden beaches off the shores of Marshall in lower Margibi County is another irresistible scene for visitors.

Liberia enjoys three main touristic features: coastal and marine sites, natural sites/features and cultural and historical sites.

With more travelers looking for eco-tourism destinations, Liberia's unspoiled virgin rainforests (the last of its' kind in West Africa) wetlands, lakes, hills, mountains, waterfalls, lagoons, and deltas, that set Liberia apart, will leave nature lovers marveling.

Liberia is the only black state in Africa never subjected to colonial rule. It came into existence through the work of freed slaves from the United States under the banner of the American Colonization Society, which founded a colony at Cape Mesurado in 1821. What is known as the oldest African republic was named Liberia in 1824, and its main settlement was

named Christopolis, today's Monrovia, the capital city.

The relics of these historical happenings are visibly seen across areas captured the tiny but old West African nation's history.

Liberia forms part of the West African Shield, a rock formation 2.7 to 3.4 billion years old, composed of granite, schist, and gneiss. In Liberia, the shield has been intensely folded and faulted and is interspersed with iron-bearing formations known as itabirite. Along the coast lie beds of sandstone, with occasional crystalline-rock outcrops. Monrovia stands on such an outcropping, a ridge of diabase -a dark-colored, fine-grained rock.



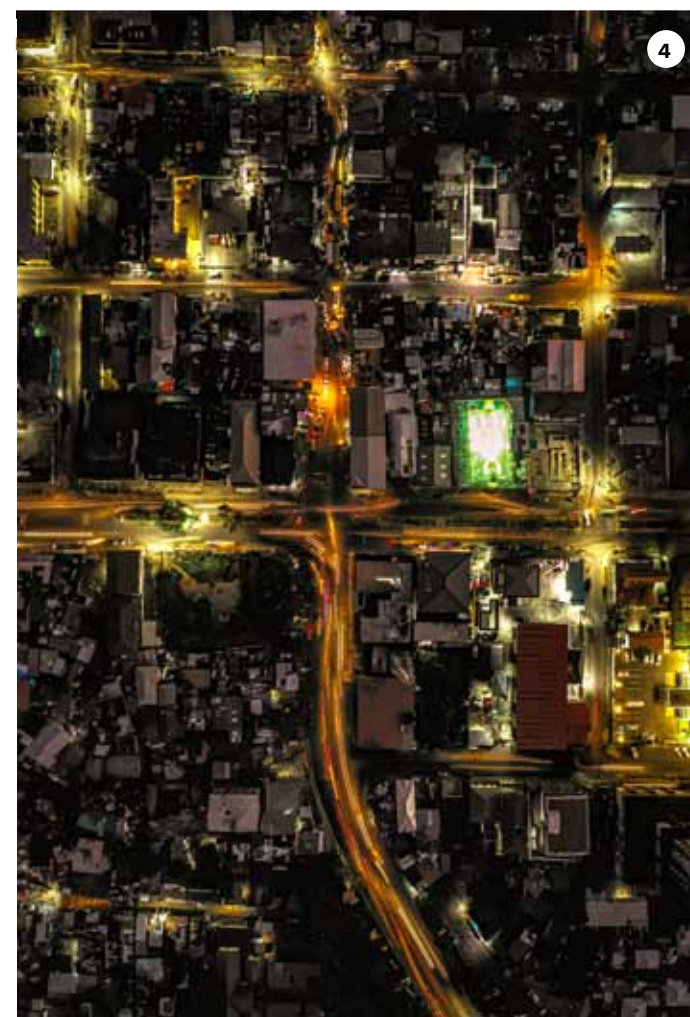
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5

1. River Gee County gives a glimpse into Liberia's 43 percent of the remaining Upper Guinea forest of West Africa
2. Serene and scenic shore in Harper City, Maryland County illustrates the tranquility enjoyed by the inhabitants
3. "The Gate-way to Liberia's Economy" – Freeport beaming with lights and host of activities
4. Ariel night view of Monrovia City
5. Clean beautiful beaches of Maryland sends an open invitation to interested visitors



# *Cursory Review Of* **GRAND BASSA**

*It is one of Liberia's original counties founded in the 1800s with a flat coastline. A narrow coastal plain extends inland from the seashore, and the land gradually rises to the hilly hinterland of the County. High elevation regions are forested with evergreen and deciduous trees, including ironwood and mahogany. The County has several major rivers which include St. John, Farmington, Mechlin, New Cess, Ilor, Timbo, and Benson River. Consequently, the shore is broken by estuaries, tidal creeks, and rocky capes. The coastal region does not rise more than 60 to 70 meters, excepting occasional small hills. This is Grand Bassa County in the South Central portion of Liberia. The county three cities: Edina, St. John River City and the capital city Buchanan which was named after Thomas Buchanan- a relative of former United States President James Buchanan.*



Edina Baptist Church stand as a cornerstone

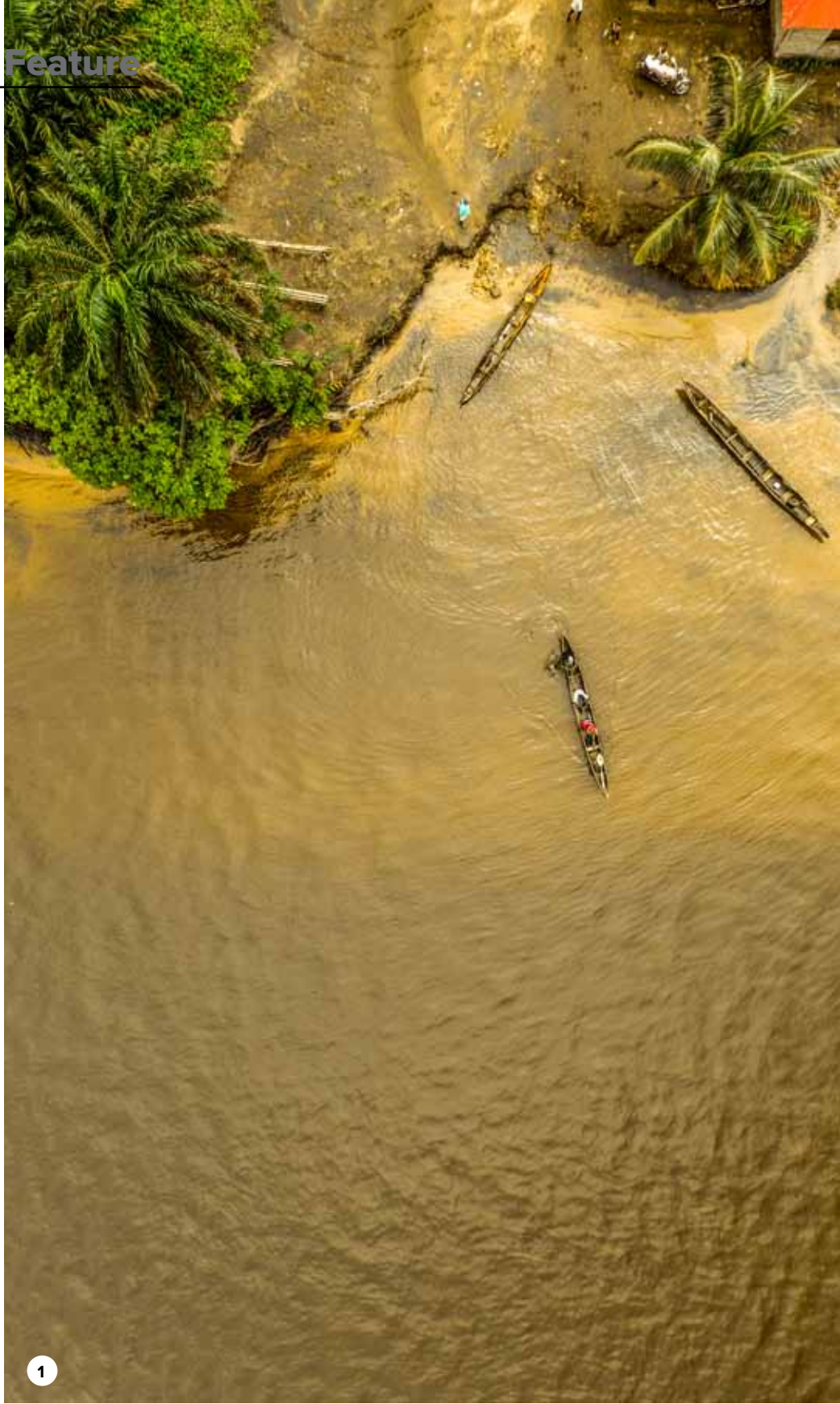


A Lighthouse in Buchanan

**G**rand Bassa has eight (8) districts which include Commonwealth Districts: District #1, District #2, District #3, District #4, Neekreen District, Owensgrove District, and St. John River District; forty-three clans. Buchanan, Liberia's third-largest city, serves as the county capital; it is located in District #3.

The County's soil is 55 percent leached out laterite, 19 percent alluvial and 26 percent sandy and loamy with two onshore sediment-filled basins are located along the coastline: Roberts Basin, which is filled with sediments of the Farmington River formation and Paynesville sandstone; and the Bassa Basin, which is filled with material from the St. John River formation.





1

1. A canoe ride on the St. John River from Buchanan City to Edina City in Grand Bassa County leads you to a local dock for disembarking
2. Ariel view of the coastal city of Buchanan, Grand Bassa County
3. Elizabeth Village, a local resort blends the Bassa Culture with comfort and amenities from home
4. Buchanan Sea Port is used for the exportation of raw material and a major contributor to the economy of Grand Bassa County
5. A millennium-old "safe" in the heart of Edina served as the Central Bank and Treasury Department for the 3 original Colonies between the mid to late 1800s
6. The winding roads of Buchanan Highway disappears in to the rich vegetation of Grand Bassa



2

Along the coast of the county lies the Liberia American-Swedish Mining Company built the port of Buchanan that is predominantly being used by ArcelorMittal Iron Ore Company to export its ores from Nimba County.

The county's endowment with jaw-dropping beaches, eye gripping hotels dotted across its historical streets, home of Liberia's largest reservoir of ancient days records of people and events position Grand Bassa an undoubted tourism attraction.

For hospitality, Grand Bassa has some of best hotels and resort outside Monrovia including: Ayanna Ville located on Commonwealth Street, Hotel Buchanan on Roberts Street, Spark Hotel, Bob's Kitchen Campsite, Musu's Nest Guest House on Church Street, Coconut Cove on Sunset Beach, Crowne Hotel and Philipmenas Guest House situated at the entry point of the port city.

A first-time visitor would also experience nightlife at the famous Black and White night; Verli's Bar and Havana Night Club.



3



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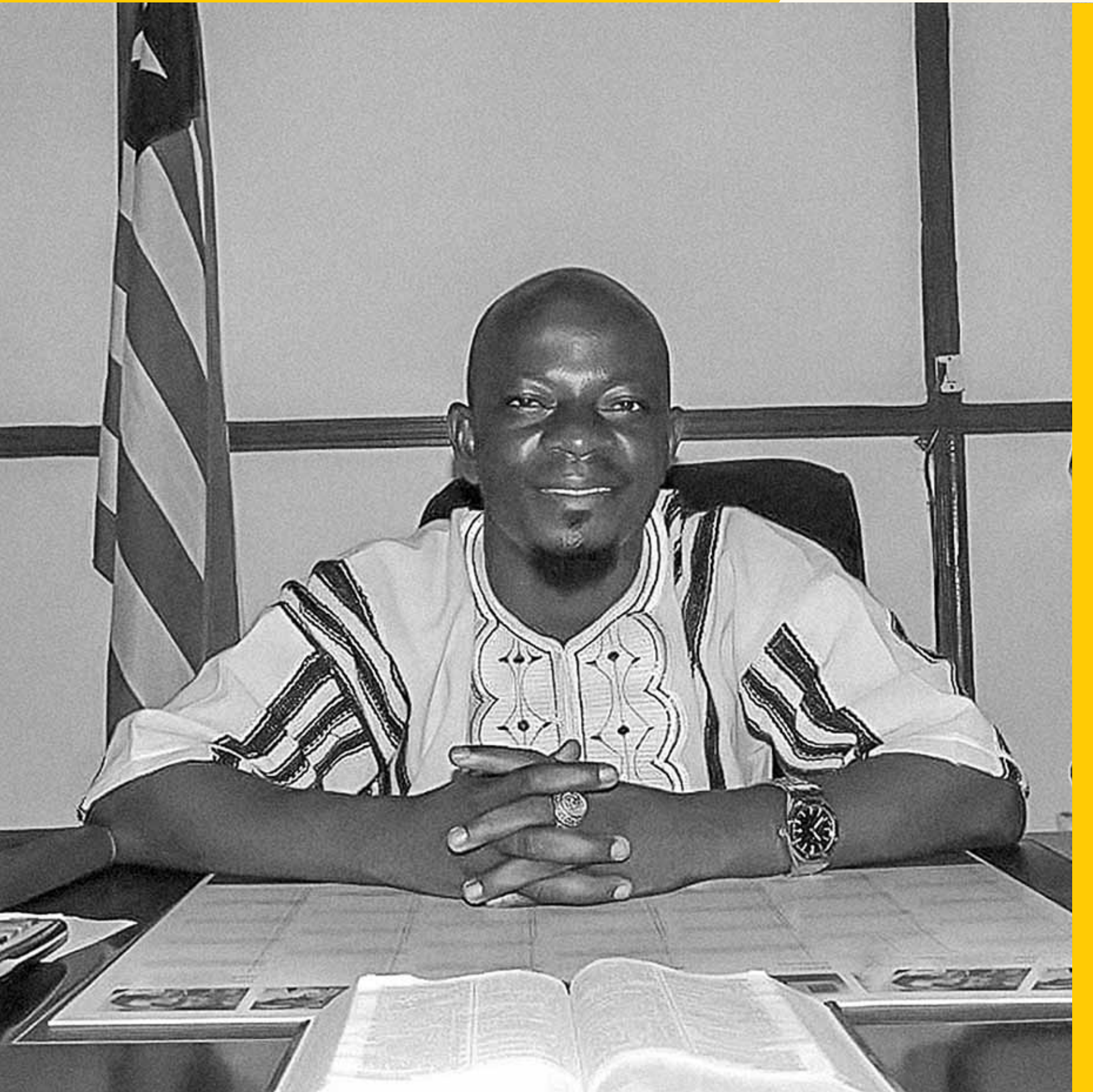


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# GRAND BASSA IS HAVEN FOR TOURISM GEMS

*-Superintendent Baikpeh Says*

**T**he serene across the county is fascinatingly beautified with golden beaches that are unique for fishing, swimming, dolphin watching. In the hinterland, we have rivers that convey a near irresistible message to tourists for boats and canoes ride while watching some of the rare bird species fly along those rivers' banks. These make Grand Bassa a haven for tourism trinkets in Liberia, according to the County's youthful Superintendent, Janjay Baikpeh.

To solidify this feat, Superintendent Baikpeh said the unmatched hospitality of the Bassa people dating as far back as the origin of Liberia when freed slaves from the United States arrived positions the coastal county for visitors to come.

"Grand Bassa has some of Liberia's original settlements-places the slaves landed in the 1800s. These are things that tourists would want to see first-hand because the make up the historical package of how Africa's oldest Republic came into existence," he said emphatically.

Superintendent Baikpeh added "if you want to see the mat on which the people sat to decide on what is today Liberia, come to Grand Bassa. The Methodist church in Liberia has its history rooted here. Bob Gray, the symbol of hospitality in Bassa, under whose leadership, settlers were given place to live without any cost is a product of this great county. We have a lot to offer our guests."

He told The Exhibit in an exclusive interview that Buchanan hosts several multinational companies including steel giant ArcelorMittal Liberia, Equatorial Palm Oil and

Liberian Agricultural Company (LAC) – the country's second largest rubber plantation. This, according to him, speaks to any concern from visitors about safety. "Grand Bassa is one of safest places in Liberia. People even sleep outside on our beaches to experience nature at night, in Edina for example," the youthful Superintendent stressed.

As a young person, Mr. Baikpeh believes that his leadership which is just a little over a year old is looking to work on the tourism sector of the county while

improving related sectors so that citizens can get a chance to be employed since visitors' presence would underpin the local economy significantly. He intends to work with every stakeholder in the county to achieve this without beating chest about it regardless of who takes the glory.

"You will not do unnecessary bragging for these things because it is for the people, even if somebody takes the glory, what I want is it was done during my regime so that when I leave from here you can beat

your chest for me," he said.

Superintendent Baikpeh intoned that Grand Bassa County boasts of five of some of the best hotels in Liberia that put luxury at the disposal of tourists visiting a leeward county.

He agreed with the decision of the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) led government under the leadership of President George Manneh Weah that tourism is a vital tool for inclusive economic growth because the ordinary people will benefit and lives will be transformed- which is the ultimate goal of the government's Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development.

*"Grand Bassa is one of safest places in Liberia. People even sleep outside on our beaches to experience nature at night, in Edina for example,"*



## The Secret Gems Of Bassa - THE COASTLINE

The entire stretch of the coastline of Grand Bassa County is bejeweled with a forest of naturally grown

coconut trees that make swimming almost irresistible. These gems are sufficient to get any traveler lost in nature solely to be awakened by the

competing soft breeze from the Atlantic Ocean waves. This segment of Liberia's coastline hides some of the country's spectacular

unbroken sand reserves sandwiched by other marine offerings for deep-sea fishing and dolphin watch off its coast.



## THE FUTURE OF AVIATION - Can Buchanan Airport Be Revived?

On the outskirts, south of the Port City of Buchanan in Grand Bassa lies the remnant of LAMCO three (3) kilometers Airport that served as a major mode of transportation for the visitors especially employees of the Liberia American-Swedish Company during its 70 years concession operations in the 1960s.

"The airport underpinned economic development in Grand Bassa County for many years. Revamping it to prewar status with the advent of technology in the aviation sector, tourists would have several options available to them for transportation as the government looks towards economic diversification," James Reeves, a prominent citizen of the

county told Exhibit in an interview.

Mr. Reeves believes that giving the fact that air travel is a popular mode of transport for tourists, the dividend that would be accrued from reviving the airport in Buchanan holds serious advantages since it also offers status as well as saves valuable work time when traveling on a long-haul basis.

Gabriel Johnson, a restless middle-aged man sitting on the shoulders of the route from Monrovia junction, said he thinks it would ring a bell to those wanting to travel to Liberia that the Roberts International Airport or James Spriggs Payne airports are not the only aviation infrastructures. It would augment confidence in the country's transport sector.

According to him, in addition



to smoothing the progress of tourism, airports and air travel generate economic growth, provide jobs, increase revenues from taxes, and foster the conservation of protected areas.

Now that Liberia is struggling to strengthen its foreign exchange earnings, the inflow of foreign visitors would come handy in providing a solution to this economic woe.

"It is no secret that Grand Bassa is the hub of most Liberia's historical artifacts as old as from the 1800s. The wrecks of Ship Elizabeth also known as the Mayflower of Liberia is off the shores of Edina in Upper Buchanan at the bar of the St. John, Mechlin, and Benson rivers. These historical records that the world would like to see firsthand and it will undoubtedly create jobs for the locals," Gabriel stressed.

He informed this magazine that when the relationship between the Government of Liberia and LAMCO got sour and the company decided to use the airport exclusively for its operations, the government decided to build another domestic on the Eastern side of the County's capital city. This too has been taken over by bushes and it is being used for hunting by community dwellers.

Experts have opined that Tourism and Air Transport industry go together. Tourism depends on transportation to bring visitors, while the transportation industry depends on tourism to generate demand for its services.

As Dr. Namtip Wipawin put it, to access the areas that are mainly aimed, tourists will use any transportation mode. However, air transport is the main mode of international tourism. Air transport plays a dominant role in the inter-regional movements of tourists, which normally entails travel over long-distance. Growth rates of international air traffic are pegged with growth rates of international tourism. Attractive package tours, competitive airfare attract more and more tourists day by day, therefore both the industry is expanding rapidly.

## The 'Ehni Ka Se Fa' of Bassa Culture



It was originally called Bassa sooh nyombe directly translated as "Father Stone's People" in English.

The name Bassa was given by Europeans who struggled to pronounce it in its original context. That was before the rediscovery of the Bassa Script- Bassa Vah by Dr. Thomas Flo Darvin Lewis in the mid-1900s in Brazil, South America.

The characters of the script were used as a mode of communication in traditional schools upon the return of Dr. Lewis to Liberia. Dr. Lewis returned to Liberia by way of Dresden, Germany where a company manufactured the first printing press for the Bassa alphabet invented by Di Widah. Hence, the advent of the "Ehni Ka Se Fa" – the fundamentals of the Bassa culture that informed the way the people behaved and lived and communicated with each other. They used leaves as papers and their teeth as pens to write with. So, a Bassa person will chew a leave and put it at an intersection for his or her lover to receive. The recipient would take delivery of the leave and know exactly what his or her partner is saying.

At the bar of the creek Gheh, came the name of Buchanan: Ghehzohn which means "rotten kinja". Today, there are eight (8) kinds of Bassa in Liberia: Mamba Bassa, Wehn Gbagon Bassa in District #2, Central Bassa in District #3, Rivercess Bassa, Kploh Bassa, Doborh Bassa, and Bassa.

The Bassa people have traditionally settled farmers who grow yam, cassava, eddoes, and plantain. They are lineage-linked independent clans who live in villages, each with a chief.

During the colonial, and on through to the neo-colonial period in Africa, a decline in the usage of Vah script caused by external cultural forces, almost brought this written portion of the Bassa language to extinction.

Most Bassas now practice Christianity due to missionary work during the twentieth century, all the while retaining some elements of their traditional religion.

In marriage, it is culturally accepted that a man would take his family, primarily father and mother, and go to his partner's family to do marriage rite which is usually in the following steps: putting hands on the lady's shoulders as a sign of engagement with a fee of US\$5; close doors to other men who would want to compete for the lady's hand in marriage; pay damages and then pay bride price.

When the dust is settled on a day's activities, dumboy is the county's staple food- a thick starchy dish made of cassava roots with savory pepper soup or palm butter source to blend. Wine fetched from the palm tree would usually accompany these dishes for lunch or breakfast. It is swallowed not chewed. Hot peppers are added to this famous dish to ignite extra kick and ground cayenne peppers are used for seasoning and preservatives. Favorite sources include palava sauce made traditionally of okra leaves, dried fish or meat. Dumboy with palava sauce is considered the national dish.

Bassa people are the second largest tribal group in Liberia only next to the Kpelle tribe.



# RLJ Kendeja Resort & Villas

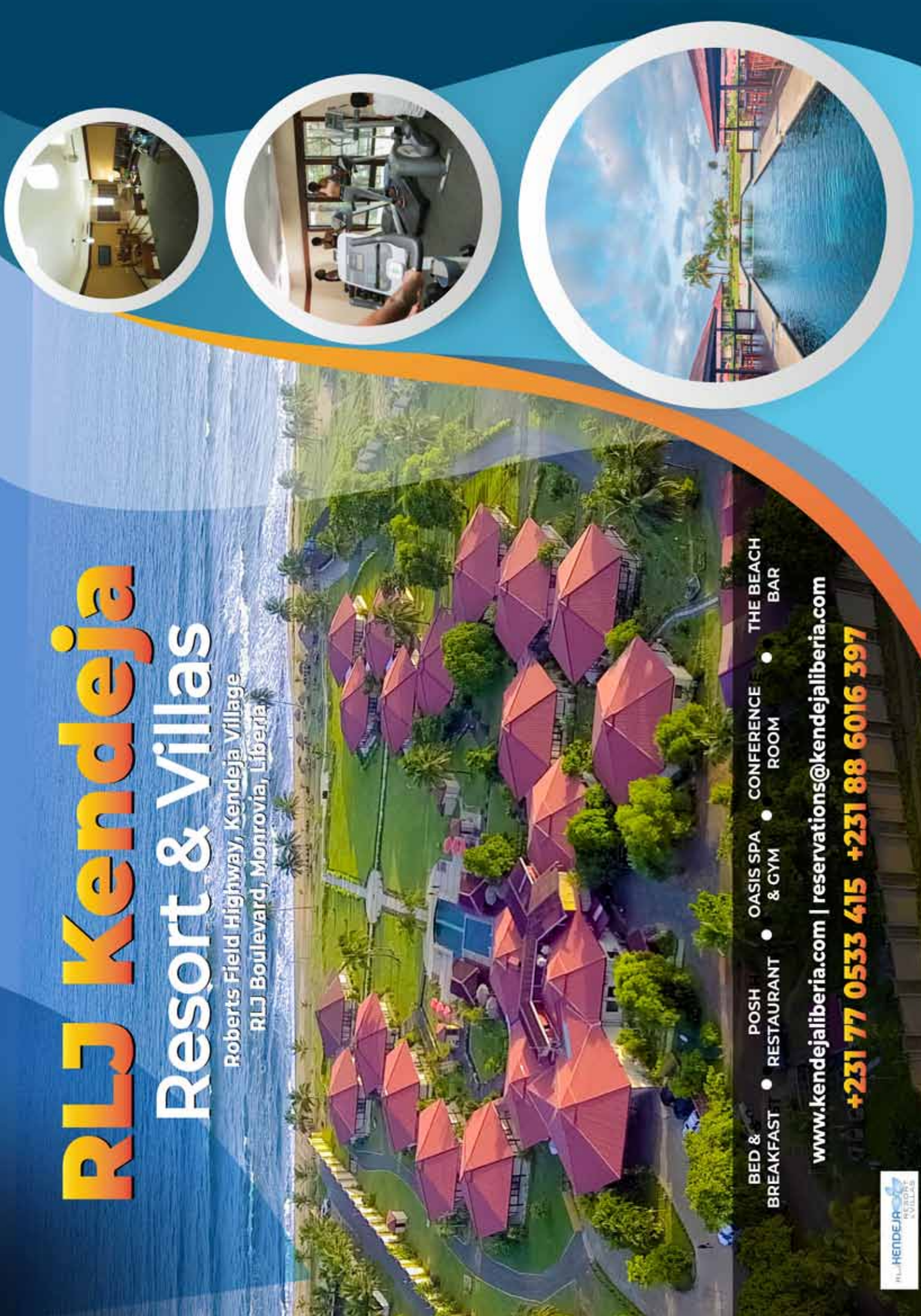
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## Imodils

– *Modeling for social and cultural change*

**Imodils**, expressly, “I model” as many innovative ideas started as a solution therapy to the need of musicians, videographers and photographers who sought the intervention of Ms. Benita Urey to put an end to their search models whose images would be used for videos and songs covers. The institution has since become the fastest modeling firm in Liberia with awe ‘tribal products’ with glowingly gleaming, lively body structures.

Ms. Urey said as an upshot of finding redress to this quest, she “thought it would be smart to team up with one of my best friends, Sianeh Dogba-Yassah who is also a makeup artist, and start an agency where we empower girls and give opportunities using my connections.”

Unlike many startup ideas, the recruitment process to get off the ground began on rather humorous traction because many young beautiful ladies jumped at the opportunity to be empowered through this modeling agency when Benita Urey and her partner posted on social media Instagram soliciting interest from their followers.

Within about 14 hours, Ms. Urey told Exhibit that their inboxes were already buzzing to messages from interested ladies. “We chose the prettiest and most unique girls that messaged us within that timeframe. It was funny,” she humored.

“Beauty is not all to it. One should have the drive and ability to take other’s advice without reacting negatively,” Ms. Urey stressed adding that the agency gives the models exposure and advice which resulted in financial benefits

Benita has identified the “lack of investments into models in our industry” as the agency’s primary drawback.

Besides providing images to videographers, musicians and photographers, Imodil is using the images of its models to graphically send a message to the world to abhor violence against women and girls.

Beautiful Liberian women are not only in Montserrado. So, in the face of challenges associated with access to some parts of the country, the modeling agency innovatively has models that are from other counties but live in Montserrado.

“Social media and accessibility are very important to our agency. So, having a model living in Lofa, for example, would be difficult because we would have to get a photographer out there to him or her,” Ms. Urey intoned.

Akin to several professions in contemporary times like this, modeling has not gone without its fair share of flaws but Imodils believes that models would be as good as their manager’s goal and their personal quests to be better ladies.

“I think that models have a bad representation but it all depends on the manager’s goal and the goals of the models. I can honestly say that

all my models are thinking about building brands and not just showing off their bodies. One of our models is currently representing Liberia as Miss University Liberia. We are proud to have women of excellence who are still in school and have goals. Not every model is the same,” the Imodil co-owner said.

She announced that Imodils will be having a grand launch in December as well as frequent breathtaking shoots that will continue to draw people’s attention to the modeling agency.



Sianeh Dogba-Yassah (Make-up artist)



Benita Whitney Urey



Models, left to right - Top row (Nikita, Anais, Riches, Miatta, Willimena / Bottom Row (Kori and Rabell)



# COOKSHOP

- Groceries, Restaurants  
Shelves In Your Palm

*It is Liberia's first dot-com and the West African nation's online destination for food and grocery products that are making life convenient for tech-savvy Liberians. This is Cookshop.biz- the cooked food delivery and grocery delivery online platform that is redefining technology in Liberia.*

It was birthed in 2013 through the innovative impulse of two Liberian ICT professionals, Charles Dorme Cooper and Mlen-Too Wesley and has grown into a major one-stop-shop for those who are caught between an important business rendezvous and that much-needed lunch break. Cookshop.biz is that platform that puts your favorite cuisines just a few clicks away from your dining table whilst relaxing at home, or lets you stay focused on the job while grabbing a quick bite on the go.

"We are on a mission to introduce Liberians to the benefits of advanced mobile web services," Charles Cooper said in an interview with already 28 staff in the company's employ.

This trailblazing idea did not happen on the spur of the moment. It was well-researched and found to be a phenomenal business model. The entrepreneurs conducted a feasibility survey of their target market in Monrovia and found that 84% of those surveyed dine out at restaurants, 52% dine out "regularly," 51% prefer to dine at home, and 91% have internet access.

To capitalize on these stats, the tech-pair has launched an easy-to-use application for Android and Apple smart devices users as an additional mode of increasing their delivery

fleet and expand the Cookshop.biz market edge.

In as much as the company's core is to be a channel that connects local food producers to customers, Cookshop.biz gives one out of every ten orders to the needy school-aged child with 7,800 donated out of 78,000 orders so far.

More to this, Cookshop.biz has accepted the invitation to attend the Global Entrepreneurship Summit in Silicon Valley and the company is received into the coveted Branson Scholarship Program.

"The idea is first of its kind in Liberia. There has never



been a place where you can browse the menus of all the restaurants in Monrovia in one place without leaving your office or home," Cooper told the Exhibit magazine. He indicated that the online platform was built from scratch-not modeled after any pre-designed website application software or template.

"We brainstormed projects that utilized our complementary skills. We landed on food delivery since food is an everyday necessity in any market. We researched similar applications in other

parts of the world and identified ways to customize the business model for our market in Liberia," they said.

According to the innovators, this technological concept is economically beneficial to restaurants' owners who may want to avoid the herculean financial stress of investing food delivery to their customers.

"You could save yourself the stress of buying motorbikes or car and burning gas to deliver food to customers. And those in the professional sector can save a lot of time just by simply logging on to cookshop.biz or download our Cookshop.biz app and placing an order for their favorite food from any of the restaurants in Monrovia and we'll deliver it," they said.

Like every market, Cookshop.biz is having its fair share of competition from new entrants but outstanding innovation and sweatless payment system put Cookshop.biz ahead.



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## Young Entrepreneurs of Liberia

# MAHMUD JOHNSON

- Turning Waste To Wealth For All



*The first step to what is now increasing smallholder farmers' income by 260% was taken about six (6) years ago when a young entrepreneur, Mahmud Johnson resolved to find answers to why palm fruits were not being utilized in Liberia despite its natural abundance.*

It was a venture to discover at the start but the goal, according to Mr. Johnson, is to solidify his position on the cosmetics market and continue to give customers reason to remain loyal to J-Palm Liberia's organic product.

"We started J-Palm to add value to oil palm and to use it as an opportunity to create employment as well as empower smallholder farmers to find a market for their oil palm products," he stated.

The Young Entrepreneur saw the need to create a brand from what has always been known as waste- palm kernel that people can relate not just by using the product but by telling others about the quality of what they are using on their shelves.

Mr. Johnson told Exhibit magazine that the strategy now is to increase the product line so that if you went to someone's bathroom, most of the lotions, oil, shampoo, face scrub, etc. should come from J-Palm Liberia.

"We want a larger share of what people use for personal care should come from us- J-Palm. We want this to be a one-stop-shop for personal care products. When you go to the J-Palm Facebook page, online store or supermarket, you can get all you need in one package. This will also increase the demands for palm kernel," Mahmud stressed.

Achieving this feat is not a walk in the park considering the challenges along the production line especially the supply of the palm kernel. So, Mr. Johnson is exploring all efforts to use available technological devices to enhance production from the

point of gathering the palm kernel to the finished product.

The J-Palm Liberia CEO said his company's primary focus in creating jobs for rural youth and women as well as increase the income opportunities for farmers in the oil palm industry.

"Our business will help farmers as J-Palm Liberia provide palm oil processing machines to small-scale producers which will, in turn, reduce the processing time by 75% and augment yields by 50%. We also purchase palm kernel from rural farmers that have always been used as waste resulting in about 35 percent increase in average income," he explained.

Within the next few years, the J-Palm Liberia vision bearer sees his company as the largest consumer goods company in Liberia by creating a range of organic products: from lotions and soap to margarine and advanced vegetable oil.

Ambitiously, Mahmud wants to create over 500 jobs for unemployed Liberians particularly young people in agriculture, transportation, and product packaging sectors.

More than that, J-Palm CEO is looking forward to using kernel shells to create clean energy products such as energy-efficient charcoal briquettes and biomass.

J-Palm is "incredibly proud and humbled to be able to create products that not only add value to our customers' lives but also enhance the lives of hundreds of our suppliers and employees."

# NASAL

National Aviation Students Association of Liberia



## Organization Profile

**National Aviation Students Association of Liberia (NASAL)** inc was organized by few Liberian graduates (D.Darius Smith & Mary T.Gwole) in Nigeria and Liberia on the 11th of January 2018. NASAL is a non-profit organization that is geared towards advancing our career within the aviation industry.

D. Darius Smith, a Liberian student with the passion and desire in becoming a commercial pilot, and hoping to bring back nation air carrier, (Air Liberia), brought this vision out to help his fellow students in the aviation sector to enlarge their career passion through seeking scholarship, training, partnership and sponsorship from all aviation entities, concerned Liberians donors, partners, the national government and foreign representative in Liberia.

It is involved with reaching out to students, graduates, professionals, and experts in the aviation industry to improve ourselves.

NASAL is aiming to become mandated to monitor and evaluate aviation educational programs delivery in all aviation schools and make a report to the Liberia civil aviation authority (LCAA) and all concerned.

The formation of NASAL is to engage in partnership with aviation institutions (airlines & schools) for industrial training before and after graduation of students.



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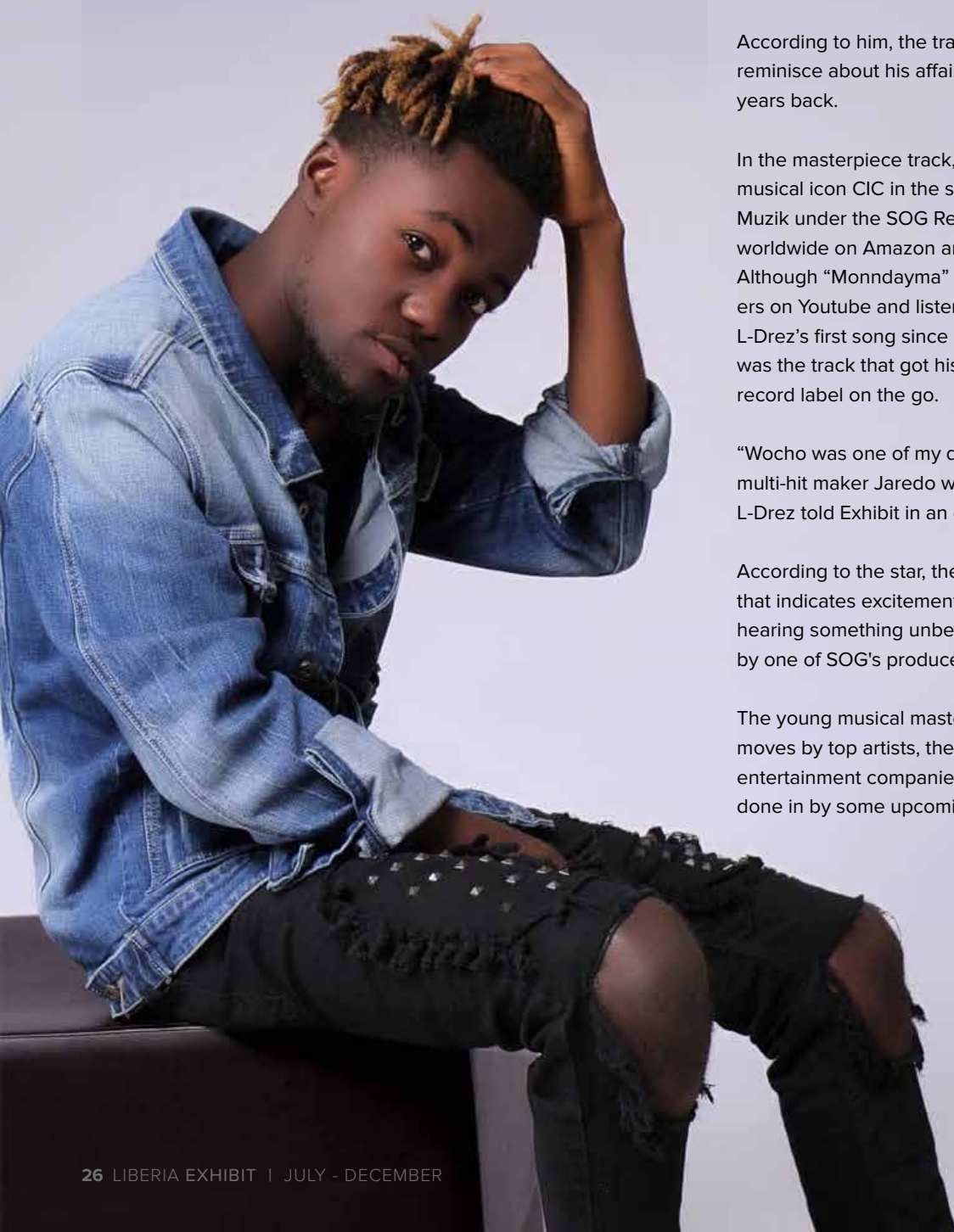
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## Made In Grand Bassa

# LDREZ

The Newest Hot  
*Hipce Kid*



**M**arphus T. Stewart alias L-Drez got his musical career off the ground based on his passion for the industry after discovering his talent that has landed in the company of some of Liberia's top stars in the music arena.

He told Exhibit in an interview "my music career got inspired by my passion for music after I discovered my talent a few years ago."

He was born in Montserrado County but his lineage to Grand Bassa through his father has not been abandoned evident by the release of his latest masterpiece tone dubbed "Mondayma" —a traditional Bassa girl name.

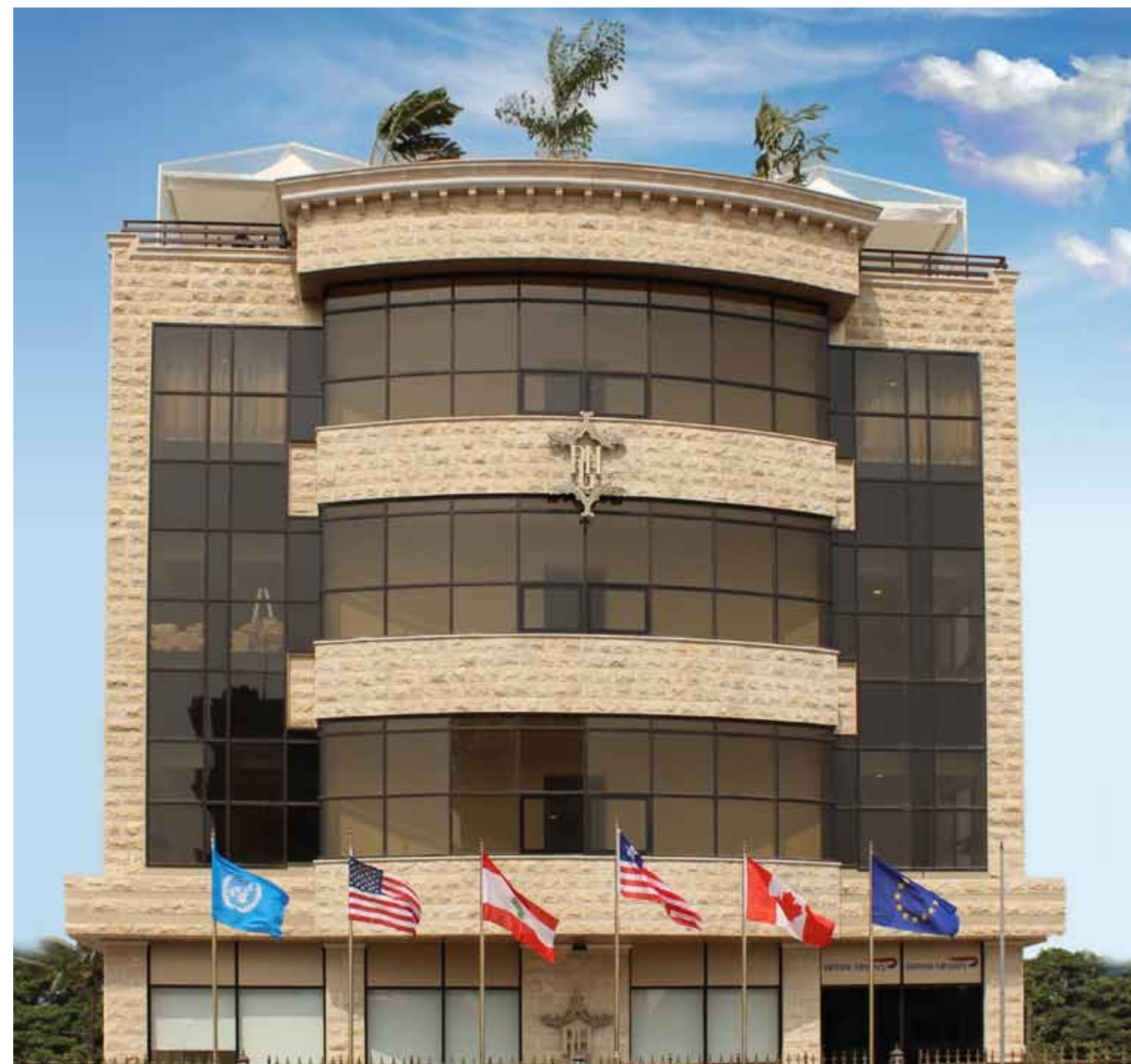
According to him, the track is a love vibe intended to reminisce about his affairs with an old partner in Buchanan years back.

In the masterpiece track, L-Drez teamed up with Liberia's musical icon CIC in the single produced by J Slught and J Muzik under the SOG Record label. The song is being sold worldwide on Amazon and iTunes at the pace of lightening. Although "Monndayma" has gotten thousands of viewers on Youtube and listeners on TunesLiberia.coo, it is not L-Drez's first song since he joined SOG Records. "Wocho" was the track that got his relationship with the international record label on the go.

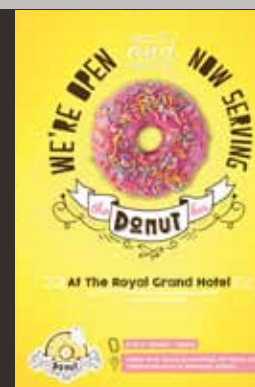
"Wocho was one of my debut singles I dropped featuring multi-hit maker Jaredo when I first joined SOG Records," L-Drez told Exhibit in an exclusive interview.

According to the star, the name "Wocho" is a Liberian slang that indicates excitement or being shocked by seeing or hearing something unbelievable. "The song was produced by one of SOG's producers called J Musik," he added.

The young musical mastermind would like to see more moves by top artists, the hosting of more shows by various entertainment companies and to market the work being done in by some upcoming and trending artists.



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# Dudu

## The Dumboy's Spicy Companion



Dumboy is a national cuisine of the fufu family but not fermented despite the similarity in appearance and texture to fufu. Instead, boiled cassava roots of few inches would be pounded in a mortar and often immediately served.

However, eating dumboy without the use of appropriate condiments takes away its 'Liberianness' let alone in the context of a typical Bassa citizen. Dudu is that companion that is almost irresistible and without which the starchy dough is incomplete for proper consumption.

Commonly, it is made of dried hot pepper, mashed bitter balls; okra and benny seed (sesame seed) are blended thoroughly and ladled atop of the cassava knot.

These condiments are delicious and they are mouth-wateringly named. They are collectively known as "dudu". If you want to have real experience in Grand Bassa, you must ask for more "dudu" on your dumboy and give it a test with a straight face. When you shall have had that experience, have a cross-cultural exchange with your hosts. They will get a real kick out of it when you tell them what "dudu" means to you.

Tour Liberia is a tourism website that was developed and is operated by New Technology Solution Inc, to enhance and promote the tourism sector of Liberia. It is Liberia's first centralized tourism website that allows travelers to book Hotels, Guest-houses, Tourist sites, Tour Operators, Car Rental Services, and many more. This platform enables business owners to set up their businesses example; Hotels, Cabs, Guest House, etc. to be booked by customers who want to use those services. visit TourLiberia on [www.tourlib.online](http://www.tourlib.online) to register your business free of charge. Terms and conditions apply.



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# Ellefoodie

## Eco-friendly, plastic-free Alternative

*It started as a personal passion-driven by her love for art & crafts and food, using locally sourced materials to make unique eco-friendly pieces for food presentation. She's a foodie, hence the name "Ellefoodie" and an entrepreneur, Rochelle Bannerman.*



Ellefoodie makes its signature pieces from the coconut shells, which are dominantly discarded as waste in Liberia. They are transforming coconut shells into eco-friendly homewares including bowls, coffee cups, candle stands, flowerpots and more. They are also known for making wooden utensils, platters, cutting boards, spoons, tropical and heart-shaped bowls, and their famous raffia baskets, earrings, up-cycled all-purpose bags, made from discarded potatoes sacks. All items are hand-crafted, reusable, environmentally friendly, and made locally by Liberians.

When you eat out of these coconut bowls, you're transported to a tropical paradise. Each coconut is cut, sanded and cleaned before being finished with an organic polish made from coconut oil and beeswax. It is literally eating from nature, they're 100% natural. Not to forget how amazingly natural they look – they'll do wonders for the planet and your smoothie bowl's 'Instagrammability'!

"My daily thought, what do we have locally? How can I transform them into usable items? I saw a huge opportunity, looking at all of the untapped talents we have combined with the natural resources, I kept thinking of ways to tap into that. My desire to do more grew as I became aware of my environment. All the plastic and harmful deposits in our soils.

I shared my idea on social media and got a lot of positive feedback. I was grateful that people saw where I was coming from, our need to take care of our environment and create beautiful eco-friendly alternatives. Considering the fact that these natural resources abound in Liberia, this was a good concept to build on, Ms. Bannerman said.

Given that jobs are scarce in this part of the world, Ms. Bannerman

believes utilizing the ideas in developing profitable ventures comes handy in providing employment for people and creating a source of income even in little ways. "What are you doing instead of complaining about things we don't have? Let's do something with our hands and the resources we have at our disposal."

We spot talented craft women/men and work with them to transform ideas into actual products.

For instance, I met a talented lady, Ma Nowah she makes woven materials. It's her only means of income, but she could hardly find a buyer and got discouraged. Now she's our main supplier, she gets her money upfront, though this work she could afford to purchase a piece of land over time. This is just to say we have the power to make a change" Rochelle narrated.

"It is not big right now but it is a start and I'm grateful. I will urge everyone to start purchasing goods that are safe, making a conscious effort to reduce waste and replace their one-use plastic materials with reusable option," she told Exhibit magazine in an interview.

With advent anti-plastic campaigns across the globe to avert environmental pollution that is impacting marine life and water as well as food chain and public health, Ellefoodie's innovation came just in time to introduce eco-friendly utensils, super safe for you and the environment that underpins eco-sustainable lifestyle.

Ambitiously, Ms. Bannerman is looking forward to providing more job opportunities by opening a big workshop that would employ and train many Liberians and in turn increase our productivity and meet the demand for our products.

Check them out on Instagram @ ellefoodie



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## Natural Luxury

# Exquisite Sunset Beach

*Located on the shoulders of Buchanan City, Sunset Beach is one of a kind gem in the crown of Grand Bassa County. The Beach has an unraveled up and coming beachfront resort on the golden sandy beaches of Grand Bassa.*

The band of predominantly natural grown coconut trees along the route to and on the beach is enough to get tourists awestruck with the soft wind from the cascading Ocean waves being the only catalyst to land in the serene of nature. Across its scenery, the beach is festooned with fossil stones and other sedimentary rocks and beach pebbles such as sandstone, shale, conglomerates, and breccias. The Exquisite Sunset Beach

is no strange brand name in life along the coast of the Port City of Buchanan. It is ideal for those keen about going to a crowded Liberian beach filled with performances from dancers, entertainers, musicians and event enthusiasts. Besides the elegance that this beach exudes, it provides a unique ecological service such as filtration of seawater especially the sandy feature. The bushes that enclose Sunset Beach present an opportunity for

opening an animal hub nearby since the beach's features are not being used.

As one of Grand Bassa County's greatest tourism assets, beach tourism, when fully utilized, would attract a large number of domestic and inbound tourists for a county with such a stunning coastline.

It is widely recognized that sandy beaches play a pivotal role in eco-tourism as locations for recreation and as attractions upon which tourism development forms its basis.

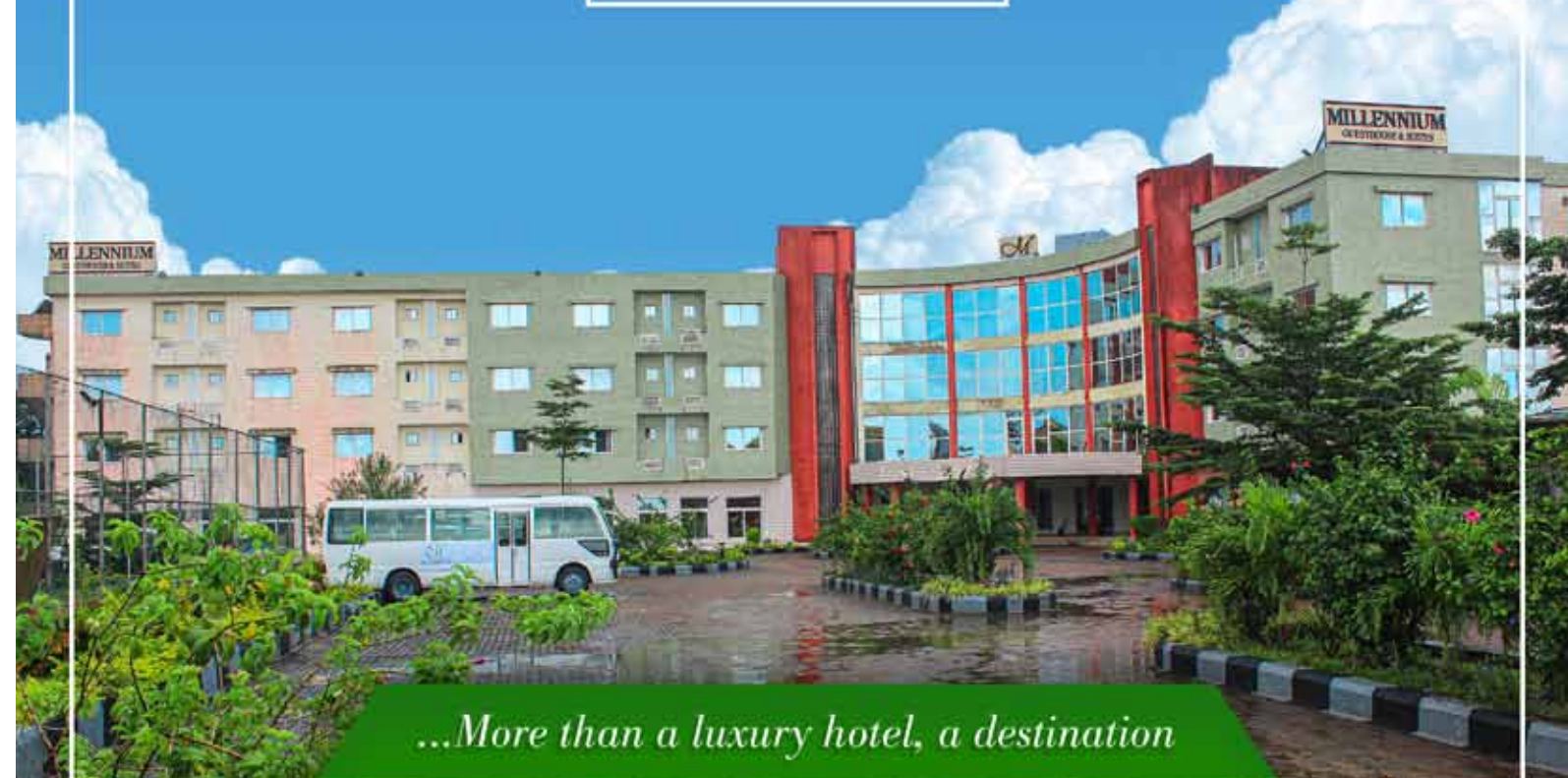
Being blessed with beaches, Buchanan is positioned to accrue the monumental benefits that come with them in terms of environmental, social and economic.

The coast of Grand Bassa features an avalanche of maritime resources with species such as marlins, swordfishes, whales and dolphins which offers significant opportunities for touristic services including sail fishing or whale and dolphin watching.

For the first time in Liberia's history, the country is pursuing a determined path towards developing tourism as one of its pillars of economic growth.

Efforts are well advanced to improve service delivery at Sunset Beach with the construction of beach bungalows, barefoot luxury- a little paradise on earth.

A visiting tourist said "Sunset beach is a great place to enjoy and relax. The beach is clean, the same as the water. A few rocks but still you have plenty of space to swim and a whole beach available to you."



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# A Glimpse of *Buchanan*



1

1. Buchanan seaport loading dock is the link from Liberia to the global market of trade
2. Tides control is paramount at any seaport and Buchanan port has that under control
3. The Atlantic ocean gently gracing the rocky Bassa shores
4. Grand Bassa Point Lighthouse stands 29 meters high and was erected in 1906
5. Roberts Street in Grand Bassa is the focal point of Buchanan City livelihood
6. Hotel Buchanan ultra-modern facilities embody luxury, style, and comfort
7. Hotel Buchanan swimming pool overlooking the Atlantic Ocean
8. Canoe rider on the St. John River
9. Ariel view of Hotel Buchanan swimming pool
10. Joseph Cyrus Varnes, former mayor of Edina City



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# St. John River

## A POTENTIAL SOURCE OF ENERGY

**U**nless cheap energy is available to beaches, resorts, hotels, bars, restaurants and other service providing businesses in Grand Bassa, like any other place in Liberia, tourism development will be elusive.

Tourism facilities typically use energy for lighting, communications, indoor space heating and cooling, water pumping and treatment, and the operation of office equipment. Facilities that offer food and lodging services may also require energy to prepare food, heat water for bathing and cleaning, provide laundry

services, and power equipment for guest entertainment. These activities require energy in the form of either electricity or heat.

Thankfully, the coastal county is endowed with the roaring St. John River that constitutes a large portion of waters in Grand Bassa. With its headwaters in neighboring Guinea, the river flows generally southwest through Liberia and empties into the Atlantic Ocean at Bassa Cove near Edina in Grand Bassa County.

The river is 175 miles (282km) long and 5,700 sq. miles basin size.

In 2017, a Chinese firm announced interest in building a 120 Megawatt Hydropower Dam on St. John River to supply electricity to Grand Bassa and neighboring counties.

According to a recent USAID report, since rural tourism operations are often in remote locations, ensuring a reliable supply of energy can be a special challenge. Therefore, planning for reliable energy is vital and impacts all decisions made at rural tourism facilities—since these areas may have

difficult access to fossil fuel supplies and no access to grid electric power.

With assessment already done jointly by the Ministry of Mines and Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the possibility of building a hydro dam on the St. John and a Chinese firm already contracted, electricity, as a lifeline essential could be well underway to Grand Bassa County to enable businesses in that part of Liberia thrive as far as service delivery in

the tourism sector is concerned.

Since the Government of Liberia under the leadership of President George Manneh Weah has endlessly emphasized that tourism is a sine qua non to economic diversification, getting this project off the ground would be a great boost to that policy pronouncement.

Besides the river's energy potential, the St. John River also has a variety of aquatic life in and along the shores of its length. Some of the species include the slender-snouted crocodile on the inland portion of the waterway; sixty-five other species of fish including mastacembelidae, barbus, eburneensis, chrysichthys johnelsi, killifish, electric catfish, Nile perch and tilapia among others. Birds also use the riverbanks and islands as nesting grounds, including the Three-cusped Pangolin, Palaearctic, Sandpipers, Greenshanks,

The river is so named because it was discovered on the feast day of St. John by 15th-century Portuguese navigators.

The average annual discharge of the St. John River is 136.06 m<sup>3</sup>/s (4,805 cu ft/s) as measured at the inland station of Baila. During the wet season in October, flows average 233.49 m<sup>3</sup>/s (8,246 cu ft/s), while in February during the dry season the flows average 18.95 m<sup>3</sup>/s (669 cu ft/s) at the same location.

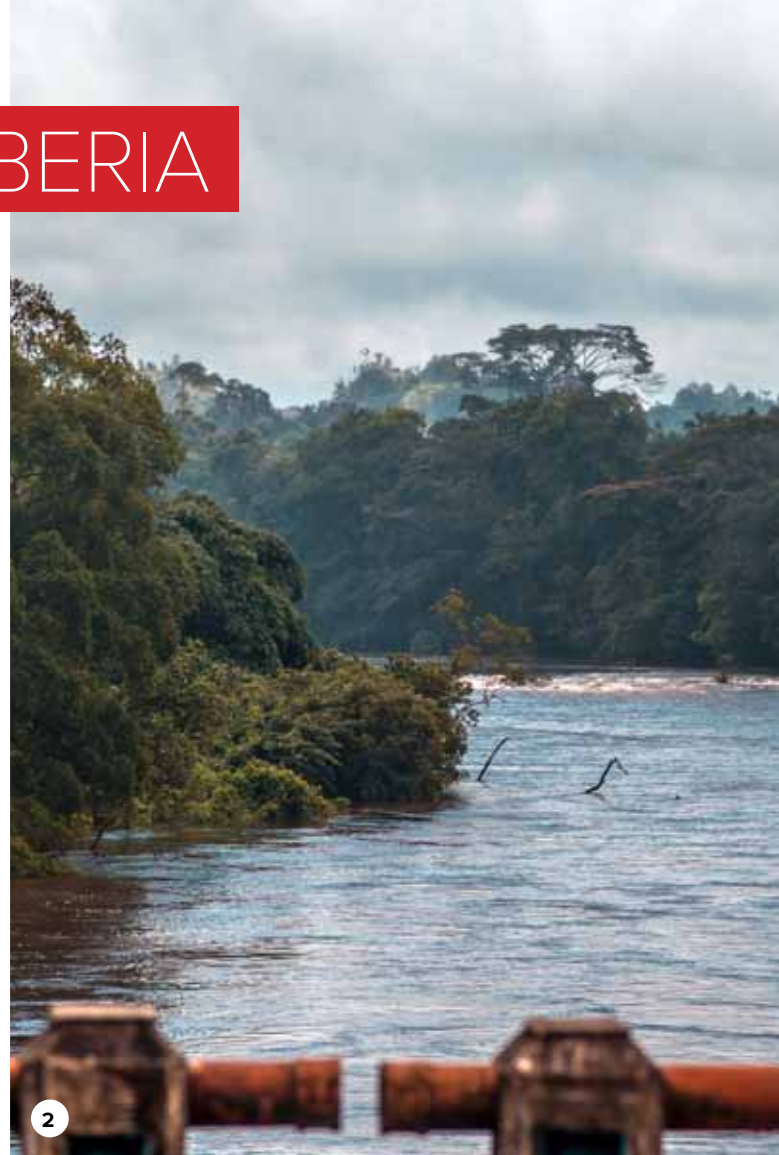




# TOUR LIBERIA



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1. Golfing in Harbel is a staple activity for inhabitants
2. The Farmington River runs for 75 miles and flows into the Atlantic
3. Lighthouse in Harper, Maryland County
4. The newly built Ministerial Complex in Congo Town stands tall in all its glorious stature
5. Newly constructed Roberts International Airport (ROB) is a traveler's favorite
6. Buchanan Highway connects Harbel to the city of Buchanan
7. Two Dutch tourists pose with plantation tappers
8. Learning to tap latex from the rubber tree (Hevea Brasiliensis) trunks is a tourist staple
9. Chinese tourist landing in the historical city of Buchanan
10. Harbel Community Church building



# Edina

## - HOME OF LIBERIA'S HISTORICAL LINEAGE



Colonial Architecture in Edina



Ruins of former president Joseph J. Cheeseman



Former colony treasury of Edina



The city of Edina is appealingly situated on the blond sandy beach of the Atlantic Ocean. The City is one of the settlements of freed slaves from America in the 1800s. It is an abode of many past Presidents of Liberia including Joseph J. Cheeseman and it was established in 1832. Another attraction is a bulky rusted safe - it was recovered from the foundations of the former governor's house.

Edina is also the birthplace of the Baptist Missionary and Education Convention in 1871 in Liberia through the effort of Joseph

James Cheeseman who eventually became its first President. Its landscape is awash monuments and gravesites of significant figures in Grand Bassa and Liberia's rich history. Elijah Johnson was the first city Mayor of Edina

The settlement is an ideal place with freshwater (the newcomers called it St. John River) and a stretch of shore on the Atlantic Ocean that seems promising for fishing and, perhaps, the construction of a port from which to engage in commerce. Virgin forests offered lumber for local use and commercial potential. A variety of palm trees

that produced oily nuts eventually gave rise to a booming business in palm oil. And, of course, there are naturally grown coconut, palms, and plantain and banana trees in abundance.

The community is named after Edinburgh, Scotland, which provided monetary support for the foundation of the settlement. Edina is a potential attraction for tourists due to its scenic beauties.

Thomas J. King United Methodist Church was established in the settlement in 1839.

According to the present City Mayor of Edina, Mr. Samuel A. L.

Johnson, the settlement is opened for business especially in tourism because historical artifacts abound and the role Edina played in the formation of what is today Liberia makes it ideal for researchers and tourists to come and see where the Oldest African Republic got its lineage.

"Many people have been visiting the settlement for relaxation due to the peaceful serenity of the area away from the bustling cities. Some of them would build tents on the beach and spend the night there- sometimes an entire weekend with their family without any fear," Mayor Johnson told Exhibit.

Even with only Police Officers assigned in Edina, Mayor Johnson bragged that the city is safe for anyone to visit.

For Joseph Cyrus Vines, former City Mayor of Edina (2004) said the settlement is also the birthplace of the Methodist Church in the 1830s.

He told Exhibit that when the settlers arrived in Grand Bassa, they set up their places of worship since they were already in search of freedom to worship. Hence, the first Methodist church was built in 1839, a few years before Liberia declared its independence in 1847.

"Edina was not part of Grand Bassa from the onset until in the 1850s. The evidence of this historical information abounds here but they are not organized for tourists to come and see. This could be another opportunity for job creation for our young people because when these tourists come, they would need tour guides, buy local consumables and put money directly in the pocket of the locals. I am hopeful the government would see the need to do something in Edina to preserve the historical sacredness of this settlement," Mr. Vines said.



# GENEALOGY OF THE *Methodist Church* *In Grand Bassa*



The Methodist Church (now United Methodist) planted its roots in Liberia in 1822, by black immigrants from the Americas. They came to Christianize and educate the indigenous Africans and enlist them in the cause of Christ on the Continent of Africa. They sought and received missionaries in 1833. The late Rev. Melvin B. Cox was the first missionary to Liberia. In 1854, the missionaries organized the Liberia Mission Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. It remained a missionary conference until 1964 when by an act of the General Conference, autonomy was duly authorized and Central Conference status was achieved.

In December 1965, the first session of the Liberia Central Conference was held at Mount Scott United Methodist Church in Harper City, Maryland County, Liberia. At this time the Rev. Stephen Trowen Nagbe, Sr. was elected bishop, the first Liberian to be elected and consecrated in Liberia

(our indigenous soil). The Rev. Dr. Bennie Dequincey Warner was the second Liberian to be elected as a bishop in 1973 following the death of Bishop Nagbe. Bishop Warner was elected at the third session of the Liberia Central Conference held at First United Methodist Church of Lower Buchanan, Grand Bassa County, Liberia, in 1980 of December, the Rev. Dr. Arthur F. Kulah was elected the third Liberia bishop. Bishop Kulah was elected at Miller McAllister United Methodist Church in Ganta City, Nimba County, Liberia. The election of Bishop Kulah came about because of the April 12, 1980 coup d'etat in Liberia and the departure of Bishop Bennie D. Warner who was also Vice President of the Republic of Liberia.

The Liberia Central Conference was dissolved in 1984 for the formation of the West Africa Central Conference, bringing together the Liberia Annual Conference, Sierra Leone Annual Conference, and the

Muri Provisional Annual Conference. The United Methodist Church, The West Africa Central Conference brings three countries together (Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone). The history of present-day Liberia dates from 1816 when the American Colonization Society, a private United States organization, was given a charter by the United States Congress to send freed blacks to the West Coast of Africa. The first settlers landed at the site of present-day Monrovia in 1822. In 1838, the settlers united to form the Commonwealth of Liberia, and on July 26, 1847, Liberia was declared an independent country, the first republic of Africa.

The Liberian Civil War in 1989-1997 caused much death, destruction of property and suffering for the Liberian people. For this reason, the church started ministries in the areas of relief, repatriation, resettlement, rehabilitation, reconstruction, and reconciliation. There will be additional church ministries in the next few years.

# ARTIFACTS OF THE *Colony of Liberia* *(Presidential Grave Sites in Edina)*



Bob Gray Monument



Former President Joseph J. Chessman's grave



Thomas Buchanan's Monument

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P R E S E N T

# EXCURSION

**EAST NIMBA NATURE RESERVE**

**YEKEPA, NIMBA COUNTY**



## DEPARTURE TO YEKEPA

**DECEMBER 07, 2019**  
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## December 07, 2019

- **DEPARTURE: 11:00 am from Sinkor @ Jos Travel & Tours Inc. - Royal Grand Hotel Compound**
- **5 hours' drive to Ganta City, Nimba County (260 km / 162 miles)**

Nimba County is a county in the northeastern Liberia that shares borders with the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire in the East and the Republic of Guinea in the Northwest. Its capital city is Sanniquellie and its most populous city is Ganta. Ganta, also known as Gompa City It is located south of the Guinea border. It is the second-most populous city in Liberia (2008 Census).  
(20 minutes stop - Snacks Break)

- **2 hours' drive to Sanniquellie City, Nimba County (37.7 km / 23 miles)**

Sanniquellie is a city and the capital of Nimba County and Sanniquellie-Mahn District, Liberia. It is located in the north-east of the country. The average altitude of the city is 420 metres above the sea level. It is known as the birthplace of O.A.U commemorating the efforts of the three founding fathers of a pan African alliance (William V.S Tubman of Liberia, Ahmed Sekou Toure of Guinea and Dr. Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana)

(30 minutes stop - Tour Break)

- **1 hour drive to Yekepa City, Nimba County**

Yekepa is a town in northern Nimba County in Liberia, lying near the Guinean border. It was the base for Lamco's iron ore mining operation until it was destroyed in the First Liberian Civil War which lasted from 1989 to 1997. During the late 1950s, iron ore was found in "the Iron Mountain" Mount Nimba. In a joint venture among the Liberian Government, US Bethlehem Steel, and the Swedish mining company Gränges, a huge project was set up: LAMCO-the Liberian-American Swedish Mining Company. The project contributed to economic and social development in Liberia for 30 years. It built the necessary infrastructure and operated mining, transporting ore by rail to the port of Buchanan, from where it was exported to other markets. The main ethnic groups in Nimba County are the Dan, also known as Gio and the Mano. The Dan, commonly known as the Gio, live closer to the Cote d'Ivoire border and the Mano live closer to the Guinea border.

- **ARRIVAL: 06:00 pm @ Alvino Hotel - Yekepa**

DINNER: The Canteen

## December 08, 2019

BREAKFAST: Alvino Hotel - Yekepa

- **DEPARTURE: 07:30 am from Alvino Hotel - Yekepa**
- **2 hours hike to Summit of East Nimba Nature Reserve, Nimba County**

The East Nimba Nature Reserve (ENNR) was established on October 10th, 2003, and covers an area of 11,553 hectares. Located in the North of Liberia, the Reserve borders both Guinea and Cote d'Ivoire and covers much of Liberia's share of the Mount Nimba Mountain Range. The Mount Nimba Range is recognized for its high animal and plant species diversity, and considered both internationally and nationally an area of highest conservation importance. At the same time, however, the Range is also known for its high quality iron ore deposits, resulting in high levels of extraction especially in the second half of the 20th century, accompanied by serious environmental destruction, including mountaintop removal, road construction and forest clearing. In ENNR, you can still see those past impacts today, for example the Blue Lake and its surrounding terraces. Since its establishment, ENNR is acknowledged as fully Protected Area under the Liberian law, and although it lies within ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML) iron ore concession area, the company recognizes its status and no mining takes place within ENNR today. The Reserve continues to protect both lowland and submontane forest and forms a stronghold for a number of endangered and endemic species, including the West African Chimpanzee, Jentink's Duiker, Leopard, Nimba Otter Shrew, Bare-headed Rockfowl, Nimba Flycatcher and the viviparous Nimba Toad. (Source: Fauna and Flora of Liberia)

- **2 hours tour of the East Nimba Nature Reserve Mountains, Lake and Waterfall**

LUNCH: Picnic on the Mountain in the ENNR (1.5 Hours)

- **2 hours hike down the Summit of East Nimba Nature Reserve, for departure from Nimba County.**
- **3 hours' drive to Ganta City, Nimba County**

(20 minutes stop - Snacks Break)

- **5 hours' drive to Jos Travel & Tours Inc. - Sinkor Royal Grand Hotel Compound Monrovia, Montserrado County (260 km / 162 miles)**

\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*

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**NOTE:** Maximum group size: 25 persons





## The Role of Bob Gray In Bassa Existence

**B**orn on January 1, 1800, Zangar Kadasie also known as Bob Gray was an influential King of the Bassa people on the Pepper Coast under whose reign the settlers battled with the locals for land in Grand Bassa. He was magnanimous in the protection of his people's inheritance against foreign encroachment.

King Bob Gray ensured that unity existed between the pioneers and the Bassa Ethnic Group following Bassa customs and traditions that require that strangers are treated with care, kindness, respect, and honor regardless of their motive. This led to Providence Island near the Mesurado River to

be given to the pioneers instead of being sold to them as they were negotiating.

During the "Fish War" in the 1830s, fleeing settlers ran to Edina, Bob Gray's control area, to seek refuge near the Bassa Fishing Village of Dynabian-win and Port Cresson.

King Kadasie made it possible for the establishment of the first missionary school in Edina and promoted the training of his kinsmen.

For this, the settlers built and monument in honor of Bob Gray for his building Edina and the Colony of Bassa Cove. This historic structure is still being preserved in the settlement.



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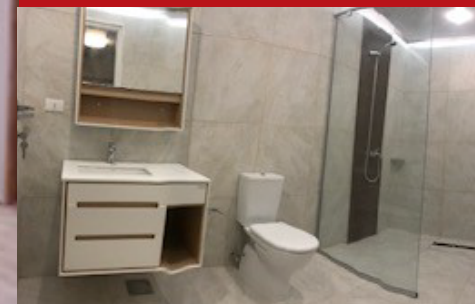
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## A New Beginning

# RIA-MONROVIA HIGHWAY ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT



**A US\$31.8 million project funded by the African Development Bank (ADB) to expand electricity to 45,000 new customers along the Monrovia-Roberts International Airport corridor was launched in Schiefflin, Margibi County on Wednesday, May 1, 2019.**

**U**nder the Liberia Energy Efficiency and Access Project (LEEAP), the project entails the construction of 66 Kilovolts (kV) double circuit transmission lines from Paynesville to RIA.

Two new substations of 66/22 Kv and 66/33 Kv will also be constructed in Schiefflin and Harbel in Margibi County as well as the construction of medium voltage/low voltage network in communities along the ELWA – RIA corridor;

The project is expected to develop the institu-

tional capacity at the LEC, Rural Renewable Energy Agency (RREA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME).

The LEEAP will aid the government in its post-conflict recovery drive. It will provide electricity to two major government installations along the RIA corridor, the Camp Schiefflin Military Barrack and the Robert International Airport (RIA); improve the living standards of beneficiaries and provide street lighting for the RIA Highway.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC), Paschal Buckley said that the electrification of the Monrovia-RIA Corridor will change the perception of people when they visit Liberia for the first time.

"This corridor is the beginning of the world (May 1) represents the gateway to Liberia, and it serves as the first impression to people when they arrive in the country and the Roberts International Airport to Monrovia for the first time," Buckley said.

According to him, people visiting the country have a negative impression about Liberia, adding that "the electrification of this corridor will rapidly change the impression of people when they visit Liberia for the first time."

"What we are doing here today is a symbol of the great work we are doing to restore electricity to Liberia," Buckley said.

The Electrification of the Monrovia-RIA Corridor, Liberia Energy Efficiency and Access Project is a US \$ 31.8 million project that is funded by the European Union (EU), African Development Bank and other partners intended to connect over 45,000 new customers to the national grid.

The project, which is a combination of loan

and grant, will be developed to provide 66 kilovolts (kV) dual circuit transmission lines from Paynesville to RIA to expand the LEC to that part of the country.

The project is also expected to develop the institutional capacity at the LEC.

Meanwhile, the LEC CEO has re-echoed warnings to individuals involved in power theft, pointing out that such an act is seriously hampering the economic growth of the country and depriving the government of lawful revenue.

According to Buckley, illegal connections to the national grid have been the cause of the over burning of LEC transformers in and around Monrovia.





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