



Nua, Kwaaku Musie - Citizens, Let's Wake Up!

Bong County Social Development Funds Accountability Project (BCSDF ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT)

By

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1.0. Executive Summary

The County Social Development Fund is of two sources in Bong County: Development fund directly allocated in the National Budget by the National Government every year, and social development fund (corporate social fund) paid by ArcelorMittal as social contribution for their operations in Bong County.

This corporate social fund has its origin from the Mineral Development Agreement signed between the Government of Liberia and ArcelorMittal, which obliges the company to pay US\$ 3 million annually, as social development funds, to the three affected Counties¹. This fund along with revenue generated from other sources in the county make up the county social development fund that is managed by the Project Management Committee guided by the budget Law.

Bong County gets US\$2.2 million yearly as County Social Development Funds from concession companies and the national government. China Union provides US\$1.75million, ArcelorMittal makes available US\$500,000, and MNG Gold gives US\$12,000. And as county development fund, the county also receives US\$200,000 from the Government of Liberia. Decisions about the usage of this money are made at the County Council Sitting by delegates from around the county.

“MORE THAN US\$3 MILLION COULD BE LOST TO CORRUPTION AND MISMANAGEMENT IF THE GOVERNMENT FAILS TO REFORM THE GOVERNANCE OF DEVELOPMENT FUNDS CONTRIBUTED BY MINING COMPANIES” - SDI Report 2011

Therefore, in November of 2018, delegates from across Bong County converged in Gbarnga to decide the appropriations of the county social development fund. The council is the highest decision-making of the county. On November 18, 2018, a resolution was signed by the County Council. US\$2.2 million was allotted for the implementation of various projects in the county, including support to the major health and education institutions in the county. Consequently, US\$1.7 million of the US\$2.2 million² approved for development purposes has since been expended with no single development project fully completed in the county.

The Project Management Committee (PMC) and local authority of Bong County made hundred percent payments to contractors for some projects, while some projects received fifty percent payments and above. Contracts awarded to contractors outside of competitive bidding, which is believed to be largely responsible for the poor implementation of projects in the county. There are signs of a systematic gross mismanagement of the county's development funds on the part of county leaders: The Project Management Committee, the administrative leadership of the county with little or no oversight from the county legislative caucus.

Thirty (30) Construction and/or Renovation Projects was approved on November 12 2018 County Council setting held in Gbarnga³. The document established that the Delegates also agreed direct funding support to eight (8) Institutions, across the seven (7) Electoral Districts of Bong County, including health, education, farmers' group, and the media⁴.

The project Management Committee (PMC), responsible for managing and monitoring projects and management of CSDF in Bong County, contracted eleven (11) construction companies to implement the county's projects. Some of the companies were given up to six (6) different projects in a single District, while others one or two⁵.

Total amount apportioned for the different projects as well as supports to institutions, from the November 12, 2018 County Sitting Resolution, was found at **Two Million Two Hundred Ninety Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Nine United States Dollars Eight Cent**

¹ Where is the Money (The Sustainable Development Institute - Report) 2011 Liberia

² PMC Financial Report (January 1, 2018 to February 6, 2020)

³ Bong County November 12, 2018 Resolution

⁴ Bong County November 12, 2018 Resolution

⁵ PMC Financial Report (January 1, 2018 to February 6, 2020)



(US\$ 2,297,759.08), which covers Outstanding Arrears Payments and completion of Past Projects in amount of US\$ 740,370.08; Sports Arrears for Bong County Sports Team US\$ 20,000.00; and District Development Projects (New Projects), US\$ 1,537,379.00. Most or all of the spending was done without contracts based on information obtained. Not any of the contracted companies or the PMC head provided a contract for any of the project in the resolution they implemented even though they were formally requested.

Generally, most of the contractors used community labor without pay based on community dwellers' testimonies and contracted companies failed to provide documented evidence to prove if they paid for communities' labors when the draft findings were sent to them. Additionally, most of the lawmakers claimed communities' projects as own contributions to the communities as testified by the community members.



2.0. Recommendations

Based on observations and discoveries in various communities across Bong County, during the recent assessment of Bong County Development Fund, we recommend the following to address the lack of accountability, mismanagement of the County Development Funds:

1. That the anti-graft institutions and the county attorney of Bong County investigate discrepancies observed in awarding construction contracts in Bong County
2. That those found culpable in such investigation be made to account for their actions through a court of law;
3. County Attorney of Bong County request all contracted companies who received funding from the Bong County Social Development Funds, pursuant to the 2018 County Sitting Resolution, without contract and BOQ for authorized implementation of projects be made to refund money received;
4. Bong County Accounts for developments remain frozen until the legal system for local government (Local Government Act 2018) is rolled out in the Bong County to ensure accountability.
5. Project Management Committee of Bong County ensures competitive biddings process before contractors are selected to implement projects in the county, and ensure list of qualified contractors with detailed information like names of heads of companies, contacts including emails and phone numbers, addresses of offices, etc., be made public for the use of the media and concerned citizens;
6. County lawmakers are not directly involved in the usage and implementation of funds for priority projects of the respective Districts, pursuant to the County Sitting Resolution, but rather play oversight roles and demand answers for expenditure disparity;
7. Communities dwellers themselves identify and prioritize projects that meet the immediate socio-economic needs of community dwellers, i.e. Communities make choices and implement projects that maximize their welfare in line with their needs and preferences, but not to fund hand-down projects and/or big-person-decided projects;
8. That Project Management Team (PMT) of every Community, especially communities of priority projects, familiarize themselves with their project(s), including knowing the blueprint, actual cost of the project, possible contractors, etc.;
9. That all non-project related funding having the characteristics of accruing personal or professional benefits be not captured under the County Social Development Fund (BCDF) as well as community allowances other than those with direct relevance to approved tasks under the priority projects;
10. The culture of monitoring and evaluation is weak, almost non-existent in many instances, hence, this culture needs to be strengthened and enforced; it is the continuity and regularity of monitoring and evaluation processes that will make successful community projects under the county development fund;
11. Government of Liberia ensure the gradual or full implementation of the Local Government Act of 2018;
12. Projects Appraisal Team be set up that will cause all priority projects identified and completed to be appraised based on BOQs to ensure that projects implemented follow acceptable standards in accordance with blueprints and estimated costs;
13. That the budgetary allotments for the County Authority's Administrative and Operations cost in the National Budget be made known to the County so to avoid the use of County Social Development Funds intended for tangible development for citizens in the county be used for County's administrations; and
14. Bong County residents should petition the County Attorney to file a lawsuit against contractors' company/PMC for restitution of funds to the Bong County's Account if requested legitimate contract and BOQs are not made available.



3.0. Introduction

Media and Civic Education Rural Liberia (MACE-Rural Liberia), Foundation for International Dignity (FIND), and Development Education Leadership Training in Action Human Rights Foundation (DELTA-HRF) jointly submitted a “Short Monitoring And Evaluation Project” to ForumCiv, to research and evaluate actual implementation of Development Projects and Direct Financial Support to some Institutions that were agreed upon, in the 2018 Resolution by Delegates, at the November 12, 2018 County Council Sitting, held in Gbarnga, Bong County.

This Report highlights the objective of the project, methodology of the research and evaluation used, field findings, conclusion, recommendations, and the engineer’s analysis of projects as an annex. The project was implemented between September and December, 2021.

3.1. The objective of the project

The objective is to ensure proper management and accountability of Bong County Social Development Fund and to promote the culture of engagement and evidence-based advocacy wherein civil society and rights-holders in Bong County can hold duty-bearers accountable for the management and use of public resources.

3.2. Research and Project Monitoring Methodology

MACE-Rural Liberia, FIND, and DELTA-HRF convened a meeting on September 10, 2021, at the DELTA-HRF Office in Gbarnga and discussed how they would go about the research and evaluation of the County Projects agreed on, pursuant to the Bong County Development Resolution developed and adopted on November 12, 2018. Series of meetings were planned and held using different styles and techniques to gather the generated data in this report.

Formal FOI requests were made to different institutions and stakeholders of the Bong County Development fund. Field visits, one-on-one interviews, group’s discussions, follow-ups on individuals and institutions, reports of other institutions and a desk review of related documents of the County Development and County Social Development Funds. Sharing of the draft report with authority of the County Development Funds, including the Bong County Legislative Caucus, for feedback was also a key part of our methodology.

4.0. Summary of Findings

4.1. Findings on Bong County Project Management Committee (PMC)

On September 14, 2021, the three collaborating Institutions sent an information request (FOI) to the Project Management Committee (PMC), asking for Copy of the November 12, 2018 County Sitting Resolution, list of contracts and contractors for all Projects, bills of quantity (BOQ) for all Projects as well as summary of both narrative and financial Reports pursuant to the 2018 County Sitting Resolution. In response, the PMC chair was able to provide an incomplete Resolution, with no signatures section.

However, not satisfied with what was provided by the PMC, the three collaborating Institutions again did another Communication to the PMC Chair, on November 14, 2021, with another FOI request, thus informing him that the Resolution received did not satisfy their request.

When the PMC Chair was not responding to the second request and considering the importance of obtaining these documents to enable the team credibly carry out the Research



Project, the three collaborating Institutions had to do an independent FOI request to each of the contracted companies.

Though we couldn't obtain any satisfactory information from the PMC nor the individual contracted companies written thereof, we were able to conduct our research based on other relevant documents, pertinent to the Projects, such as the November 12, 2018 Resolution, PMC Financial Report (January 1, 2018 to February 6, 2020) and PMC Summary Financial Update (January 1, 2019 to February 1, 2021), obtained from members of the Bong County Legislative Caucus and other credible sources.

We are glad to present, below, specific findings, including citizens' views and the engineer's technical analysis and assessment Report of projects implemented in the various districts, in keeping with the 2018 County Sitting Resolution.

4.1.1. Findings on JEAMCO Construction Company and Projects implemented

JEAMCO was accordingly contracted by the Project Management Committee (PMC) to implement five (5) Projects in Bong County, pursuant to the County Sitting Resolution. Four Projects are found in Electoral District # 1, to include Commissioner's Residence in Rockcrusher – Kokoyah, Elementary School in Behweh Town, Clinic Project in Ula Town, and Elementary School Project in Malonkai, while the one in Electoral District # 3 is Renovation of Superintendent Compound, in Gbarnga City.

The below are what was found out about the projects executed by JEAMCO:

4.1.1(a)- Project: Commissioner Residence Construction; Kokoyah District, Bong County; Project Cost: US\$45,000; Paid: US\$15,000 (No check details and date of fund payment in the PMC financial report)



Commissioner Residence Project Site

Mary Kwenah, District Commissioner showed us the site where the project should have been implemented. There was no work ongoing. The Commissioner said that there had been no information from the PMC nor the contractor about the work. As a result of the delay in constructing the residence for the commissioner, she has built her own place that is almost completed using her own resources.

Contractor's Response about this Project:

Meanwhile, the Management of JEAMCO did not respond to request to address concerns gathered from the various communities where the company is implementing the project. Jefferson Dennis, the head of the company referred our team to the Bong County Project Management Committee (PMC), headed by Stephen J. Mulbah Jr. for the information about the projects.

4.1.1(b)- Project: Construction of Elementary School, Behweh Town, Boinsen District; Project Cost: US\$ 22,500.00; Amount paid: US\$



15,000.00 (No check details and date of fund payment in the PMC financial report)

Citizens of Behweh Town told the team that the School Project was initiated by the Government through their Representative, though the community started preliminary works, such as producing of bricks, gathering of sand, and other local materials.



However, things turned out the other way. The project stopped and this saddened the community after tireless efforts.

Everyone spoken to at the project site expressed serious disappointment in the way the project is being executed and blamed it all on the County Authority and the PMC for the delay and poor handling of the project.

Elementary School under Construction in Behweh Town

The independent engineer said US\$15,000.00 payment made towards this construction is no way a match for the work done. However, more details or findings are enshrined in the engineer’s technical report.

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Contractor’s Response about this Project:

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4.1.1(c)- Project: Construction of Clinic, Ula Town, Boinsen District; Project Cost: US\$ 22,500.00; Amount Paid: US\$15,000.00 (No check details and date of fund payment in the PMC financial report)



Testimonials obtained from community members had it that the community provided sand and crushed rocks; community members also dug the foundation of the Clinic, free of charge – no one cent given as compensation. According to the citizens, after all this, work has been at a very slow pace and the contractor has not been seen in the community for more than a year now, according to community members.



The team also noticed piles of sand and rocks on ground, but it appeared that no work has been done for quiet long time and the project is being deserted. Though 66.67% payment made against this project, the structure remains unfinished and is left abandoned; the people of Ula Town are still hoping to have their Clinic completed and ready for use.

As per engineer, "The height of the building is low, the rocks used are not standard (laterite rocks) as well as the sand contained foreign materials".

Contractor's Response about this Project:

Meanwhile, the Management of JEAMCO did not respond to request to address concerns gathered from the various communities where the company is implementing the project. Jefferson Dennis, the head of the company referred our team to the Bong County Project Management Committee (PMC), headed by Stephen J. Mulbah Jr. for the information about the projects.

4.1.1(d)- Project: Elementary School Construction; Malonkai Town, Tokpablee District; US\$22,500.00; Amount paid: US\$ 15,000.00 (No check details and date of fund payment in the PMC financial report)

Community provided sand and crushed rocks for the project, dug the foundation with no pay but were provided food, accordingly to the Town Chief. Construction of the Elementary School started but work stopped at window level. From views sampled and analysis of project itself, the project is at a standstill though citizens labeled it as being abandoned. As per the engineer's technical analysis, "the sand has foreign materials as well as the rocks which he thinks do not suit the construction work because those items are not up to standard".



Elementary School under Construction in Malonkai Town

Contractor's Response about this Project:

Meanwhile, the Management of JEAMCO did not respond to request to address concerns gathered from the various communities where the company is implementing the project. Jefferson Dennis, the head of the company referred our team to the Bong County Project Management Committee (PMC), headed by Stephen J. Mulbah Jr. for the information about the projects.



4.1.1(e)- Project: Renovation of Superintendent Compound; Gbarnga, Electoral District # 3, Bong County; Project Cost: US\$50,000.00; Paid: US\$ 26,000.00 (Checks No: 97792/97797 dated 05/03/2020)



Pictorial of Superintendent Residence

The Superintendent's Compound is the official residence of Bong County Superintendent and government officials or guests who visit the County are also hosted in this building. More details in the engineer's report.

Contractor's Response about this Project:

Meanwhile, the Management of JEAMCO did not respond to request to address concerns gathered from the various communities where the company is implementing the project. Jefferson Dennis, the head of the company referred our team to the Bong County Project Management Committee (PMC), headed by Stephen J. Mulbah Jr. for the information about the projects.

4.1.2. Specific Findings on GEOSKPOE and Projects implemented:

GEOSKPOE was awarded four Projects: Two in Sanoyea and Gbamokollie-ta, Sanoyea District, and the last two are in Bong Mines and Handii, Fuamah District. Findings are below:

4.1.2(a)- Project: Maternal Waiting Home; Sanoyea Town, Sanoyea District; Project Cost: US\$ 15,000.00; Paid: US\$13,000.00 (Check No: 97823, dated 18/08/2020)

As community dwellers spoken, Rashida Vuku Yambasu and Noah Giddins said that about two years ago, the community cleared the project site, gathered sand, and moulded some bricks. The engineer could not give any technical statement about the project as there was nothing on site for assessment even though US\$ 13,000.00 has been paid.



Maternal Waiting Home in Sanoyea

Contractor's Response about this Project:

The Management of GEOSKPOE did not also consider responding to the request for response to allegations from the project communities. The Management further threatened to take project team to court if this report is published.



4.1.2(b)- **Project: Clinic Construction; Gbamokollie-ta, Sanoyea District; Project Cost: US\$22,500; Paid: US\$ 15,000.00** (no Check details but payment done on 05/03/2020)

Some community members, including Assistant Town Lawrence Fallah said the community provided local materials, like rocks, sand and local wood.

Construction has started, and work is at window level. And the community members informed the team that work has stopped long ago which has led to the structure being overtaken by bushes.



60%, constituting US\$ 15,000.00 of project cost, has been paid. According to the engineer, the materials used (like the sand and rocks) are substandard and the amount paid is more than the work being done now.

Clinic Project in Gbamokollie-ta

Contractor’s Response about this Project:

The Management of GEOSKPOE did not also consider responding to the request for response to allegations from the project communities. The Management further threatened to take project team to court if this report is published.

4.1.2(c)- **Project: Renovation On Commissioner Compound; Handii; Project Cost: US\$ 25,000; Paid: US\$24,943.95** (Check No: 97823, dated 18/08/2020)



Renovated Commissioner Compound in Handii

Some community members, including Commissioner Aaron Mulbah and his Administrative Assistant told the team that the work was not satisfactorily done, building’s tiles not changed, doors not changed but only painted, sliding windows not properly installed, and sub-standard inside locks installed; no water system in the building and electrical wiring of the building not properly done; and part of the roof is leaking.

The cost of the project is US\$ 25,000.00 and US\$ 24,943.00 (99.8%) of the project cost is already paid. The engineer concluded that the work was not properly done in its entirety, consistent with the amount paid.

Contractor’s Response about this Project:

The Management of GEOSKPOE did not also consider responding to the request for response to allegations from the project communities. The Management further threatened to take project team to court if this report is published.



4.1.2(d)- Project: Renovation of Recreation Center, Bong Mines, Fuamah District; Project Cost: US\$ 15,000.00; Paid: US\$ 13,000.00 (Check No: 97789, dated 05/03/2020)

The amount of US\$ 15,000.00 was approved in the 2018 County Sitting Resolution to renovate the Recreation Center in Bong Mines, Fuamah District. Out of that amount, US\$ 13,000.00 has already been paid to the contractor but no work has been done.



Pictorial of Recreation Center to be renovated in Bong Mines

During the team’s visit to the project community, Commissioner Aaron Mulbah said that he has no information about this project. In his presentation, he told the team that he has made tireless effort to find out from the PMC Chairman, Stephen J. Mulbah, Jr.,

about the status of the project, but the PMC Chair referred him to his District lawmaker, Rep. Joseph Papa Kolleh.

After disbursement of S\$13,000.00 against US\$ 15,000.00 of project cost, the Recreation Center still remains in its deplorable state.

Contractor’s Response about this Project:

The Management of GEOSKPOE did not also consider responding to the request for response to allegations from the project communities. The Management further threatened to take project team to court if this report is published.

4.1.3. Findings on SESAY BROTHERS Construction Company and the Projects implemented

The Sesay Brothers Construction Company is one of the contractors that the PMC awarded four (4) Projects for implementation. The projects include construction of Baryata and Yarkala Bridges in District #2; Meleen-at Town Hall in District 1; 4 Hand-pumps in 4 communities in Boi-ta, Zeansue, Karyata, and Phebe Airstrip; and supply of farmers’ tools for Bong County and earth work for the Gbarnga Street project.

In addition to the four projects labeled above, the team found out that the Sesay Brothers received several other payments under liabilities, discussed below.

4.1.3(a)- Project: Baryata and Yarkala Bridges; District # 2; Project Cost: US\$90,000.00; Paid: US\$ 50,000.00 (Check No: 99552, dated 18/08/2020)

Under this project, two bridges were identified. Some community members and local leaders of Baryata, including the chief town, George Mulbah and the women leader, Miatta Tony, informed the team that Hon. Prince Moye told them that money was allocated in the 2018



Resolution for construction of the bridges and that Sesay Brothers was hired to undertake the project.

True to Sen. Moyo's statement, Sesay Brothers moved in the community and had a meeting



Constructed Baryata Bridge in District 2

with the citizens concerning the bridge project. In that meeting, the proprietor, Ansu Sesay asked the citizens to clear the project site, provide sand, build the warehouse for materials storage, and provide unskilled labor to help in the construction process. The request was accepted, and everything was done accordingly. However, Sesay Brothers rejected the community's offer of providing security for the warehouse and brought in their own security,

according to the citizens. Also, according to the citizens, those who helped the company during the construction process were not paid for their labor

From the team's assessment, Baryata Bridge, first bridge in line, is at the level of completion and it just needs some minor works, like back filling and installation of culvert, to a place that was opened as water way during the construction process.

According to the engineer, the Baryata Bridge is far overestimated considering the total circumference and mathematical analysis of the bridge, where also, sand and local labor were provided by the community at no cost.

Contractor's Response about this Project:

Before the commencement of the bridge project, the Management of Sesay Brothers held several meetings with the citizens regarding the project activities. The citizens agreed to provide local materials (sand, round poles, etc.). To date, the Sesay Brothers does not owe any citizens or workers for project works done on the Bayata Bridge. In order to exhibit transparency and accountability, the company worked with the citizens individually as well as collectively through their District Development Committee's Chairman, Mr. Martin Geodo and Mr. Silas Yarkpawolo who served as warehouse supervisor.

It is difficult to comment on the overestimated costing of the Baryata bridge project as mentioned in the draft report. Firstly, the owner of the project Bong County/Bong County administration has an engineer for the management of the county and social development funds. Besides, based the costing of this project, and quality of the bridge to be constructed, the structural and civil engineers from the Ministry of Public Works were also involved in the construction process. But your draft report failed to indicate the identity of the engineer who stated that the bridge was overestimated. In such a technical report, it is very necessary to be clear about information in order to give opportunity for clarity.

TEAM'S RESPONSE TO THE CONTRACTOR'S COMMENT:

The contractor's response seems good but does not provide any documents to validate this response; even though, information that could have confirmed the above response requested was never provided.



4.1.3(b)- Project: Farmers Tools for Bong, Bong County; Project Cost: US\$ 30,000.00; Paid: US\$ 20,000.00 (Check No: 99556/412871, dated 18/08/2020)

According to the County Inspector, the then Farmers Coordinator, Moses Stubblefield, he received US\$ 5,000.00 worth of tools from the Sesay Brothers, for distribution to farmers.

Also, the team made a follow-up with Steve Matthew, Agriculture Coordinator to validate the Sesay Brothers' claim of providing additional tools of US\$ 8,000.00 to the Agriculture Coordinator, Steve Matthew confirmed receipt of 4,484 pieces of tools, produced at US\$ 1.65 and that he has started distribution. However, when the team requested for records of the tools received, he promised to meet the team at a later date in that regard.

Contractor's Response about this Project:

The Management of Sesay Brothers received the amount of (USD13,000.00) Thirteen United States Dollars from the county and social development funds to procure farming tools for farmers in Bong County. This amount was disbursed in two phases; the first payment amounted to (USD5,000.00) Five Thousand United States Dollars. The company procured USD5,000.00 worth of farming tools and delivered to Mr. Moses Stubblefield for onward to distribution to the farmers. The second and final payment also amounted to (USD8,000.00) Eight Thousand United States Dollars. In the same vein, the company also procured USD8,000.00 worth of farming tools and delivered to Mr. Steve Matthew, Agricultural Coordinator (cell phone number 0886-979-768) for onward distribution to farmers in Bong County.

TEAM'S RESPONSE TO THE CONTRACTOR'S COMMENT:

The information is good, but the figure provided in the PMC's financial report is different and the two checks issued in the financial report totaled the amount of US\$ 20,000.00 instead of US\$ 13,000.00 as claimed by the contractor. More besides, the contractor and the recipients of the tools did not submit any documents to authenticate their exploration.

4.1.3(c)- Project: Meleen-ta Town Hall, District # 1, Bong County; Project Cost: US\$ 25,000.00; Paid US\$ 18,000.00 (Check No: 99553, dated 18/08/2020)

the Development Chairperson, in person of K. B. Moses Kpowor informed the team that they



Piles of sand and crushed rocks at Project Site in Meleen-ta

were told that project was part of Senator Henrique Tokpa's 'County Development Package' and the Sesay Brothers was responsible to do the work. According to him, they told the contractor their quest was a guest house and not a Town Hall because there they have one already.

The Development Chairperson also informed the team that, on hearing that the project was Dr. Tokpa's self-initiative, he visited Senator's Office to

request the blueprint of the building – that was the only way the community would allow the project to go on, but their request is yet to be honoured and neither the Senator nor



Sesay Brothers has made available the blueprint of the project to the community. However, the team also observed that contractor only carried crushed rocks and sand to the project site, after 72% (US\$18,000.00) of project cost was paid more than a year now.

Contractor’s Response about this Project:

As far as the 2018/2019 County Council Sitting Resolution is concerned, Sesay Brothers Company was to construct a town hall for the citizens of Meleen-ta. The company is not in the know whether this project was a self-initiative venture for Dr. Henrique F. Tokpa. However, the delay in the implementation of the proposed town hall project has never been caused by the company. Upon the resolution of the proposed town hall project, the citizens in the project area informed, and requested the Sesay Brothers to change the proposed project from town hall to guest house, because according to the citizens in Meleen-ta, they already have a town hall, so they would prefer a guest house. In response, the company requested the citizens to re-direct their request to the project own, the Bong County Administration. Based upon this understanding, the citizens expressed their interest to the Project Management Committee (PMC). There and then, it was agreed that the proposed town hall project be changed to guest house. The blue print was developed with the know of the citizens and the PMC with a new costing

Don't forget to note that during these different discussions amongst the stakeholders, the construction of the new proposed guest house project duration has almost elapsed at the time of the rainy season. As you may be aware, rainy season negatively impact project implementations. Secondly, the citizens agreed to mobilize local resources (sand, etc.) but this was extremely difficult, if not impossible to dig sand from the river during the peak of the rainy season. Now that we are in the dry season, it has been agreed that by January 2022 the citizens will dig the sand in order to have the proposed guest house projected started for completion

TEAM’S RESPONSE TO THE CONTRACTOR’S COMMENT:

The collaborating organizations are Liberian-owned and also know that construction works can take place during rainy season. Service for the purchase of sand is still available during rainy season evidenced by the pile of sand and rock; unless the company is saying that this should have been the community dwellers’ contribution as claimed.

4.1.3(d)- Project: Hand Pumps Project, Jorquelleh District; Project Cost: US\$ 15,000.00; Paid US\$12,500.00 (Check No: 99555, dated 18/08/2020)



One of the hand pumps built in Zeansue

US\$ 15,000.00 was allotted in the 2018 County Sitting, for construction of four hand pumps in four Communities, namely Boi-ta, Zeansue, Phebe Airstrip Community, and Karyata. All four hand pumps were constructed. However, in three of communities, community members informed the team that the hand pumps are the initiative of Senator Henrique Tokpa. Additionally, in Boi-Ta, citizens contributed L\$ 100.00 per household, their contribution towards the project.



One of the hand pumps built in Boi-Ta

Contractor’s Response about this Project:

The Management of Sesay Brothers wishes to reiterate that it cannot response to political statements or what could be related to political matters. Sesay Brothers was implementing projects which have technical interpretations and not political issues. The management of Sesay Brothers will highly appreciate were the team redirect political issues to the owner of the project, and not the implementer of the project. Besides, at no point in time where citizens in Boi-ta paid alleged L\$100.00 to the company.



TEAM’S RESPONSE TO THE CONTRACTOR’S COMMENT:

The collaboration organizations were very clear in their findings that the citizens informed the team of collecting LD\$100.00 each as their contributions to the hand pump project in Boi-ta.

4.1.3(e)- Project: Completion of a Clinic, Kayata – District 5; Project cost: US\$ 25,000.00; Paid: US\$ 10,000.00 (Check No: 99554, dated 18/08/2020)

During the 2018 County Sitting, the amount of US\$ 25,000.00 was agreed in the Resolution to complete the Kayata Clinic which has been under construction for some time.

Community members including Town Chief Flomo Sible, Clan Chairlady Rebecca Doumah, Clan Youth Chairman William Bomosee, Town Youth Chairman Habakkuk Leetor, Former Clan Youth Chairman Samuel M. Canmu, and Resident Papie T. Sumo informed the team the Clinic Project started in 2005, through the initiative of Dr. Henrique Tokpah and his family as their give-back to the community. However, the people



Karyata Clinic under renovation

of the community assisted in providing some local materials, such as bricks, sand, and crushed rocks. But after a few years of work and due to slow pace of construction work for stop of funding from Dr. Tokpa and his family, citizens held a fundraising program and every cent raised was again used on the project.

Yet still that couldn’t complete the work so the community, through its former Clan Youth Chairman Samuel M. Canmu, wrote USAID to help in completing their Clinic Project, and through its Quick Impact Project Program, USAID committed US\$ 25,000.00 towards the project but under a condition that disbursement of fund would be done only through a legally established recommended Contractor. Consequently, US\$ 12,500.00 of initial amount was made available; however, the community was unable to secure the balance due to delay in implementation until the USAID Program came to end.

Nevertheless, with desire to have a clinic in their community, the community approached Madam Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, former President of the Republic, to help as well. She then recommended allotment be made from the County Fund to complete the Clinic project. To that effect, US\$ 15,000.00 was again allotted. Construction works including roofing and zincking were done.

Then in 2019, the community was informed that US\$ 25,000.00 was allotted from the County Sitting to complete the Clinic Project. Community then again gathered sand, crushed rocks, and supplied local labor force to help. Now, construction work is ongoing, and every part of the project, this time, is well monitored. Also, Community was informed that US\$ 12,500.00 was transferred to the Contractor for the current work that’s being done.



Cross-section of citizens in talk with team member, Moses S. Bailey at Karyat Clinic Project Site

The team observed that work is ongoing on the Clinic project and satisfactorily, as expressed by the people of Karyata and seen by the team. The Engineer's statement is included in the Technical Report, attached to this Report.

Contractor's Response about this Project:

As mentioned earlier, the Management of Sesay Brothers should not be held liable to response to political issues concerning projects. More than that, the company cannot response to historical backgrounds that it is not in the know of. Like other projects, the Kayata Clinic Project is one of those projects that were resolved during the 2018/2019 county council sitting resolution. Also, citizens provided sand based upon understanding, and those local materials were paid for. You will agree with the company that citizens could have never provided crushed rocks which carried huge costs. So it is the company that provided those crushed rocks and not the citizens as claimed by the citizens. The citizens also did not provide free labour. All project activity works were paid for. Besides, the citizens were already informed that the project was contracted to Sesay Brothers, how kind they are claiming that they provided free services

TEAM'S RESPONSE TO THE CONTRACTOR'S COMMENT:

The information seems good but legally a company established should always keep account of things to save the face of the company. If the company sincerely paid for the community service as claimed in the response, why the company can make available payment records to the collaborating organizations to validate this claim.

4.1.4. Findings on Independent Construction and the Projects implemented

Independent Construction is implementing the three projects in District 4, including the Sheankpala Bridge, Jorwah Youth Center, and Foequelleh Maternal Waiting Home but with no visibility in the county. Even citizens of district 4, where the company has 3 projects, do not know much about who owns the company, office address, workforce, etc.

One Moses Gbamo (0880759609) who accordingly resides in Belefana, Zota District is the owner of the company. He received the information request filed by the three organizations. Gbamo, however, did not make available any information to the organizations about the projects he is implementing.

2.1.4(a)- **Project: Completion of Youth Center, Jorwah, District # 4; Project cost: US\$ 15,000.00; Paid: US\$ 13,000.00** (Check No: 97821, dated 18/08/2020)

US\$ 15,000.00 was made available in the 2018 Resolution to complete the Youth Center. Community members, including Town Chief Anthony Gomuyor told the team that the former lawmaker of the District, Hon. Lester Paye started the project but was unable to complete



until his tenure ended. But it was the community that provided bricks and unskilled labor force for the project.

According to community members, Rep. Womba did not only bring his own contractor to do



Under Completion Youth Center in Jorwah

the work, but he also told the citizens in Jorwah that the project is self-initiated and every cent put in the project is from his pocket. The team noticed that there is no Project Management Team in place and construction work has stopped. According to the engineer, the allotment made towards this project is very huge and does not commensurate with the work done, based on the fact the structure was already at window level and citizens provided bricks and unskilled labor with no pay.

Contractor’s Response about this Project:

Independent Construction Company did not respond to requests made to them to address concerns raised from their projects’ communities

4.1.4(b)- Project: Completion of Maternal Waiting Home, Foequelleh, District 4; Project cost: US\$ 25,000.00; Paid: US\$ 24,253.10 (Check No: 97784/97820, dated 05/03/2020)

The Maternal Waiting Room Project is an old-age project, built as solution to decrease maternal mortality.

According to Town Chief Darkeh Woketeh; clan youth president, S. Allousious Kollie; and Women Representative, Suah Dada, the construction of the Maternal Waiting Home Project



Completed Maternal Waiting Home in Foequelleh

started in the 70s, but it was at a very slow pace, and even abandoned at 5-course level; the former representative, Lester Paye continued the work from that level to roof level. Unfortunately, the project was not completed before his tenure elapsed in 2017.

So when the new lawmaker, Rep. Robert F. Womba took seat, he too decided to continue from where his colleague had stopped. He did the roofing, plastering, and painting of the building. He also informed the community that the project was financed by him. The team was further informed that there was no PMT setup to monitor the project and even the contractors unknowingly started construction works without any meeting with community leadership and members.



According to the engineer, the fund used for completion works on the Foequelleh Maternal Waiting Home is huge.

Contractor’s Response about this Project:

Independent Construction Company did not respond to requests made to them to address concerns raised from their projects’ communities.

4.1.4(c)- Project: Construction of Bridge, Sheankpala – District # 4; Project cost: US\$\$ 80,000.00; Paid: US\$ 40,000.00 (Check No: 97783 /97819, dated 05/03/2020)

US\$ 80,000.00 was apportioned in the 2018 Resolution by the County to build the Sheankpala Bridge. Views of citizens were gathered. The Clan Chief of Gbaquellie Clan, Mr. Isaac D. Malayea informed the team that it was their district lawmaker, Rep. Robert F. Womba, who constructed the bridge.



Pictorial of Constructed Sheankpala Bridge

“Our lawmaker told us that the money put in the County Sitting Resolution for the bridge project was eaten so he himself used his own money to build our bridge”, said by the Clan Chief. He informed the team that local materials, like sands, crushed rocks, as well as labor force, were supplied by them, at no cost nor was any money given to them.

It was also observed that, during the execution of the bridge project, there was no Project Management Team (PMT) in place to monitor the bridge project. Also, the community members told the team that only one person was brought to do the construction.

According to the engineer, the project is heavily over estimated, looking at the



Team member Moses S. Bailey in discussion with community members from Sheankpala

circumference of the bridge and the amount of US\$ 80,000.00 allotted, as the bridge technically lacks borehole system, with no pedestrians’ walkway and the height of the bridge is low because the bridge is situated between two hills.

Contractor’s Response about this Project:

Independent Construction Company did not respond to requests made to them to address concerns raised from their projects’ communities.



4.1.5 (a) Findings on Korleh and Son Construction Company

Korleh and Son has just one project, the Gbarlorkpalah Bridge in Tokpablee District. From the PMC financial report, Korleh and Son Construction Company received US\$20,000.00 against US\$40,000.00, on August 18, 2020, with Check No: 99565. The community largely contributed to the project by digging sand, diverting the water to enable the engineer to lay the foundation for the project without pay. All these were reportedly done free, according to the town's citizens.



Constructed Gbarlorkpalah Bridge in Tokpablee District

the water bank, so when heavy rain falls and overflows the bank of the water, the back filling will definitely wear away.

The team noticed that the bridge is not completed: the backfilling is not done yet thereby preventing motorists from using the bridge. The contractor has left the community more than a year now, according to the citizens.

According to the engineer, the barrier or railing thickness is not constant, some part is 5", 4" & 3", meaning it is inaccurate; the wing-wall is directly in the water, not reaching

Contractor's Response about this Project:

Korleh and Son did not also respond to requests made to them to address concerns from their project communities.

4.1.6 Findings on Bong Engineering Construction Company and Projects implemented

Bong Engineering Construction Company has an office or business center on the Baltimore Boulevard in Gbarnga City, Bong County. The company did the Kparyah Town Hall, the purchase of office furniture for Commissioner's Compound in Wainsue, the Suakoko Administrative Building Renovation, and the Gbarney Town Hall and also received FOI request but made no information available.

4.1.6 (a)-Project: Construction of Town Hall, Kparyah, District 3; Project cost: US\$ 15,000.00; Paid: US\$15,000.00 (Check No: 97790/99562, dated 05/03/2020)

In Kparyah, citizens told the team that, during the campaign tour of Rep. Marvin Cole, they asked him to construct for them a town hall, and for that reason, he gave them the amount of US\$ 400.00. However, their effort only took the work to lintel; it was from that level that the lawmaker came in to help complete the project. And as help, he provided an additional amount of US\$ 200.00, 40 bags of cement and brought one contractor, named Fayiah, commonly referred to as George Weah, to complete the construction work.



Town Chief Peter P. Mengarpuan, Former Town Chief Samuel Yelepulu, Youth Chairman Moses Warmenee, and Chairlady Lorpu Dolo informed the team that, as far as they are concerned, the project is the initiative of their lawmaker in fulfillment of campaign promise.



Constructed Town Hall in Karyah

In fact, they are still persuading the lawmaker to help them settle the debt owed to the first local contractor, whose money wasn't totally paid by the community after his work.

The team observed the structure is built though some damage in the ceiling and stairs as well as the floor. The Community has no PMT in

place to monitor said project as they had only known that the project was a self-initiative.

According to the engineer, the materials in their entirety are sub-standard, sand used have foreign materials, laterite rocks used and the height of the building is very low.

Contractor's Response about this Project:

Bong Engineering Construction Company did not also respond to requests made to them to address concerns from their project communities.

4.1.6 (b)-Project: Construction of Town Hall, Gbarney, District 3; Project cost: US\$ 10,000.00; Paid: US\$ 8,000.00 (Check No. 99563: dated 18/08/2020)

As in the case of every structured community, Gbarney needed a Town Hall wherein community people would gather to hold community discussions and/or wherein citizens to express their opinions, etc. And to save them of embarrassment faced most time when local government officials or politicians visit the



The Under-construction Town Hall of Gbarney in District 3

community either to hear from them on topics of interest or to discuss specific issues, the people of Gbarney decided to look out for assistance to construct a Town Hall.

The amount of US\$ 10,000.00 was allotted in the Resolution for a Town Hall Construction in Gbarney. The citizens informed the team that during Rep. Marvin Cole's campaign tour, they asked him to build a Town Hall for them. According to Town Chief Emmanuel Flomo, Former Town Chief James Hallowanger, Women Representative Annie Watson, and Resident Edwin Morgan, in 2020, the Representative brought one Ja-Rule to do the construction work, and it was the same Ja-Rule guy who procured all materials except the local materials which were provided by the community. They also informed the team that they, as community,



never had an input in the project, in term of work monitoring as well as procurement of materials, because their Lawmaker had told them that the project is his own initiative.

According to them, they told the contractor that they wanted the same structure erected in Kparyah and since it wasn't so, no work should go on till their request was granted. The team observed that the building is at a standstill and the community didn't have any input in the project, as blueprint was not provided and no PMT in place to monitor work.

According to the engineer, the building is very low as the building measures 7' 3" and plastering was not properly done, building's walls are bumping and surfaces are rough. In short, the building is not up to standard.

Contractor's Response about this Project:

Bong Engineering Construction Company did not also respond to requests made to them to address concerns from their project communities.

4.1.6(c)- Project: Purchase of Chairs for Town Hall, Wainsue, Jorquelleh – District 3; Project Cost: US\$ \$ 5,000; Paid: US\$ 5,000.00

The 2018 County Sitting, held in Gbarnga apportioned US\$ 5,000.00, for purchase of chairs



Chairs purchased for Town Hall in Wainsue

for the Town Hall in Wainsue. During the Team's visit to Wainsue, on November 27, 2021, they're informed by the Commissioner of Jorquelleh # 3, Hon. Washington Bonnah that 4 pieces of chairs were bought and delivered to community by their lawmaker, Rep. Marvin Cole, as his gift to us, for which they're grateful as it was the first of its kind for a sitting lawmaker to purchase sponge chairs for community instead of rubber chairs.

The Team saw that the people of Wainsue, including the District Commissioner, have no knowledge of fund used to procure those chairs being from the County Social Development Fund, pursuant to the 2018 County Sitting Resolution. Four (4) pieces of chairs were procured with United States Dollars 5,000.00, from a local manufacturer, in Bong County.

Contractor's Response about this Project:

Bong Engineering Construction Company did not also respond to requests made to them to address concerns from their project communities.

4.1.7- Project: Construction of Library, Gbarnga City; Project Cost: US\$ 75,000.00; Paid: US\$ 50,000.00 (no Check details; payment date cannot be traced)

The delegate at the 2018 County Sitting placed in the Resolution US\$ 75,000.00 for the construction of a modern library. Underlining the importance of this Library project to Bong County, Rep. Marvin Cole told Radio Gbarnga, in 2020, that President Weah made available 2000 bags of cement as his contribution towards the project.

During the team's visit to the project site, the team was able to only speak to one young man, Emmanuel Dolo, who claimed to have worked on the project. According to him, one Junior sub-contracted them to dig the building's foundation. However, after satisfactory



work, they are yet to get full payment for their hard labor, and every effort exerted in getting their money proved fruitless, so seeing the team at the project site has gladdened him to express his frustration so that those concerned would see the need to pay their balance.

However, the team observed that construction work has started. With the contribution of 2000 bags of cement by the President of the Republic and payment of US\$ 50,000.00 against the project, it seems unclear why the project has stopped and that the general work done on structure isn't gotten the building at lintel level or roof level at least.



Under Construction Library Project in Gbarnga City

According to the engineer, based on the current status of the building, taking into consideration the amount of US\$ 50,000.00 paid, including the materials used and the dimensions of this building, it is evident that the amount is very huge for the work performed so far.

Contractor's Response about this Project:

Fah Architectural Design was not visible and could not be reached for response.

4.1.8- Project: Renovation of Bong County Disable Center, Gbarnga City; Project Cost: US\$ 10,000.00; Paid: US\$ 8,000.00 (no check details; payment date cannot be traced)

An allotment of US\$ 10,000.00 was made in the 2018 Resolution to renovate the Disable People Center. A gesture which was highly applauded by everyone, most importantly the Disable Community.

In keeping with the Project's objectives, the Team visited the project on November 29, 2021 and spoke with Mr. Arthur Bomdo, Coordinator of the Disable Community in Bong County. According to the Coordinator, after the allotment was made, the Disable Community was asked to recommend a contractor to do renovation works on the Headquarters; in that process, they recommended one Harry Barba; surprisingly, the contract was awarded to different person, who they didn't know and couldn't remember recommending, and every protest by them on the



Renovated Bong County Disable Center



hired contractor wasn't ignored. He also informed the Team that the only work done was plastering, painting, and installation of windows; no furniture bought as expected. He expressed their dissatisfaction of works, not because their recommended contractor was not hired, but work done doesn't match the allotment made in the resolution. So as a disable community, they are saddened by the action of PMC, not only for denial of their rights, but also for poor works done.

Also, the team visited the renovated Bong County Disable Center but could not go into the building; there was no PMT in place to monitor renovation work nor impact from beneficiary about project. The Engineer's Statement about the Project is contained in the Technical Report.

Contractor's Response about this Project:

WILEM Enterprise was not visible and could not be reached for response.

4.1.9- Project: Construction of Chief Compound, Zeansue District; Project Cost: US\$ \$ 10,000.00; Paid: US\$ 10,000.00

The construction of Chief Compound in Zeansue is one of the four-in-one Chief Compounds Project captured in the 2018 Resolution for construction, to which, the amount of US\$ 40,000.00 was allotted.



Commissioner Compound under construction in Zeansue

Project captured in the 2018 Resolution for construction, to which, the amount of US\$ 40,000.00 was allotted.

When the Team visited the project site in Zeansue, they spoke with the Clan Chief of Zeansue, Lassana Fofana, who informed us that Community only have known that the project is government-funded, and to supplement government's effort, they themselves provided local labor force. In term of monitoring of the

project, he said that the project is being monitored by the local government officials as well as himself, but there was no special team in place to monitor such work. He is also informed the team that there was no blueprint of the project provided; however, they expressed their delight for said project, knowing that a Commissioner Compound is finally being constructed. The team observed that project is in good shape and construction works are still ongoing.

Contractor's Response about this Project:

Rural Development International Facilitator was not visible and could not be reached for response.

4.1.10- Project: Construction of Annex or Theater to Salala Clinic; Project Cost: US\$ 45,000.00; Paid: US\$ 45,000.00: (Check No. 97780 /800 /818 / 99567, dated 05/03/2020)



Constructed Annex to Salala Clinic



Septic tank of the constructed Annex to Salala Clinic



The construction of this annex to the clinic in Salala cost US\$ 45,000.00. The full amount has been paid to the Liberia Engineering and Development Service, a company reportedly owned by the husband of Representative Moima Briggs-Mensah, who represents the District at the Legislature; this was what our team obtained from those spoken to in Salala, including the Youth leader of the district, Miller Bondo.

Citizens of Salala community were not in the know of the project in terms of monitoring the project. The construction work is still unfinished, including its septic-tank. The independent engineer also observed that the work on the facility is not finished; some of the materials needed for the completion are: Water closet, face-basing, cement, bathtub, PVC pipe, window glasses, and paint.

Contractor's Response about the Project:

Liberia Engineering and Development Services, Inc. provided the company's legal documents that showed no link of ownership of the Representative's husband to the company. The company also sent the below communication in response to the team's request for their response about the project.





TEAM’S RESPONSE TO THE CONTRACTOR’S COMMENT:

The collaborating organizations highly appreciate the response, below, from the contractor and this indicates a great success of this research project; however, the team will follow up on the commitment made after 60 days, as of the date the communication was written and received.

4.1.11- Project: Rehabilitation of 6.8km Meleen-ta Road, Kpaai District; Project Cost: US\$ 45,000.00; Paid: US\$ 20,000.00 (Check No. 97799, dated 11/05/2020)

The Bong County Project Management Committee (PMC) reported rehabilitating a 6.8km road that links Meleen-ta and other villages to the main road between Palala and Zoinwienta, in Kpaai District.

During the November 12, 2018 County Sitting, US\$ 45,000.00 was allotted in the Resolution to rehabilitate the 6.8km Meleen-ta Road, in Kpaai District. US\$ 20,000.00 of this amount was paid to the Contractor ‘Community Builders Investment’ for rehabilitation works. It was observed during the team’s visit that the road did not look rehabilitated; the team saw deep holes and gutters along the route to Meleen-ta.

And some of the community members spoken to along the Meleen-ta road, including Titus Kollie informed the team that the company only did overlapping and promised to come back but since no information about their return.



Pictorial of the rehabilitated Meleen-ta Road



Pictorial of the rehabilitated Meleen-ta Road

TEAM’S RESPONSE ABOUT THE PROJECT:

Community Builder Investment was not visible and could not be reached for response.

5.0. Issues surrounding use of County Social Development Fund (CSDF)

4.2.1 Summary Spending areas and areas of concern in spending Bong County Fund

Our research has found what appears to be grave inconsistency in the financial transactions of the County fund, between 2018 and 2021.



Theme 1: Payment of honorarium to former PMC Engineer (late Mr. Marcus Berrian)

According to the PMC Summary Financial Update of January 1, 2019 to February 1, 2021, US\$ 41,295.00 and L\$ 288,000.00 were transferred to Mrs. Etta Berrian, wife of late Marcus Berrian, on March 31, 2019, as 3 months honorarium for the former PMC Engineer.

However, contrary to the PMC Summary Financial Update, our research has found out from Mrs. Etta Berrian that she only received the amount of US\$ 6,900.00 and L\$ 288,000.00. The amounts were paid in the following orders:

1. L\$ 288,000.00 received on March 31, 2019
2. US\$ 3,900.00 received on June 20, 2019
3. US\$ 3,000.00 received on August 18, 2020.

There is a discrepancy of US\$ 34,395.00. She also informed the team that she does not have any bank account. The desk review also found in the PMC financial report that the amounts of US\$ 41,295.00 and L\$ 288,000.00, paid to late Marcus Berrian's widow, were transferred, but no more details on account(s) to which these amounts were transferred, as per the PMC financial report.

Theme 2: Liabilities payment for Earthwork for Gbarnga Streets

According to the PMC Summary financial update of January 1, 2019 to February 1, 2021, the research found out that Sesay Brothers received US\$ 224,876.78, in 4 different payments on March 31, 2019: First payment, US\$10,000.00 (check no: 129326); second payment, L\$ 1,600,000.00 (check no: 48586); third payment, US\$102,438.39 (check no: 412866); and last payment, US\$ 102,438.39 (check no: 412867).

Our research found out that the amount paid to Sesay Brothers, for the earthwork done, is very huge and the amount the County owes this Company is also still huge; therefore, there is need for further investigation since there were no BoQ and Contracts made available, to reflect these expenses.

There are at most six sites on the Gbarnga Streets where the culverts were installed by Sesay Brothers before USAID carried out the chip sealing pavement. Assuming that each of the project sites took ten of the 6ft culverts (which isn't possible considering the width of streets in Gbarnga City), the total culverts installed at the different project sites are 60 pieces. The team also made follow-up to know the cost of the 6ft culvert. Accordingly, it was established that each culvert cost US\$ 70.00. Now considering the cost of each culvert at US\$ 70.00 and the total pieces of culverts of 60 installed, mathematically, the total expended cost for the six project sites should be (US\$ 70.00 x 60 = US\$ 4,200.00) plus labor cost.

Now, having been paid the amount of US\$ 224,876.78 against such project, on March 31, 2019, by checks (Check Nos: 129326/48586/412866/412867) as per the PMC summary financial update report, Bong County is expected to pay the Sesay Brothers, as liability for same project, the amount of US\$ 204,876.59.

The team believes that such payment is very huge for said project and demands deeper investigation. *Below are pictorials of culverts installed at the different project sites.*





US\$ 51,000.00 was paid as arrears on two checks (check nos: 129397/422656), for arrears for Bong County Sport Team 2018-2019 & 2019-2020, on March 10, 2019, to the Sesay Brothers under the PMC expenditure report, with spending heading "Support to Institutions in Bong County", but surprisingly, there is another spending in the same liabilities of the same report, indicating payment of US\$ 20,000.00 on check no 412939 on August 22, 2019 for the same Sport Arrears for 2018-2019.

The finding established gross discrepancies in financial dealings and there is need for further deeper investigation of these expenditure made against all projects, in keeping with the 2018 Resolution, so that the citizens of Bong County know how their money was spent.

Contractor's Response about the Project:

Unless the rest of the draft report items, Liabilities payment for Earthwork for Gbarnga Streets item has already adjudged the company guilty for wrong doings. As a technical draft report like this, the team could have used the word "alleged" in order to alleviate the fears of prejudgement and predetermined verdict against the company.

More besides, the Management of Sesay Brothers is pleased to state that issues surrounding the chip sealing road project have been flagged times in memorial by some key actors, and have adjudged the company guilty for wrong doings in the absence of due process, prior to this draft report.

Notwithstanding, as a credible institution, the Sesay Brothers remains committed to due processes, and will work with everyone to ensuring accountability and transparency.

Initially, the roads/streets that were included in the chip sealing project were given to East International for rehabilitation and/or pavement. Negotiations for these roads/streets under the chip sealing were being done by the different stakeholders; Bong County Administration, Bong County Legislative Caucus and East International and the Public Works Engineer at that time. In this vein, the Bill of Quantity (BOQ) was prepared by the Management of the Sesay Brothers and approved by the Ministry of Public Works Resident Engineer. At the final conclusion, East International sub-contracted the portion of the Gbarnga Streets Rehabilitation project that contains the vicinity of the chip sealing project site to the Management of Sesay Brothers for implementation.

Regarding huge costing for the chip sealing project, the Sesay Brothers rejects claims that the costing for the chip sealing project was alarming, and did not match the level of works performed. The level of works performed on the chip sealing project included the use of earth moving equipment, surface dressing, drainage works, culverts construction, construction of accessed roads, road rehabilitation materials and resources, engineering cost, material cost, etc.

TEAM'S RESPONSE TO THE CONTRACTOR'S COMMENT:

The collaborating organizations appreciate the response above from the Sesay Brothers. How can the Sesay Brothers be justifying the street earthwork in the absence of contracts and BoQ that were requested to explain and serve as a reference point to all the explanation provided above? How can we accept that East International sub-contracted Sesay Brothers for the earthwork for Gbarnga street pavement when the four checks issued were directly paid to Sesay Brothers from Bong County Development account?

Theme 3: Bong County Administration Administrative Expenses

As per the 2018 Resolution, the amount of US\$ 46,000.00 was allotted for administrative expenses of the County Administration. However, our research discovered from the PMC Summary financial update of January 1, 2019 to February 1, 2021, that US\$ 83,325.19 was spent against the allotted amount of US\$ 46,000.00 in the 2018 Resolution, with an extra expenditure of US\$ 37,325.19.



This research sees the extra expenditure which requires serious investigation because there are expenses under this County Administration that need to be made clear to the citizens of Bong County, due to allegations and conflicts amongst local authority of Bong County.

It can be recorded that the PMC chair and the Assistant Superintendent along with the County Superintendent accused and insulted each other, about purchase of a vehicle for the Superintendent, renovation of offices, and other expenses. It is obvious that some of the accusations amongst the county leadership seem to be true, based on the different spending in the County Administration justifying their different accusations:

This research found in the spending details of the County Administration, like US\$ 25,000.00 for purchase of vehicle from Alliance Motor Corporation, on August 14, 2020, for Sup. Esther Walker, by check no: 97802; US\$ 9,500.00 for purchase of Superintendent Stationaries and Office Supplies, on August 8, 2019, by check no: 412897; and so many other expenses.

Theme 4: Project Management Committee (PMC)

In the 2018 Resolution, the amount of US\$ 75,879.00 was allotted for the PMC operations. However, our research discovered from the PMC Summary Financial Update of January 1, 2019 to February 1, 2021, that US\$ 107,094.56 was spent against the allotted amount of US\$ 75,879.00 in the 2018 Resolution, with an extra expenditure of US\$ 31,215.00.

Additionally, the team would like to pinpoint some spending under the PMC that the citizens must for discussion and action. The amount of US\$ 7,810.00 was spent by the PMC as expense for assessment of completed and ongoing projects. Why should there be extra money paid for assessment of projects when Thomas K. Cisco was paid US\$ 11,000.00, as Project Consultant in the County, for assessment and evaluation of projects.

However, when the PMC Chair was contacted by the team for response on issues raised by people from projects communities and clarity to these irregularities and status of projects executed under his authority and leadership, this is his paraphrased response:

“I am not authorized to respond to your document. I was not part of your social audit how can I respond. Do a formal communication to the Superintendent then she will solicit opinion. Until then, don't waste your time with seeking anything from Stephen J. Mulbah-led PMC”



TEAM’S RESPONSE TO THE CONTRACTOR’S COMMENT:

The collaborating organizations appreciate the response above and like to remind Mr. Stephen J Mulbah, Jr. that he is serving in a public office that is not only accountable to the Superintendent but also to citizens from whose taxes paid his salaries are being paid; additionally, the Freedom of Information Act of 2010 authorizes him to respond to the public at all times on issues of the public concern.

Theme 5: Contractors Not in Tax compliance at some levels

The collaborating Organizations visited the local office of the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) in Gbarnga to follow up if the contracted companies that received the county funds



for projects implementation are in tax compliance, but the head of the local tax collector informed the team that they do not have any file on any of the companies as business taxpayer in Bong County.

Theme 6: The PMC Paid Money to Contractors with No Work performed

The research discovered four Projects that received payments but work was never implemented; those Projects are (i) Meleen-ta Town Hall Project, by Sesay Brothers – amount of US\$ 18,000.00 was paid against US\$ 25,000.00; (ii) Commissioner Residence Construction Project in Rockcrucher, Kokoyah District, by JEAMCO – amount of US\$ 15,000.00 paid against US\$ 45,000; (iii) Sanoyea Maternal Waiting Home, by GEOSKPOE, US\$ 13,000.00 paid against US\$ 15,000; and (iv) Renovation of the Bong Mines Recreation Center, by GEOSKPOE, US\$ 13,000.00 paid against US\$ 15,000.00. These funds were paid to the contractors for more than one year now.

Bong County Legislative Caucus Members' Responses to the Projects:

Response of Senator Dr. Henrique Tokpa:

With regards to claims by citizens that Senator Tokpa did the hand pumps and his involvement with the Meleen-ta Town Hall Project, the Senator's Office responded in this manner:

"From: Cassius Kpoeh <bckpoeh@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Jan 5, 2022, 4:17 PM

Subject: Bong Development Research Report

To: <baileyblank50@gmail.com>, Stephen Jeffery <stephenjeffery4@gmail.com>

Dear Mr. Bailey:

I did read religiously your report and must admit you did a marvelous job and appreciate the unbiased analysis of funds spent for the project resolved on November 12, 2018, County sitting. However, please consider below a clarity for information that I believe is a misrepresentation of me. Reading through your research, it's believed that Senator Tokpa's Office took credit for both the meleen-ta and hand pumps projects as confessed by communities dwellers. It was also reported that members of the Boi-ta community who are beneficiaries of one of the hand pumps were made to pay 100LD each as a contribution. The information about the office of the Senator taking credit is false and misleading, evidenced by the fact that the above projects were referenced in Senator Tokpa's 2020 legislative report to citizens of Bong as projects been sponsored by the county social development fund. The information about community dwellers being asked to pay 100LD is not to our knowledge. We will investigate those who were involved in the collection of LD 100 from our people.

We appreciate your Research concerning the usage of our County's Social development.

Sincerely yours "

TEAM'S RESPONSE TO THE SENATOR'S COMMENT:

In one of his appearances on Radio Gbarnga's Info-Box, in early 2021, Cassius Kpoeh, head of the Friends of Tokpa, said that those four (4) hand pumps were part of Senator Dr. Henrique Tokpa's development initiatives to citizens of Bong County.

Response of the Chair of Bong County Legislative Caucus:

• Gbamokollie-ta Clinic Project

".....(1) The rock use for the building in Gbamokollie-ta was crushed rock, the balance of the rock is still near the building, (2) the sand being used is the normal river sand that we all use to build houses in the District (3) That the project is not my funded project, at the ground breaking ceremony it was announced that this Clinic project is a CSDF project, and not the Representative project, the billboard can speak to that....."



- Renovation On Commissioner Compound in Handii

Commissioner Compound in Handii, for the Commissioner to say the building was not done properly, he, the PMC and the Superintendent were giving the chance to tour the building and make his reservations about the building, and they all reported that the building was okay according to three of them, after two weeks the building was dedicated; then for the Commissioner to wait for two years plus to complain, it's not fair..... (2) Statement from the Commissioner referring your team or the PMC referring him the Commissioner to me, is unacceptable, because all monies passed through the account of contractors.....

- General Response

My response is that all monies or money allotted/resoluted from the County Sitting was approved during the County Sitting, my only problem is that the allotted/approved amounts were mismanaged by the Superintendent and the PMC. When it comes to the financial transactions uncovered during your investigation, all is in the report that was given you, but it was mismanaged. The Caucus Chair or members don't have access to the County account, so all expenditure are done by the Superintendent and the PMC....”

TEAM’S RESPONSE TO LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS’ COMMENTS:

“The team strongly believe that the Caucus members still have oversight on both local and national development in Liberia and with the Chair response here of not having access to the County account is true but they have the power to put a hold and to mandate any user of the County Development fund to restitute funds for development that is not in line with the budget law. The Caucus is under obligation to receive a quarterly implementation report from the superintendent and the PMC and the Superintendent/PMC are also under obligation to present a quarterly. Failure of the Caucus to request these reports on time proves the Caucus weakness in ensuring proper oversight which led to funds been paid to contractors without contracts and BOQs. Hence the Bong County Caucus and the Superintendent/PMC needs to ensure all funds paid to contractors and institutions without contracts/BOQs must be restituted to the Bong County Development account or risk a legal law suit.”

Theme 7: Contractors Not Visible in Project Communities or in Bong County

Of the total of eleven (11) Contractors contracted by the Project Management Committee to implement the various projects in the county from, only three contractors have business setup in Gbarnga, including the Sesay Brothers, Bong Engineering Construction, and Korleh and Son. The rests are not visible in the county nor in the different communities where those projects are being implemented, either by office or representative.

Theme 8: Community Inputs in the Implementations of Projects

In almost all the project communities, across Bong County, there were little or no community’s inputs in the implementation of those projects. Section 9 of the Budget Law of Liberia calls for the setting up of a Project Management Team (PMT) in every community where projects are to be implemented, and the PMT will be responsible to monitor the projects and contractors to ensure the projects are executed in accordance with standards, cost, and specificity.

Of the thirty (30) Projects, only the Karyata and Gbarmokollie-ta Clinics have PMTs involved in the implementation process. Even with the existence of PMTs in these communities, their roles are marginal, according to some of the PMT members interviewed in the two communities.

Theme 9: Community Members not Aware of the Source of Funding for Most Projects

The general views gathered from projects’ communities show that most beneficiaries are not aware of the source of these projects’ funding. They don’t know whether the projects are being funded by the Bong County Social Development Funds or not.



Most of the locals or project beneficiaries, including local officials, are made to believe that the projects are funded by politicians (the Representatives and Senators). Some of the communities that showed lack of knowledge of source of funding for these projects, include Kparyah Town Hall, in Electoral District 3, which was attributed to Rep. Malvin Cole; Sheankpala Bridge was reportedly done by Rep. Robert Flomo Womba, of District 4, while Baryata Bridge was financed by Sen. Prince Moye and former Senator Henry Yallah.

Most citizens in Karyata said the Clinic Project there was financed by Senator Henrique F. Tokpa, while in Gbamokollit-ta, the citizens said it was the personal project of their Representative, Hon. Joseph Papa Kolleh.

Frustratingly, most of these locals are also not aware of the costs of these projects, least to talk about having copies of Projects' blueprints, Bill of quantity or Contracts the PMC signed with the construction companies.

Theme 10: Community Members Made to Work on Projects without Pay

Most of the Contractors used community members to provide sand, crushed rocks, dig foundations, and even provide planks and manpower support to most of the projects without pay.

This was particular with the Gbarlorkpalah Bridge Project, done by Korleh and Son; the Sheankpala Bridge and Foequelleh Maternal Waiting Home Projects, by Independent Construction; the Clinic in Gbarmokollie-ta, by GEOSKPOE; and the Kparyah Town Hall, by Bong Engineering Construction.

7.0. Conclusion

With the above findings from desk review, testimonies of projects communities, etc., it is clear that funds for County Development in Bong County have been grossly mismanaged; with less development projects completed in Bong County.

Based on the observation and findings of the collaborating organizations, the situation with development in Bong County is far lacking behind due to unclear and undefined development processes used, political interferences, corruptions and bad governance practices, less participation citizenries, limited or no information sharing, weak oversights from lawmakers, and lack of political will of local authority and national Government.

The research findings show that BCDF projects have been generally unsuccessful on many accounts. Several local leaders and communities members express their dissatisfaction about the projects and the way the projects were handled by the county authority and the project management committee.



8. Annexes

Annex 1: Table of Detailed Information of CSDF Projects in Bong County in Keeping the 2018 Resolution

No.	Project	Location	Project Cost (USD)	Amount Paid	Check Numbers	Payment Date	Project status	Contractor
1	Commissioner Residence Completion	Kokoyah Sub. District,	\$ 45,000	\$ 15,000			Not started	JEAMCO
2	Construction of Elementary School	Behweh Town, Boinsen District	\$ 22,500	\$ 15,000			Standstill	
3	Clinic Completion	Ula Town, Boinsen District	\$ 22,500	\$ 15,000			Standstill	
4	Elementary School Construction	Malonkai Town, Tukpablee Distict	\$ 22,500	\$ 15,000			Standstill	
5	Renovation of Superintendent Compound	Civil Compound Community in Gbarnga	\$ 50,000	\$ 26,000	97792 / 97797	March 5, 2020	Standstill	
6	Sanoyea Maternal Waiting Home	Sanoyea Town, Sanoyea District	\$ 15,000	\$ 13,000	97823	August 18, 2020	Not started	GEOSKPOE
7	Clinic Construction	Gbamokollie-ta, Sanoyea District	\$ 22,500	\$ 15,000		March 5, 2020	Standstill	
8	Renovation of Commissioner Residence	Handii	\$ 25,000	\$ 24,943.95	97823	August 18, 2020	Incomplete	
9	Renovation of Recreation Hall	Fuamah District, Bong Mines	\$ 15,000	\$ 13,000	97789	March 5, 2020	Not started	
10	Baryata and Yarkala Bridges	Baryata, District Two	\$ 90,000	\$ 50,000	99552	August 18, 2020	Incomplete	Sesay Brothers
11	Farmers' Tools Project	Bong County	\$ 30,000	\$ 20,000	99556 / 412871	August 18, 2020	Ongoing	
12	Meleen-ta Town Hall	Melenta-Kpaii District	\$ 25,000	\$ 18,000	99553	August 18, 2020	Not started	
13	Hand Pumps for Four communities	Jorquelleh District One	\$ 15,000	\$ 12,500	99555	August 18, 2020	Completed	
14	Clinic Completion in Karyata	Suakoko, District	\$ 25,000	\$ 10,000	99554	August 18, 2020	Ongoing	
15	Wainsue Town Hall Furniture Project	Wainsue Town, Jorquelleh	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000			Completed	



16	Gbarney Town Hall	Gbarnga Town, Jorquelleh District One	\$ 10,000	\$ 8,000	99563	August 18, 2020	Standstill	Bong Engineering Construction
17	Kparyah Town Hall Construction Project	Kparyah Town, Jorquelleh	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	97790 / 99562	March 5, 2020	Completed	
18	Renovation of Administration Building	Suakoko Town, District						
19	Gbarlorkpalah Bridge	Gbarlorkpalah Town, Tokpablee District	\$ 40,000	\$ 20,000	99565	August 18, 2020	Standstill	Korleh and Son
20	Jorwah Youth Center Completion	Jorwah, Panta District	\$ 15,000	\$ 13,000	97821	August 18, 2020	Standstill	Independent Construction
21	Foequelleh Maternal Waiting Home	Foequelleh Town	\$ 25,000	24,253.10	97784 / 97820	March 5, 2020	Completed	
22	Sheankpala Bridge project	Sheankpala Town, Zota	\$ 80,000	\$ 40,000	97783 / 97819	March 5, 2020	Incomplete	
23	Disable Office Renovation project	Civil Compound, Gbarnga City	\$ 10,000	\$ 8,000			Incomplete	WILEM Enterprise
24	Rehabilitation of 6.8km Road	Meleen-ta in Kpaai District	\$ 45,000	\$ 20,000	97799	May 11, 2020	Standstill	Community Builder Investment
25	Salala Clinic Expansion Project	Salala Town, Bong County	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	97780 / 97800 / 97818	March 5, 2020	Incomplete	Engineering and Development Service
26	Construction of Chiefs Offices Project (four in one project)	Yellequelleh District, Bong County	\$ 40,000	\$ 25,000	99551		Ongoing	Rural Dev. Intl. Facilitator
27	Library Construction Project	Civil Compound, Gbarnga City	\$ 75,000	\$ 50,000			Standstill	FAH Architectural Design



Annex 2: Institutions that Received Funding from the Project Management Committee between 2018 and 2021

No	Name of Institution	Amount Received		Name of Respondent	Contacts	Date of Interview	Comments
		USD	LD				
1.	Phebe Hospital	13,000.00	600,000.00	Patrick Jackson	0886423480 0777423480	Dec. 3, 2021	Promised to send a soft copy of expenditure by email
2.	Bong County Technical College	62,500.00	0.00	David Mantor	0776234071	Dec. 6, 2021	Promised to send by email a soft copy of expenditure
3.	C. B. Dunbar	50,000.00	0.00	Isaac Bannie	0777254854	Dec. 2021	Promised to send hard copy of expenditure
4.	Bong Mines Hospital	40,000.00	0.00	Alvin Sirleaf	0886947936	Dec. 6, 2021	Interview was conducted by phone. Sirleaf informed our team that he was not in office but said amount was received for support for the hospital
5.	BOCONET/Radio Stations	15,000.00	0.00	Samuel Dorweh	0886945094	Dec. 6, 2021	No response yet
6.	Super Bongese	10,000.00	0.00	Samuel Kplaiwru	0886632998	Dec. 6, 2021	agreed that fund was received



Annex 3: The Engineer's Technical Report

Bong County Social Development Fund (BCSDF) Accountability Project

Project Assessment Technical Report

Submitted to:

Media and Civic Education Rural Liberia (MACE-Rural Liberia),
Foundation for International Dignity (FIND), and Development Education
Leadership Training in Action Human Rights Foundation (DELTA-HRF)

Thru: Moses S. Bailey
Project Lead Coordinator

Submitted by:
Mr. Emmanuel Tamatai
ENGINEER
Cell No.: 0886950063

Date:
November 30, 2021



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Symbols

" -----inches

' ----- feet

∅ -----diameter rods

1/2" ----- Half inch

x ----- by



OVERVIEW

In November 2021, three civil society organizations in Bong County, “Media and Civic Education Rural Liberia (MACE-Rural Liberia), Foundation for International Dignity (FIND), and Development Education Leadership Training in Action Human Rights Foundation (DELTA-HRF)” hired me for my technical assistance to assess and give an engineering analysis of development projects implemented in conformity with the Resolution for Bong County Council Sitting for Fiscal Year 2018/2019, in support of their Project “**Bong County Social and County Development Funds Monitoring Report**” for the purpose of promoting a culture whereby civil society and rights-holders in Bong County are empowered to engage in evidence-based advocacy and hold duty-bearers accountable for the management and use of public resources.

The visitation to project sites lasted for 7 days. I along with representatives of the three civil society organizations and videographer toured about 30 projects and every project was assessed and technically analyzed to reflect project quality and standard, in keeping with my contract TOR.

It is very necessary to have a blueprint and a BoQ for every projects. The blueprint helps guard or direct the contractors on what to do, it also helps you get the clear understanding on how the building or structure will appear and serves as gateway in determining the total cost of the project, types of materials to be used and etc.

Having said that, based on the assessment conducted; I have realized that most of the companies or contractors that were awarded contracts did not do due diligence to the team. They were not present at the sites and did not even provide us a blueprint, BoQ or verbal communications concerning any of the projects.

Therefore, I used my expertise looking at the physical structure at the project sites and taking into consideration the dimensions of each project, the physical materials that were used, the level of works done so far do not correspond with the actual amount budgeted - some projects were overestimated while others were underestimated. Pictorials of every project is included in my report for a clearer picture of work done



1.0 JORWAH YOUTH CENTER COMPLETION

Project Name: Jorwah Youth Center Completion
Contractor: Independent Construction (Tel: 0880759609)
Project Cost: US\$ 15,000.00
Amount Paid: US\$ 13,000.00
Balance owed: US\$ 2,000.00
Location: Jorwah Town, Panta District #4
Status: Ongoing

1.1 TECHNICAL OPINION

This building is in a rectangular position dimensioned or measured at 55'-8" by 38'-8" with 8'-0" high and front porch extended inward. Structure is also built with 6"x 6" x 16" dirt blocks, 1" thick cement mortar joined and ten (10) reinforced concrete pillars from the extremes and centers. Additionally, the contractor started constructing this building from 3'-6" level up to 8'-0" level/height, meaning 4'-0" was added by the contractor.



Figure 1.0 Jorwah youth center completion: Substandard blocks & Zinc used)





2.0 GBARLORKPALAH BRIDGE

Project Name: Gbarlorkpalah Bridge
Contractor: Korleh and Son
Project Cost: US\$ 40,000.00
Amount Paid: US\$ 20,000.00
Balance Owed: US\$ 20,000.00
Location: Gbarlorkpalah Town, Tokpablee District
Status: Ongoing

2.1 TECHNICAL OPINION

This bridge is designed in a rectangular form with the components listed below and their measurement in feet and inches.

Length ----- 16' – 9"
Weight ----- 15' – 0"
Barrier or railing height ----- 2' -10"
Barrier or railing thickness----- 5", 4", 3"
Pedestrian or sidewalk -----1' – 8"
Wing wall thickness ----- 1' – 0"
Depth ----- 8'-10"
Pillars and beams thickness-----1' – 0"

Now, technically looking at this bridge:

- The barrier or railing thickness is not constant, some part is 5", 4" & 3", meaning it is inaccurate.
- The wingwall is directly in the water, not reaching the water bank, therefore, when heavy rain falls and overflows the bank of the water, the back filling will definitely wear away.
- No back filling has been done
- No drainage system to allow water out of the bridge



Figure 2.0 Gbarlorkpalah Bridge Project: Site View (Substandard Work)



Figure 3.0 Gbarlorkpalah Bridge Project: Wingwall placed far from the water bank (Substandard Work)

3.0 CONSTRUCTION OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Project Name:	Construction of Elementary School
Contractor:	JEAMCO
Project Cost:	US\$ 22,500.00
Amount Paid:	US\$ 15,000.00
Balance Owed:	US\$ 7,500.00
Location:	Behweh Town, Boinsen District
Status:	Standstill

3.1 TECHNICAL OPINION

This structure has six (6) classes, three offices (3) and is designed in an (L) form, dimensioned or measured at 95'-5" x 20'-4" and 68'-3" x 20'-4" with the height of 6'-0" from foundation level. Additionally, this building has thirty one (31) pillars and it's constructed with 6"x 6" x 16" dirt blocks with 1" thick cement mortar joint. The construction was also done with laterite rocks, sand, 1/2" ø rods with 1/4" stirrups and tie wire. Looking at the materials that was used, it is glaring that some are substandard materials ranging from sand, rocks, and blocks.



This building construction is currently at a standstill. The technical assessment has come to a realization taking into consideration the total figure gathered mathematically and hearing the admittance voices of the citizens that they provided the 6"x6"x16" dirt blocks and sand, laterite rock for the construction. The engineer can safely say the first amount paid for the construction does not commensurate with the structure seeing below.

- The sand have foreign materials
- The rocks do not suit this construction because they are not up to standard.
- The blocks are not acceptable for this kind of project as well.

Figure 4.0 Construction of Elementary School:



Figure 5.0 Construction of Elementary School: Project site view



Figure 6.0 Laterite Rocks with Foreign Materia (Substandard Materials)



Figure 7.0 Sand mixed with foreign material (Substandard Materials)



4.0 RENOVATION OF RECREATION HALL

Project Name: Renovation of Recreation Center
 Contractor: GEOSKPOE: (Tel.: 0776284548)
 Project Cost: US\$ 15,000.00
 Amount Paid: US\$ 13,000.00
 Balance owed: US\$ 2,000.00
 Location: Bong Mines, Fuamah District
 Status: Not Started

4.1 TECHNICAL OPINION

This building is existing, it is positioned in rectangular form with an extension at the back. Even though 86.67% of project cost has been paid, no sign of renovation work at the project site, and the Recreation Center still remains in its deplorable stage.

The materials listed below are needed for the completion of this project.

No.	Items	Description
1	Cement	Bags
2	Sand	Pickup load
3	Zinc	Bundles
4	Zinc Nails	Cartoons
5	Timber	2" x 2" x 14'
6	Timber	2" x 4" x 14'
7	Timber	2" x 6" x 14'
8	Wawa	1" x 8" x 14'
9	Strips	Bundles
10	Ceiling tie	4' x 8'
11	Water closet	Full set
12	Face basing	Full set
13	PVC pipe	4", 2"
14	PVC elbow	45°(joint different types)
15	PVC elbow	Y (joint different types)
16	PVC elbow	T (joint different types)
17	Current wire	European #10
18	Receptacle	Double
19	Wiring tube	Bundles
20	Switches controller	Single & double
21	Panel box	12 breakers
22	Ceiling fan	Hanging fan
23	Fluorescent lamp	Hanging lamp
24	Window glass	Sliding (3' x 4')
25	Window glass	Sliding (6' x 4')
26	Window glass	Sliding (2'- 6" x 2" - 0")
27	Panel door	Double (3'x7')
28	Plywood doors	(3'x7')
29	Plywood doors	(2' x 6" x 7' - 0")
30	Tile carton	(2'x2')
31	POP	Bags
32	White wash	Bags
33	Inside lock	
34	Paint bucket	Oil & water
35	AC	Air Conditioner



Figure 8.0 Renovation of Recreation Hall: Inside view



Figure 9.0 Renovation of Recreation Hall: Front View



Figure 10.0 Renovation of Recreation Hall: Damage Roof & Ceiling View



5.0 REHABILITATION OF 6.8 KILOMETERS ROAD

Project Name:	Rehabilitation of 6.8km Road
Contractor:	Community Builder Investment
Project Cost:	US\$ 45,000.00
Amount Paid:	US\$ 20,000.00
Balance owed:	US\$ 25,000.00
Location:	Meleen-ta in Kpaai District
Status:	Standstill

5.1 TECHNICAL OPINION

This 6.8km road project is from Meleen-ta Junction passing through Meleen-ta, in Kpaai District #1, and the width is 16-0'. The road wasn't properly done.

From the assessment conducted, this road lacks the following:

- Surface dressing
- Earthworks/Re-constructing the road base
- Installing drainage system, where necessary



Figure 11.0 Rehabilitation of 6.8 Kilometers road: (Substandard work)



6.0 GBARNEY TOWN HALL CONSTRUCTION

Project Name: Gbarney Town Hall Construction
Contractor: Bong Engineering Construction
Project Cost: US\$ 10,000.00
Amount Paid: US\$ 8,000.00
Balance owed: US\$ 2,000.00
Location: Gbarney Town, Jorquelleh District #3
Status: Standstill

6.1 TECHNICAL OPINION

This building is positioned in rectangular perspective with a bathroom extended at the rear or back, it also has two entrances, with the bathroom door opening at the left side of the building. The Town Hall dimensioned or measured at 30'-4" x 22'-7" with 7'-3" high and it contained ten (10) reinforced concrete pillars at the extremes and centers of the existing building.

Here is the engineer's technical observation of this building:

- This building is very low, acknowledging that it is measured 7'-3" high.
- The plastering was not done properly or accurately, that is why the surface of the walls are bumpy and all the edges are rough, looking at the pillars and beams.



Figure 12.0 Gbarney Town Hall Construction: Current look of the Project Site



Figure 13.0 Gbarney Town Hall Construction:



7.0 BARYATA BRIDGE

Project Name: Baryata and Yarkala Bridges
Contractor: Sesay Brothers (Tel.: 0776321287)
Project Cost: US\$ 90,000.00
Amount Paid: US\$ 50,000.00
Balance owed: US\$ 40,000.00
Location: Baryata, Jorquelleh District #2
Status: Ongoing

7.1 TECHNICAL OPINION

Baryata Bridge is built in a rectangular form with components listed below; measurement in feet and inches.

Length	47'-7"
Weight	17'-0
Barrier or railing height	3'-1"
Barrier or railing thickness	8" x 8"
Pedestrian or sidewall	1' x 3"
Wingwall thickness	1'-6"
Depth	11' – 6
Pillars and beams combined with slab thickness	1'-6"
Bore-hole drainage in bridge	2"

- The engineer's technical observation is, looking at the figure listed and the total circumference of this bridge in consideration of mathematical analysis, the estimated cast US\$ 90,000.00 for the construction is too huge, i.e. the bridge project was overestimated.
- Back filling has not been done.



Figure 14.0 Baryata Bridge: Project Current Site View



Figure 15.0 Baryata Bridge: Project Current Site

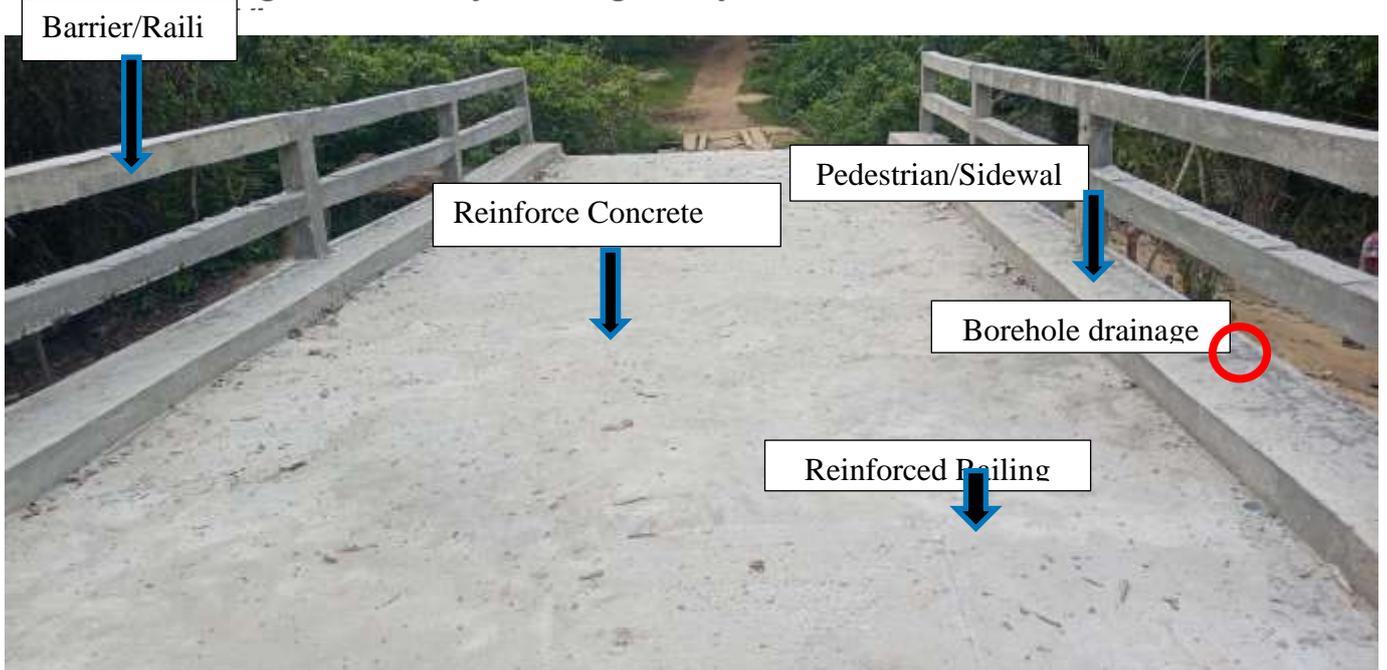


Figure 16.0 Baryata Bridge: (Standard) Overestimated





8.0 SANOEYA MATERNAL WAITING HOME

Project Name: Sanoyea Maternal Waiting Home
Contractor: GEOSKPOE (Tel.: 0776284548)
Project Cost: US\$ 15,000.00
Amount Paid: US\$ 13,000.00
Balance owed: US\$ 2,000.00
Location: Sanoyea Town, Sanoyea District #7
Status: Not Started

8.1 TECHNICAL OPINION

No structure has been erected after payment of 86.67% of project cost. Community people informed the engineer that they themselves produced bricks for the construction work but all dirt bricks produced got damaged since no work was done.

Below is a pictorial of project site.



Figure 17.0 Sanoyea maternal waiting home Proposed Project Site



9.0 WAINSUE TOWN HALL FURNITURE PROJECT

Project Name: Wainsue Town Hall Furniture Project
Contractor: Bong Engineering Construction (Tel.: 0770456789)
Project Cost: US\$ 5,000.00
Amount Paid: US\$ 5,000.00
Balance owed: \$ -0-
Location: Wainsue Town, Jorquelleh District #3
Status: Completed

9.1 TECHNICAL OPINION

The engineer saw four (4) African-made chairs, which are light brown and dark brown in color – two small ones and two big. Additionally, two chairs have double seats and two have single seat.

This is photograph of the four (4) set of living room chairs.



**Figure 18.0 Four African Designed Chair for Wainsue Town Hall
(Overestimated)**



10.0 HAND PUMPS FOR FOUR COMMUNITIES PHEBE AIRSTRIP, KAYATA, ZEANSUE & BOY-TA

Project Name: Hand Pumps for Four Communities
Contractor: Sesay Brothers (Tel.: 0776321287)
Project Cost: US\$ 15,000.00
Amount Paid: US\$ 12,000.00
Balance owed: US\$ 3,000.00
Location: Suakoko, District #5 & 2
Status: Completed

10.1 . TECHNICAL OPINION

These pumps are fixed with culvert with a drainage system that allows water leave from the perimeter of the pump. The circumference of the pump is (35'-0' and the culvert is (12' – 11").

This is the photograph below



Figure 19.0 Hand pumps for four communities: Completed Hand Pump in Boi-ta (Standard)



Figure 20.0 Hand pumps for four communities: Completed hand pump in Zeansue (Standard)



Figure 21.0 Hand pumps for four communities: Completed hand pump in Karyata (Standard)

11.0 RENOVATION OF COMMISSIONER RESIDENCE

Project Name:	Renovation of Commissioner Residence
Contractor:	GEOSKPOE (Tel.: 0776284548)
Project Cost:	US\$ 25,000.00
Amount Paid:	US\$ 24,943.00
Balance owed:	US\$ 57.00
Location:	Handii Town, District #7
Status:	Completed

11.1 TECHNICAL OPINION

The assessment justifies that the Commissioner Residence still has some problems because the newly renovated building has started spoiling. The following was noticed:

1. The bathroom tiles, both floor and wall weren't changed;
2. The electrical system has serious problem, the connection was not done properly;
3. No water system, both in the bathroom and kitchen;
4. Dysfunctional kitchen sink, with tiles not changed;
5. One of the doors has a problem;
6. One of the locks has a problem;
7. Leaking of some part of the roof.

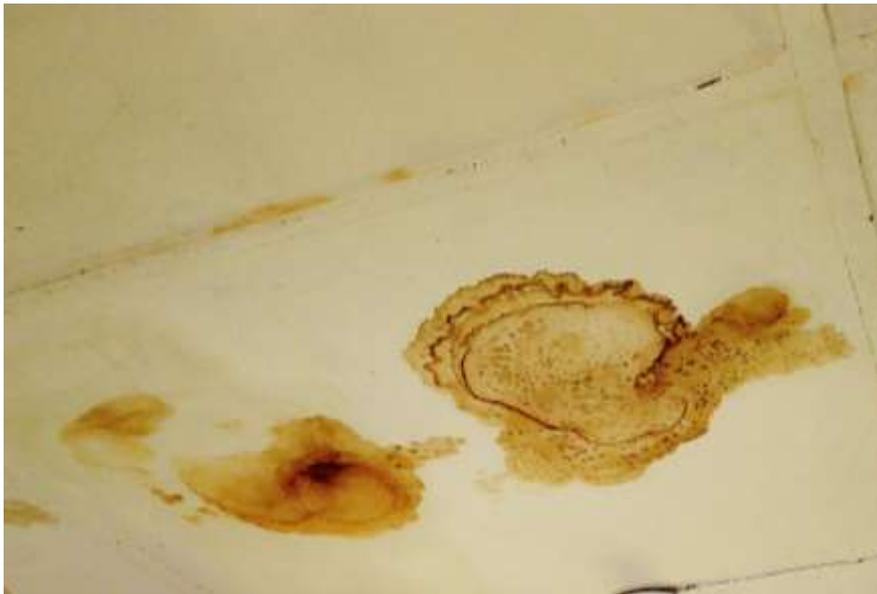
The panel box in the building is not working and one switch controller is damaged.



Figure 22.0 Completed Commissioner Compound at Handii



Figure 23.0 Leakage in Commissioner compound (Substandard)



12.0 MELEEN-TA TOWN HALL

Project Name: Maleen-ta Town Hall
Contractor: Sesay Brother (Tel.: 0776321287)
Project Cost: US\$ 25,000.00
Amount Paid: US\$ 18,000.00
Balance owed: US\$ 7,000.00
Location: Meleen-ta, Kpaa District #1
Status: Not Started

12.1 TECHNICAL OPINION

The Meleen-ta Town Hall construction has not started. But citizens informed the engineer that they did not want any Town Hall as there was one already, rather they needed a Guesthouse. As the result of this request, no work has been able to start, only piles of sand, bricks, and crushed rocks are on the site.



Below are the photographs.



Figure 24.0 Meleen-ta town hall: Proposed Project Site



13.0 SALALA CLINIC EXPANSION PROJECT

Project Name: Salala Clinic Expansion Project
 Contractor: Engineering and Development Service
 Project Cost: US\$ 45,000.00
 Amount Paid: US\$ 45,000.00
 Balance owed: -----0-----
 Location: Salala Town, District #6
 Status: Ongoing

13.1 TECHNICAL OPINION

The newly constructed clinic is in a rectangular form with an extension. The construction work is still unfinished, including its septic-tank. From technical assessment of the said project, work has not finished and some of the materials needed for the project completion are as follows:

1. Water closet
2. Face basing
3. Cement
4. Bathtub



5. PVC pipe
6. Window glasses
7. Paint



Figure 25.0 Salala Clinic expansion: Project Current Project site (Standard) & Overestimated



Figure 26.0 Salala Clinic expansion: Inside View



Figure 27.0 Salala Clinic expansion: Septic tank



14.0 SHEANKPALA BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION

Project Name: Sheankpala Bridge Project
 Contractor: Independent Construction (Tel.: 0880759609)
 Project Cost: US\$ 80,000.00
 Amount Paid: US\$ 40,000.00
 Balance owed: US\$ 40,000.00
 Location: Sheankpala Town, District #4
 Status: Completed

14.1 . TECHNICAL OPINION

Sheankpala Bridge is built in a rectangular form with components listed below and their measurement in feet and inches:

Length	18'-3"
Weight	15'-3"
Barrier or railing height	3'-6"
Barrier or railing thickness	8"x8"
Wingwall thickness	1'-0"
Depth	11"-5"

Pillars and beams combined with slab thickness 1'-0"

- Technically, this bridge lacks bore-hole drainage system, and no pedestrian walkway or sidewalk.
- The height is measured 11"-5", which is very low because it is situated between two hills.
- Looking at the figure listed and the total circumference of this bridge and taking into consideration the estimated cost of US\$ 80,000.00, such project is heavily overestimated.
- The barrier or railing was not properly plastered.



Figure 28.0 Sheankpala Bridge Construction: Project Current View



Figure 29.0 Sheankpala Bridge Construction: (Substandard) & Overestimated



15.0 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

Project Name: Elementary School Construction
Contractor: JEAMCO (Tel.: 0775021099)
Project Cost: US\$ 22,500.00
Amount Paid: US\$ 15,000.00
Balance owed: US\$ 7,500.00
Location: Malokai Town, Tukpablee, District #1
Status: Standstill

15.1 TECHNICAL OPINION

This building is structured in an 'L' form and has six (6) classes with, two (2) offices and two (2) bathrooms. It is currently at 7"-0" high from foundation. Looking at the materials used, it is clear that some of the materials are sub-standard.

- The sand have foreign materials
- The rocks do not suit this construction because they are not up to standard
- Construction work has been abandoned for quite some time now, according to the community people.





Figure 31.0 Elementary School Construction: Substandard Rocks





16.0 CLINIC COMPLETION

Project Name: Clinic Completion
Contractor: JEAMCO (Tel.: 0775021099)
Project Cost: US\$ 22,500.00
Amount Paid: US\$ 15,000.00
Balance owed: US\$ 7,500.00
Location: Ula Town, Boinsen District #1
Status: Standstill

16.1 TECHNICAL OPINION

This clinic is in a rectangular form, dimensioned or measured at 72'-10" by 30'-0", with height 8'-10" and porch extended inward. Additionally, the building is being constructed with laterite rocks, very substandard for this kind of project.

Problems observed are:

- Building height is low (8'-10")
- Rocks are not standard (laterite rocks)
- Sands not standard (contain foreign materials)



Figure 32.0 Clinic Completion: Project Current View



Figure 33.0 Clinic Completion: Project Current View



Figure 34.0 Clinic Completion: Substandard Rocks

17.0 CLINIC COMPLETION IN KARYATA

Project Name: Clinic Completion in Karyata
Contractor: Sesay Brother (Tel.: 0776321287)
Project Cost: US\$ 25,000.00
Amount Paid: US\$ 10,000.00
Balance owed: US\$ 15,000.00
Location: Karyata, District #5
Status: Ongoing

17.1 TECHNICAL OPINION

This building was constructed in an 'L' form, measured or dimensioned at 69'-0" by 31"-2" by 72'-10", and it was constructed with dirt to cement, according to the citizens. The completion covered:

- Roofing
- Plastering
- Ceiling work
- Window glasses
- Electrical work
- Plumbing
- Floor and tie
- Painting and etc.

Technical, this building height is low (8'-10"); the contractor used 14 gauge zinc.



Figure 35. Clinic Completion in Karyata: Project current view (Standard) & Overestimated



Figure 36.0 Clinic Completion in Karyata: Inside View





18.0 KPARYAH TOWN HALL CONSTRUCTION

Project Name: Kparyah Town Hall Construction
Contractor: Bong Engineering Construction (Tel.: 0770456789)
Project Cost: US\$ 15,000.00
Amount Paid: US\$ 15,000.00
Balance owed: -----0-----
Location: Kparyah Town District #3
Status: Completed

18.1 TECHNICAL OPINION

Kparyah Town Hall is constructed in a rectangular position, measured or dimension at 30'-3" by 22'-0" with height 7'-1". Additionally, according to the citizens, this building was built with 6"x6"x16" dirt bricks with 1" thick cement mortar joint.

Now, taking into consideration these materials and money used to construct the Town Hall, as per citizens' testimonials of constructing the building at lintel level and based on the engineer's technical assessment, this Town Hall was heavily overestimated as well as considering substandard materials used, such as:

- 6"x6"x16" dirt bricks
- Sand with foreign materials
- Laterite rocks mixed with foreign materials

The building's height is very low (7'x1") considering its purpose, and the Town Hall constructed does not commensurate with the amount.



Figure 37.0 Kparyah Town Hall Construction: Project Current View



Figure 38.0 Kparyah Town Hall Construction: Damaged Step (substandard material)



19.0 DISABLE OFFICE RENOVATION

Project Name:	Disable Office Renovation
Contractor:	WILEM Enterprise
Project Cost:	US\$ 10,000.00
Amount Paid:	US\$ 8,000.00
Balance owed:	US\$ 2,000.00
Location:	Civil Compound, Gbarnga City, District #3
Status:	Completed

19.1 TECHNICAL OPINION

The disable office is in a rectangular form, dimensioned or measured at 40'-30" by 30'-4" with height, 8'-10". Based on the length and weight, this building carried or received (6 ½) bundles of zinc. The renovation covered:

- Roofing
- Plastering
- Electrical work
- Plumbing work
- Ceiling work
- Painting work
- Doors and locks, including workmanship

Based on the level of work done and comparing it to the budget for the renovation, the engineer can safely say that the project was overestimated.



Figure 39.0 Disable Office Renovation: Project Current View



20.0 FOEQUELLEH MATERNAL WAITING HOME COMPLETION

Project Name: Foequelleh Maternal Waiting Home Completion
Contractor: Independent Construction (Tel.: 0880759609)
Project Cost: US\$ 25,000.00
Amount Paid: US\$24,253.00
Balance owed: US\$ 747.00
Location: Foequelleh Town, District #4
Status: Completed

20.1 TECHNICAL OPINION

This maternal waiting home was already constructed according to the citizens and it is in (H) form measured or dimensioned at 67'—2" by 30'-10", 14'-2", 26'-8" with height of 7'-6" from foundation level. Works done on this building included but not limited to:

- Roofing
- Plastering electrical work
- Electrical work
- Plumbing work
- Ceiling work
- Painting work
- Doors and locks, including workmanship

Now, looking at the money that was budgeted for the completion and the level of works being done on the building, they do not commensurate with the work done, i.e. the amount budgeted is very huge for the level of work done. This project was far overestimated.



Figure 40.0 Foequelleh Maternal Waiting Home Completion: Project Current View



Figure 41.0 Foequelleh Maternal Waiting Home Completion: Project Current Back View



21.0 LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION

Project Name: Library Construction
Contractor: FAH Architectural Design
Project Cost: US\$ 75,000.00
Amount Paid: US\$ 50,000.00
Balance owed: US\$ 25,000.00
Location: Civil Compound, Gbarnga City, District #3
Status: Standstill

21.1 TECHNICAL OPINION

This building is being constructed in a 'T' form, with an extended porch at the front and dimensioned or measured at 45'-11" by 42'-10" with height 7'-0" from foundation level. Additionally, it has these components listed below:

- Total bathroom 5
- Total porches 2
- Rooms (different types &size) 3
- Main library 1
- Pillows 10"x8 19pcs
- Floor thickness 3"
- PVC pipes 13pcs
- Foundation height from ground level 2'-7"
- Double window 1
- Single window 4
- 3'x7' doors 5
- 2'-6"x7'-0" doors 5

Now based on the current status of the building, taking into consideration the amount paid US\$ 50,000.00, including the materials used and the dimensions of this building, it is evident that the amount is very huge for the work performed so far.



Figure 42.0 Library Construction: Project Site Current View



Figure 43.0 Library Construction: (Standard Rocks)

22.0 CONSTRUCTION OF CHIEF'S OFFICES

Project Name:	Construction of Chiefs Offices
Contractor:	Rural Development Int'l Facilitator
Project Cost:	US\$ 40,000.00
Amount Paid:	US\$ 35,000.00
Balance owed:	US\$ 5,000.00
Location:	Zeansue, Tongbaya, Yedewoiund, & Garyea Clans District #5
Status:	Standstill

22.1 TECHNICAL OPINION

These buildings are constructed in rectangular position, measured or dimensioned at 32'-6" x 21' x 2" with height 9'-1" and have the followings:

Double door (6'x7')	1
Single doors (3'x7')	4
Single doors (2'x6"x7' – 0")	3
Double window	4

All these windows and doors are woodened with hand roof design on the buildings.



Figure 44.0 Construction of Chief's Offices: Project Current View (Standard) But Windows Substandard



Figure 45.0 Construction of Chief's Offices: Back view & Septic tank





23.0 CLINIC CONSTRUCTION

Project Name: Clinic Construction
Contractor: GEOSKPOE (Tel.: 0776284548)
Project Cost: US\$25,000.00
Amount Paid: US\$15,000.00
Balance owed: US\$10,000.00
Location: Gbamokollie-ta, Sanoyea, District #7
Status: Standstill

23.1 TECHNICAL OPINION

This building is in an 'L' form, with eight (8) rooms with a long porch in the same 'L' form at the front of the building. The height is 7'-5" from foundation level. Citizens provided wood for roofing, sand and laterite rocks for the construction.

Now, taking into consideration of local materials provided by the citizens, the US\$ 25,000.00 is too huge.



Figure 46.0 Clinic Construction: Project Site View





24.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Since it is observed that most projects do not have blueprints, due to either to underestimation or overestimation, the PMC through the legal teams should verify all blueprints in line with their BoQs.
2. The PMC needs to ensure that proper monitoring and evaluation be done on all projects undergoing construction at all sites in line with the county engineer.
3. Communities benefitting projects from the county should be represented during the construction and citizens' roles and responsibilities be made clear.

25.0 CONCLUSION

During the assessment tour of all the projects by the team, it was realized that some projects completed were overestimated, while some not started received payment; some started are at standstill while some are ongoing.

Additionally, if not all, projects were done with standard and substandard because of types of materials used by the Contractors.