As the management of the African Development Bank Group evaluates the performance of the Bank’s High 5s Vision for Africa’s economic transformation, the Bank’s Liberia Country Office continues to deliver successfully on the institution’s mission of spurring sustainable economic development and social progress through poverty reduction and improving the livelihoods and wellbeing of Liberians.

The core engagement of the Bank’s Liberia Country Office focused on addressing infrastructure gaps in road transport and electricity generation and distribution. These are two main constraints that have hampered economic development in the West African nation. We continue to forge effective partnerships with public, private and civil society organizations to ensure that ordinary Liberians, national institutions, and the country derive maximum benefits from the Bank’s development assistance.

As at the first half of 2022, the Bank’s assistance to Liberia has contributed to all of the High 5s objectives, with a significant impact in the areas of ‘Integrate Africa’ and ‘Light up and Power Africa.’ The Bank is also exploring ways to help spur private enterprise development in Liberia.

These achievements could not have been possible without the efforts of the Bank’s dedicated staff, both in the Liberia Country Office and those based elsewhere, as well as the support from our valued partners and other stakeholders operating in the country.
The new Country Manager of the African Development Bank, Mr. Benedict Sorie Kanu, officially begun his duty tour in Liberia in February this year by presenting his credentials, followed by a busy schedule of local visits.

Kanu presented his Letter of Credence to Liberia’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah Sr. on 15th February 2022.

In his statement, the Bank’s new country manager stressed that during his tour of duty, he would exert all efforts to strengthen the relationship between the Bank and the Liberian government. This, he noted, will assist in ensuring that the Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development achieves its objective. Kanu reaffirmed that the Bank is here to serve the Liberian people and to ensure that the government’s vision is achieved. He stressed that Liberia played a pivotal role in establishing the African Development Bank in 1964.

Foreign Affairs Minister Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah Sr. warmly welcomed Kanu to Liberia and said that the government was pleased at his selection.

Other events on the Country Manager’s calendar Jan-June 2022:

5 January: The Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA)

LRA Commissioner General Thomas Doe Nah recalled the establishment of the Authority in 2014 as an independent agency. He recalled the assistance the AfDB has been providing to it and how the Bank has assisted in strengthening LRA’s capacity and activities, including tourism, mining, staff training and capacity development. Nah also underscored the need for closer engagement; his staff to better familiarize themselves with the Bank’s fiduciary policies; and the Bank to minimize the turn-around time in processing proposals for Board approval.

19 January: The Liberia Bank for Development and Investment

President and CEO of LBDI, John B. S. Davies III, detailed efforts since 2011 to gain support for eligible commercial banks operating in Liberia, especially trade financing. Unfortunately, these efforts did not come to fruition due to circumstances beyond the control of both parties. He explained some of the challenges that underpin financing agribusiness development and shared a brief on potential agribusinesses that could be considered for financial assistance.

22 January: Commercial banks

Kanu was received by the heads of GT Bank, UBA, Global Bank and Cititrust. The parties exchanged on the possibility of Bank support to promote private enterprise development. The banks expressed an interest in working with the AfDB and gave presentations on real estate/
mortgage financing, rubber/cocoa aggregation, manufacturing, SMEs, light manufacturing and rural road construction, especially those leading to select tourism sites. They also expressed a keen interest in being briefed on the pricing and terms of the AfDB’s financing instruments. The AfDB’s Country Manager subsequently shared the contact details of the commercial banks with the concerned units of the AfDB in Abidjan to facilitate direct contact.

27 January: Working visit to the Liberia Chamber of Commerce

The Bank’s Country Manager was received by the President of the Liberia Chamber of Commerce and his team. The President reported that since its creation in 1951 as an Act of Legislation, the Chamber has and continues to be an influential force and voice for businesses in Liberia. The Chamber advocates for the business interests of a range of private entities, comprising over 300 companies and business associations. Both parties exchanged extensively on why more is not being done by all concerned to promote private enterprise development in Liberia. The Chamber agreed to compile and share with the Bank a vetted priority list of select private Liberian businesses that the Bank may support directly or indirectly.

1 February: Office of the Auditor General of Liberia

The Auditor General and his team received Kanu. They discussed a range of topics, including how to work together to expedite the timeliness and quality of audit reports for AfDB-sponsored projects. They also touched on financial and human capacity challenges experienced by the General Audit Commission (GAC), the cost of audits conducted by the office of the Auditor General versus audits done by private audit firms, the need to deepen procurement dimensions in carrying out project audits, planned training by the African Organization of English-speaking Supreme Audit Institutions (AFROSAI-E), and the preferred timing and duration of AfDB-sponsored project audits in light of the government’s recent change in the fiscal for Liberia.

Covid-19 Update

On 20th March 2020, the government of Liberia declared Covid-19 a public health emergency, facilitating a coordinated national response. The government was very decisive in its actions to contain the pandemic, which significantly contributed to the low number of infections in the country. A National Covid-19 Preparedness and Response Plan is being implemented. The legislature also approved a $25 million budget to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on the most vulnerable. The package included food and utility subsidies.

As of 5th June 2022, the country had registered over 7,452 confirmed cases, including 294 deaths and 5747 recoveries. Despite logistical challenges and vaccine apathy, the Government has made good progress with vaccination. About 21.6% of the population are vaccinated, while 20.9% are fully vaccinated. In August 2020, the Bank provided a grant of $14.2 million for Covid-19 Crisis Response Budgetary Support to Liberia. This support targeted critical areas of prevention, diagnosis and screening, and case management. Going forward, the Government is focusing on economic recovery and has developed a Covid-19 Economic Recovery Plan designed to stimulate broad-based economic growth.

On 11th May 2022, the government revised the Covid-19 protocols for travelers due to the significant gains in combating the pandemic. The Government has suspended the need for Covid-19 negative test results for travelers coming from countries that have also suspended testing for travelers. Covid-19 testing for incoming travelers at the airport is no longer mandatory. However, travelers arriving and departing Liberia must be fully vaccinated.
Lending

On-going and Recently Approved Projects

As of June 2022, the African Development Bank Group’s portfolio consists of 10 national operations, representing 41% of the portfolio’s financial value, and 6 regional projects accounting for 59%. As of 3rd April 2022, 43% of the total approved portfolio amount had been disbursed. Of the 16 ongoing public sector operations, 3 are for technical assistance/institutional support, while 13 are investment projects. In addition, the portfolio comprises multi-national projects financed by TSF Pillar III and Trust Funds. They focus on supporting investment promotion agencies, strengthening domestic revenue mobilization and digitizing payments.

In terms of the Bank’s High 5’s vision for Africa’s economic transformation, the focus has been to integrate Africa on account of the regional roads infrastructure, light up and power Africa on account of the energy projects, and improve the quality of life of the people of Africa, arising from the budget support and strengthening of systems through capacity building.

The active portfolio covers five sectors and is heavily invested in infrastructure, predominantly roads and energy, amounting to $395 million or 90% of the total commitments. The transport sector accounts for the largest share of the portfolio (64%), followed by energy (25%), agriculture and rural development (6%), and multi-sector (4%).

Portfolio Management

As of April 2022, overall portfolio performance is rated at 2.94 on a scale of 1–4, and is satisfactory. The average Implementation Progress (IP) rating is 3.0, and the average Development Objective (DO) rating is 2.88. The percentage of flagged operations dropped from 31% as of December 2020 to 15% as of April 2022, well below the Bank’s operational KPI target of 20%. The overall portfolio disbursement rate dropped from 51% in December 2021 to 43% in April 2022. With an average age of 4.6 years, the active portfolio consists of only one ‘potentially problematic’ project and no problematic project.

The trend in performance of key portfolio indicators over the last three years presents a mixed result. This could be partly attributed to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, which impeded COLR’s ability to undertake site visits and stalled physical implementation, especially in 2020, as most contractors and service providers downscaled their activities, and some exited the country. Consequently, overall portfolio performance dropped from 3.0 in 2019, to 2.94 in 2020 and 2021, while the average portfolio age increased from 3.3 to 4.4 years for the same period. Meanwhile, the time from project approval to loan/grant signature has been kept under a month.

Non-Lending

Development of an Innovative Financial Inclusion Framework to Support Artisanal and Small-scale Mining (ASM) Formalization in Liberia

The absence of adequate financial inclusion and supportive policies has led to the failure of resource-rich countries in Africa, including Liberia, to harness ASM’s potential to improve rural live-
lihoods, stimulate entrepreneurship in a socially responsible manner, and contribute to local and integrated national and regional development. Therefore, financial inclusion and related metrics could be a critical enabling element for ASM actors’ fight against poverty. In addition, it would provide incentives for formalizing their activities within the mainstream economy, allowing them to participate optimally in the mineral value chain.

Within this context, the AfDB conceived the above study in collaboration with the Government. The study objective was to undertake desk research that assesses the mining ecosystem in Liberia, and based on the findings, develop an innovative financial inclusion framework that will support ASM formalization (job creation, skills development, tax revenue generation) and contribute to the integration of the ASM sector into the formal economy. This study complements the ongoing African Development Bank-supported ASM pilot project, “Enhancing efficiency and sustainability of artisanal and small-scale mining through climate-smart actions.” The project aims to contribute to the formalization of the ASM sector through improvement in the policy environment and building the capacity of both regulators and the ASMs.

**Bank’s Performance Towards Achieving the High 5s in Liberia**

**Integrate Africa:** On-going projects include:
(i) MRU Phase I - Paving of Fish Town- Harper Road Project to upgrade a total of 50km of road from gravel to bitumen standard; (ii) MRU Phase I - Paving 80km from gravel to bitumen standard from Karloken to Fish Town including Harper Junction – Cavalla Customs (16km) and the construction of a bridge over the Cavalla River; and (iii) MRU Phase 2 upgrading of 67.1km from gravel to pavement surface from Fish Town to Kelipo (20 km) and Sanniquellie to Loguatio (47.1 km).

**Light up Africa:** The Bank is currently financing four energy operations to address the severe power shortage and the high cost of electricity in Liberia. These are i) West Africa Power Pool (Côte d’Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea – (CLSG) Interconnection and Rural Electrification. The CLSG interconnection is to provide a 1360 km of high voltage transmission line to enable Côte d’Ivoire to export 400MW of power to the other three MRU member states (Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea). The CLSG Rural Electrification is intended to electrify about 130 communities along the CLSG interconnection power line. Liberia Energy Efficiency and Access Project (LEEAP) will construct a 46.1 km transmission line and 280 km of distribution lines in the Roberts International Airport (RIA) corridors and Pleeb-Fish Town, benefiting about 200,000 persons. The Renewable Energy for the Electrification of Liberia will develop the Gbedin Falls hydropower with a total capacity of 9.34 MW, construct an 8km 33kV evacuation line and improve access to electricity for close to 7000 new households.
Feed Africa: The Bank is financing three operations in the Agriculture Sector: (i) SADFONS, (ii) Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones (SAPZ) and (iii) the Scaling up of the participation of Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (SMEs) in secondary wood processing. The Bank also financed the SAPEC Project, which closed in September 2021. The project was i) effective in making households being less food insecure in the intervention areas, ii) reached 25,219 farming households (30% of them being female-headed) with advisory services on the use of improved climate change resilient rice seeds and cassava cultivated varieties, iii) increased annual household income from baseline to end line, farmers in distribution communities earned an average of $91 more than those in the non-input distribution communities, iv) registered 321,766 farmers across the 15 counties of Liberia on an E-Platform for effective agro-input distribution, and (v) trained 58 students at bachelors and graduate levels in agriculture from 9 universities.

SADFONS project seeks to improve food and nutrition security and reduce the poverty of targeted rural populations in Liberia. The project will support the rehabilitation of irrigation schemes for rice cultivation in some 208 ha of lowland areas and an additional 7,000 ha of upland for cultivation. About 8,000 farmers will be supported with productivity enhancement agri-inputs. The SAPZ Project was approved on 20th October 2021, for $14.15 million. The project will provide the external infrastructure (link road, power line and perimeter fence) required to prepare and secure the Agri Hub for private sector development and investments in agro-industrial factories. It will also support the institutional framework by providing technical assistance (in line with SEZ Law of 2017 and the USAID guidance) to the setup of the Special Economic Zone Authority to enable park development, operation and management, regulation and administration, investor mobilization, marketing, and value chain development.

Improve the quality of life for the people of Africa: The Bank continues to finance several operations to improve people’s lives in Liberia. These include i) the Ebola Fight Back Budget Support Program approved in 2014; ii) the Youth Entrepreneurship and Employment Program (YEEP) approved in 2016; iii) the Integrated Public Financial Management Reform Project (IPFMRP): Phase II approved in 2017; iv) the Economic Governance and Competitiveness Budget Support Project (EGCSP) approved in 2018; and v) Covid-19 Crisis Response Programme (CRP) approved in July 2020. The Ebola Fight Back, EGCSP, YEEP, and Covid-19 CRP programs have been successfully implemented, while the Government is also on course to complete the implementation of the IPFMRP II in 2022. Together they achieved the following among others: i) created 40 new sustainable businesses, of which at least 40% are women-owned, ii) supported at least 20 Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to expand their businesses, iii) supported and built the capacity of at least 300 youth to find permanent jobs iv) contributed to slowing down the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic by contributing to the vaccination of over 248,645 people. In addition, on 21st January 2022, the Bank's Board of Directors, in partnership with the Green Climate Fund, approved a $10 million grant to enhance climate information systems for resilient development in Liberia.

Operational News

Recent Projects Approved and Status of the ADF 15 Cycle Resources

- The Bank is supporting the establishment of Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones (SAPZ) in Liberia within the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Buchannan. The Bank, in October 2021, approved $14.15 in financing for the SAPZ, which will provide seed funding for the establishment of the SEZ.

- The Bank supports Liberia’s regional integration with its neighbors in the Mano River Union by financing the: i) Côte d’Ivoire-Liberia-Sierra Leone-Guinea Interconnection Energy project; and ii) MRU Road Development and Transport Facilitation program, for which a third phase was approved by the Board in March 2022, with Liberia benefiting a total amount of $53 million.

- ADF-15 Allocation for Liberia: Liberia’s total ADF-15 allocation is UA 39.99 million ($53.97 million), of which over 87% has been fully committed, and the remaining allocated to two operations to be appraised in 2022. Despite the limitations of ADF financing, the Bank has been proactive and engaged with key partners (Global Agriculture and Food Security Program and the Green Climate Fund) to leverage $22 million in co-financing for two operations in the agriculture sector and climate change adaptation/mitigation within this ADF 15 cycle (2020-22). This trend
is expected to continue for the pipeline projects, especially in the transport, energy, and agriculture sectors.

- The Bank remains committed to supporting the Government of Liberia in line with the Country Strategy Paper 2019-2023 that aims to tackle key fragility drivers and strengthen country resilience. The 2022 lending program is considering 2 sovereign operations, a supplementary financing for the SAPZ and a Technical Assistance to the Central Bank of Liberia.

- Business Development Mission to Liberia (9 to 13 May 2022)

- A team from the African Development Bank participated in a private sector-focused mission in Liberia from 9-13 May 2022 to engage key private sector actors and relevant public sector institutions to understand the country’s private sector investment landscape, identify potential investment opportunities for Bank financing and other areas where the Bank can support the private sector development ecosystem.

- The mission of the African Development Bank was part of a broader visit by other Development Finance Institutions under the umbrella of the Africa Resilience Investment Accelerator (ARIA), an initiative led by the UK Government’s Development Finance Institution (British International Investments, formerly CDC) to unlock investment opportunities in transition states. Participating DFIs in the mission included the International Finance Corporation (IFC), British International Investment (BII), U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), and SwedFund.

The key objective was to identify and engage with commercial banks and private sector companies to understand the country’s private sector investment landscape and identify opportunities for Bank financing.

At the end of the mission, the Bank’s team identified the following potential entry points for the Bank:

- Risk sharing facility for the agriculture sector – The Bank’s President and the Minister of Finance and Development Planning had discussed this before the Bank’s mission.

- Support reforms and improvement of the energy sector. Without removing this bottleneck, the costs of doing business will remain very high.

- Support the building of major roads connecting the capital Monrovia to agricultural regions

- Support the development of the financial sector through reforms (without duplicating what is being done by the World Bank and IFC), capacity building of key commercial banks as a key condition for any financial support initially around trade finance

- Build capacity of SMEs, which several stakeholders have raised. An SME business linkage program can have a significant impact in support of the rebound of the SME sector.
Meeting with Donors

Virtual Meeting with USAID, 3rd January 2022

The Bank’s Country Manager held a virtual meeting with the USAID Mission Director and his team. USAID is midway through implementing its Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS) 2019-2024, with a mid-term review due soon. The goal of the CDCS was to foster self-reliance by spurring private sector-led economic expansion through reforms and cultivating a healthy, productive and educated workforce. The Strategy has the following pillars: i) Market-driven inclusive economic growth that translates into job creation, especially for youth and women; ii) Effective and inclusive governance catalyzed through reforms and greater accountability; and iii) Foundation for growth strengthened through a healthy, productive, and educated population.

AfDB reported on its Country Strategy Paper (CSP) for 2019-2023, whose mid-term review has been completed. The pillars of the strategy are i) Economic diversification through improved transport and energy infrastructure and ii) Improving economic governance and enhancing private sector development. AfDB also briefed USAID on its active country portfolio and operational pipeline.

Virtual Meeting with the World Bank, 4th January 2022

The Bank’s Country Manager held a virtual meeting with the World Bank’s Country Manager. Each party provided a brief on strategic priorities, portfolio and operational pipelines. Like the AfDB, the World Bank also uses government agencies as project implementing partners. For example, the AfDB is assisting the Government in setting up the Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones and has recently financed a study on the subject. The World Bank plans to support the establishment of the Special Economic Zones Authority but does not plan support for infrastructure related to SEZs until an in-depth market demand analysis is completed.

Virtual Statutory Meetings of the West African Monetary Zone (WAMZ) 28th February – 4th March 2022

The Bank’s Country Manager participated in the 50th meeting of the WAMZ technical committee meetings. All West African Monetary Zone member states, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone, participated. The Director-General of the West African Monetary Institute (WAMI) delivered the opening remarks, followed by statements from the representative of the ECOWAS Commission and the Chairman of the Technical Committee of the WAMZ. Policy papers and progress reports which formed the basis for discussions include the following: WAMZ Macroeconomic Developments and Convergence Report; Diagnostic Report on the Harmonization of Statistics in the WAMZ Member States; Proposed Roadmap for WAMZ Countries’ Migration to Inflation Targeting Framework; Progress Report on West African Capital Market Integration and Insurance Sector Development; Progress Report on Payments System Development in the WAMZ; Update on the Concept Note on the Establishment of a Legal/Regulatory Framework for Fintech in the WAMZ; and administrative issues. The closed-door 44th meeting of the committee of governors and 47th meeting of the convergence council followed the technical committee meeting.

Launch of the Stockholm+50 National Consultations in Liberia, 7th March 2022

The Bank’s Country Manager participated in the event, whose objective was to stimulate an inclusive, bottom-up debate on Stockholm+50 global themes (a healthy planet and prosperity for all; and sustainable and inclusive recovery from Covid-19). At the national level, the consultations entailed the national launch in Monrovia, two regional dialogues in Nimba and Grand Bassa Counties, one national dialogue in Monrovia, and side consultations (women, youth, private sector, government, etc.). The official launch was addressed by the Executive Director, Liberia Environmental Protection Agency; US Ambassador to Liberia; EU Head of Delegation; UN Resident Coordinator; visiting Secretary of State, Sweden; Minister of Foreign Affairs; and UNDP Resident Representative.
Extraordinary ECOWAS Parliamentary Session, Ministerial Complex, Congo Town, Liberia, 8th March 2022

The Bank’s Country Manager participated in the opening ceremony of the session, which was opened by Liberian President Dr. George Manneh Weah. The event, which focused on the political and security challenges in West Africa, was attended by former Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

The session covered the political and security situation in the ECOWAS region; retrogression of democracy, and resurgence of unconstitutional change of government, with emphasis on Mali, Guinea, and Burkina Faso, as well as the failed coup in Guinea Bissau. Moreover, the extraordinary session was expected to propose concrete actions and activities to support the work of the ECOWAS Commission in addressing the challenges associated with the implementation of Vision 2050.

Field Visit to Development Projects and Action Dialogue, 12-13 March 2022

The Bank’s Country Manager participated in a field trip to see firsthand how development assistance is being managed and implemented in Liberia. It was organized by the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, collaborating with concerned sector ministries: Health, Public Works, Education, Agriculture, and Mines and Energy. Participants included government officials, representatives of Project Implementation Units (PIUs), civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations, ambassadors and senior staff of bilateral and multilateral institutions, such as the World Bank, IMF, EU, UN, UNDP, USAID, AfDB, Sweden, UK, Ireland, France, and Germany. The sectors covered during the field visit were Health, Education, Agriculture, Energy and Transport. The joint AfDB-EU sponsored MRU Road Development and Transport Facilitation Program Phase II (Sanniquellie-Loguatuo Road) was one of the road project sites visited. Key challenges that have affected the timely implementation of road projects were Covid-19 restrictions on personnel travel and importation of primary raw materials and equipment, and delay in the Resettlement Action Plan compensation by the government for affected persons along the road corridor.

The joint supervision mission climaxed in an Action Dialogue in Monrovia on 16th March 2022. During the Action Dialogue, partners committed to strengthening coordination, increasing alignment, improving results, and promoting mutual accountability. A significant recommendation from the Action Dialogue was that the evaluation of development programs and projects should focus more on measuring outcomes and impacts rather than the disbursement rates of development funds.

Inaugural National Steering Committee Meeting of the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD), 11th April 2022

The Bank’s Country Manager participated in the event, which President H.E George Manneh Weah chaired. The National Steering Committee is the highest decision-making body for the PAPD’s governance structure. The objective of the meeting was to take stock of the implementation progress made by the four Pillars of the PAPD across various sectors. The event’s lead organizer was the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning. The meeting was attended by development partners, PAPD Pillar Leads, and Sector Heads of Government ministries. The session included extensive and frank discussions on solutions to critical national issues concerning the PAPD.
President Weah noted that his government has made tremendous efforts in road infrastructure, expansion of electricity to rural and urban areas, and investment in health and education over the last three years. However, he outlined that macroeconomic shocks in 2018 severely affected the PAPD, leading to the government revising the ambitions of the PAPD and moving swiftly to prioritize public expenditure and aggressively grow domestic revenue.

**Rollout of Reform Activities of the Economic Management Department of the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP), 16th May 2022**

The Bank was represented by the Senior Country Economist in the workshop in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County. The workshop’s theme was “Strengthening Coordination and Ensuring Efficient Management of Development Assistance.” The event was attended by other development partners, including the World Bank, UNDP, and the Embassy of Ireland. Other participants included representatives from MDAs, civil society organizations and local and international NGOs. The highlights of the discussions are summarized below.

Development of a Macroeconomic Framework for Liberia. A presentation was done on this topic. The main objective of the policy move is to enable the Government of Liberia to have its own projections and policy simulation model to inform real-time decision making in government.

The Liberia Project Dashboard – This dashboard is developed by the MFDP to present information on all development projects in the county by sector, regions, and economic activities. Development partners present found the dashboard helpful and promised to support its implementation by helping to provide the necessary information it may require.

Online platform for accreditation of NGOs – This platform developed by the MFDP, with support from an AfDB Technical Assistance Project, will help government to give online accreditation to NGOs operating in Liberia.

**Other Meetings**

**Technical Sector Working Groups**

**Transport Sector Technical Working Group 27th January 2022**

The senior transport sector expert represented the Bank in a transport sector coordination meeting held at the Ministry of Public Works. The meeting was attended by other development partners and chaired by the Acting Minister of Public Works, Hon. Ruth Coker-Collins. The meeting was called to revamp sector coordination activities after a long suspension of the monthly meetings due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Minister provided key updates on the operations of the National Road Fund, indicating that the projected expenditure of the fund allotted $9.4 million for maintenance works, $6 million for rehabilitation works, $1 million for administrative costs, and the
rest was to be used for repayment of loans and fulfillment of counterpart financing (Resettlement of Project Affected Person) on various road corridors. She also provided key policies and programs planned for 2022, among which are the Bank’s recently approved MRU Road Transport Project. A key agreement of the meeting was for the Sector Ministry to promptly transform the existing Infrastructure Implementation Unit (IIU) under the Ministry of Public Works into a modern, efficient and effective road agency, with clear road construction, maintenance and management mandates.

Procurement and Financial Management Support

In addition to the general support in managing the portfolio in fiduciary assurance, the fiduciary team was involved in external reform activities and dialogue events with other development partners and the government. For example, the Bank was invited by the Liberia Institute of Certified Public Accountants (LICPA) to attend the 2ND ECOWAS/ABWA Congress held 17th-18th March 2022. The Bank participated in the event, which brought together delegates from 15 Professional Accountancy Organizations within the sub-region. The event was graced by the President of the Republic of Liberia, H.E. George Manneh Weah. The theme of the event was “Good Governance and Sustainable Development for Regional Prosperity”, and some of the major deliberations included the role of the Accountancy Profession in Digital Transformation and the Future of Work.

The Bank was duly represented by COLR’s Procurement Officer 28th March to 2nd April 2022 in a technical session organized by the Public Procurement and Concession Commission (PPCC) for key stakeholders on the ongoing e-Procurement system development, which the Bank and the World Bank partly funded. The PPCC is working with development partners to increase effectiveness and efficiency in public procurement. Part of this effort is for PPCC to implement preliminary activities that will lead to developing, installing, and piloting of a well-functioning electronic procurement system in Liberia. The technical session was to review the E-GP Business, Functional and Technical Specification Report developed by Infocus consultancy, and this is one of those preliminary activities that require completion before the establishment of the E-GP System. The Bank actively contributed to the workshop discussions and provided inputs that guided the proposed revisions on the e-GP report.

Validation Workshop for a Five-year Infrastructure Strategic Plan (2022-2027), 23rd May 2023

The Bank participated in a validation workshop for a five-year infrastructure strategic plan (2022-2027) held at Carina hotel, Sinkor on 23rd May 2022. The validation section covered the structure and content of the strategic plan developed with financing from the African Development Bank under the Transition Support Facility (TSF) Pillar III window. This facility is meant to address the capacity gaps within government institutions under the ambit of the Technical and Capacity Building Assistance Project. The strategic plan presented will form the foundation upon which the Ministry of Public Works will continue its mandate in serving the nation by effectively providing high-quality infrastructure and an integrated transportation system that meets the needs of Liberia.
Administrative Matters

Staff Rotation

- In October 2021, Mr. Orison Amu ended his tour of duty as Country Manager.
- On December 21, 2021, Mr. Benedict S. Kanu arrived in Liberia to assume duty.
- On February 1, 2022, Mr. Yusuf Bob Foday assumed duty as Senior Country Economist.
- On March 6, 2022, Mr. Femi Fatoyinbo assumed duty as Financial Management Officer.
- On March 19, 2022, Mr. Abdul Pawaah Aziz Bangura ended his tour of duty.

Staff Return to Office

In March 2020, the President of the African Development Bank issued a Presidential Directive requesting all Bank staff to work from home due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Based on the Bank’s Management instructions, after more than two years of working from home, COLR returned to the office on 4th April 2022. In preparation for staff return to the office and in compliance with Covid-19 health protocols, COLR procured requisite hygiene supplies and made them available to staff. Moreover, all staff are fully vaccinated against Covid-19.

Know the Country Office Team

- **Benedict S. Kanu**  
  Country Manager

- **Abdul P. A. Bangura**  
  Former Country Program Officer

- **Prince Deea Tamba**  
  Sr. Transport Engineer

- **Alex S. Yeanay**  
  Sr. Social Protection Officer

- **Yusuf Bob Foday**  
  Sr. Country Economist

- **Emmanuel Maniragaba**  
  Sr. Power Engineer

- **Daniel Osei-Boakye**  
  Procurement Officer

- **Femi FATOYINBO**  
  Senior Financial Management Officer

- **Dueh T. Dennis**  
  IT Officer

- **John A Tamba**  
  Admin and Finance Assistant

- **Lovette P. M Topoh**  
  Secretary to the Country Manager

- **Daniel Tamba Sellu**  
  Secretary

- **Alvin S. Kollie**  
  Driver

- **Joshua C. Boayue**  
  Driver