

# NPA Reform Program Gains Momentum

...As 2 Reputable Companies Submit Proposal



NPA Board Chair Blyah Kesselly

Efforts toward revitalizing and modernizing the operations and facilities of the National Port Authority (NPA) have gained momentum with two reputable international port operators tendering bids for the reconstruction of the severely deteriorated 60-year old

general cargo pier. The management of port operations is also an integral component of the reform process.  
*Cont'd on Page 14*

page 14



## NPA Reform Program

*Cont'd from front page*

During the bid opening exercise which took place recently in the Conference Room of the National Port Authority, the Chairman of the National Investment Commission, Dr. Richard Tolbert, described the port reform investment which is estimated at more than \$100 million USD as very encouraging. Dr. Tolbert said the reconstruction of the port is critical to the Liberian economy as well as regional and international trade and commerce.

The NIC Boss, who also chairs the Inter-Ministerial Concession Committee (IMCC) on the Freeport of Monrovia Concession said that the port has been in a very deplorable condition for too long, and commended the port sector reform secretariat (PSRS) for steering the reform process to this stage. He said due to the present condition of the port, there was a need for a speedy and transparent implementation of the project.

One of the bidders, APM Terminals is a global port operation company based in the Hague, Netherlands and operates fifty ports around the world with nine in Africa. The Dutch company has a great reputation in the

United States of America, Europe and Asia; while the other, the Ballore Group is a French based institution that operates in forty-two African Countries, with over fifty thousand employees around Africa. The group specializes in both ports and terminal operations.

December 2007, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Government of Liberia, the World Bank, the Government of the United States of America and the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) for a public-private partnership arrangement to facilitate port infrastructure, improve operations and increase productivity of the Freeport of Monrovia with the aim of modernizing its aged facilities and makes its operations more efficient and effective.

The initiative is also in support of the Government's poverty Reduction Strategy and is expected to immensely benefit Liberians and the shipping community.