

*The Japanese people* and government must be highly commended for providing funding for various projects in Liberia. We cannot name all the projects in these few lines, but just to mention a few, they provided funding that saw the construction of a sprawling primary school in Bombor Old Town, Grand Cape Mount County.

*Again, they have* agreed to fund the upgrading and pavement of the troublesome, two-lane highway leading from the Freeport of Monrovia to the Red Light.

*Now, they have* provided additional funding for the construction of three, double-spanned, reinforced concrete bridges in Grand Cape Mount County. The implications are very telling!

*The social and* economic benefits accumulating from the construction of these three bridges, when completed, cannot be over-emphasized. It will undoubtedly have an enormous impact on the lives of the thousands of citizens in these rural areas.

*Firstly, it will* open up the entire northern corridor of the county and allow easy access to the famous Lake Piso down in the south where the fishing industry is thriving.

*Secondly, the mineral-rich* Western Cluster will now be in reach by thousands. The Kaylia Bridge in Porkpah District will connect the district to other major parts of the county, including Mano River Congo, Kongbor and Dambala.

*And thirdly, happy* school kids will now be able to safely cross the Kaylia River, on their way to and from school.

*It is precisely* because of the reasons stated above and many more that we urge contractors building these bridges to get on with the job; to hold up their end of the contract.

*The Government of Japan;* had seen the need of our citizens and the challenge is on both contractors and consultant to do all they can, so that the dreams and aspirations of the thousands to be impacted by these bridges, be realized. Again, we say, Thank you! Japan.