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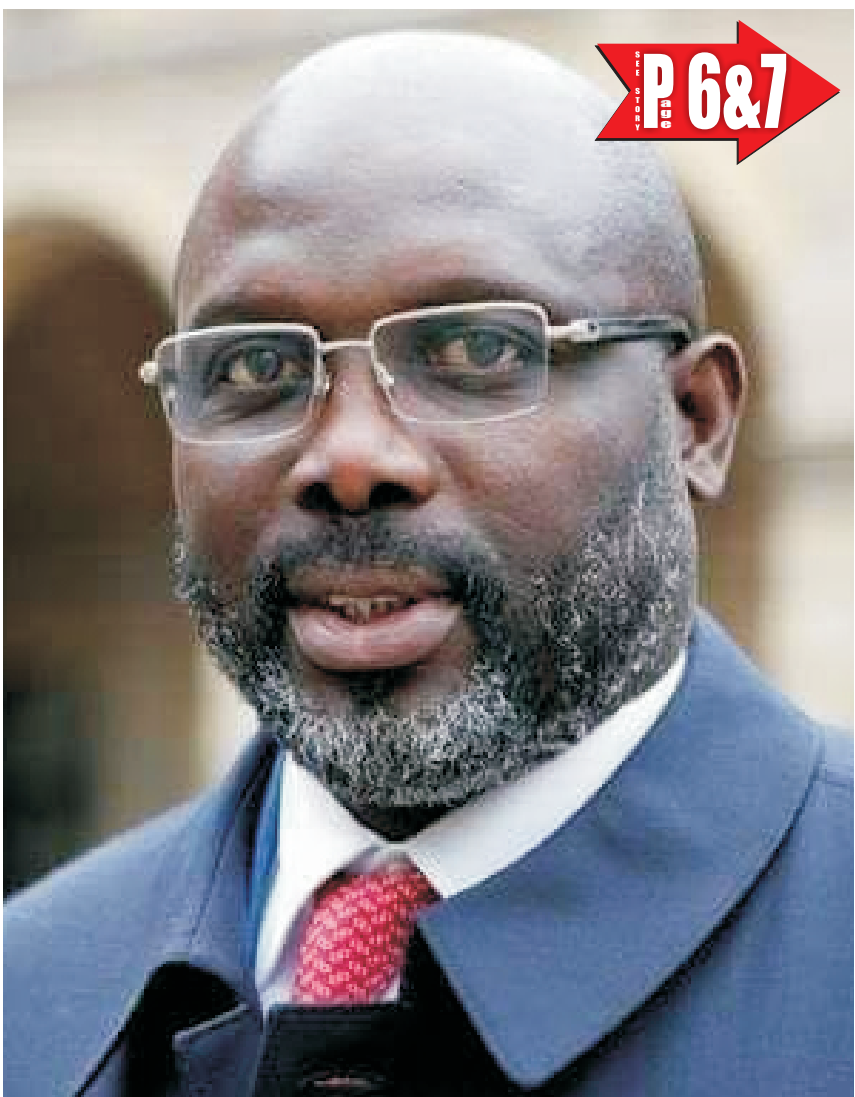
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Looking back one year after

In Nimba: Government hospital turns prescription center



The G. W. Harley Hospital in Sanniquellie



Continental News

Zimbabwe president abandons trip amidst unrest

Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa has broken off a trip to Europe after violent protests in his home country.

Mr Mnangagwa had been due to attend the Davos economic summit where he was expected to seek investment for Zimbabwe.

Ministers say the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) is using sharp fuel price increases as a pretext for violence.

But the MDC accuses the authorities of a brutal crackdown.

How did the protests start?

Mr Mnangagwa announced a steep increase in the fuel price earlier this month.

The price rises were meant to tackle fuel shortages, but mean that Zimbabwe now has the most expensive fuel in the world, according to GlobalPetrolPrices.com.

Many Zimbabweans, worn down by years of economic hardship, have suddenly found they cannot even afford the bus fare to work.

This has led to angry protests in the capital, Harare, and the south-western city of Bulawayo.

How violent were the protests?

The Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO forum says at least 12 people were killed and 78 treated for gunshot injuries.

The rights group also says that over 240 people have

been treated after being assaulted or tortured, while the opposition says government forces have attacked people in their homes.

The UN has called on the government to halt the "excessive use of force" by security forces, amid reports of door-to-door searches and the use of live ammunition.



Media caption Roads were barricaded by protesters last week

The government blocked Facebook, Twitter and WhatsApp messaging apps last week, until a high court ordered it to restore access.

Mr Mnangagwa, who arrived back in Harare late on Monday night, condemned the demonstrations, saying "everyone has the right to protest, but this was not a peaceful protest".

He accused protesters of "wanton violence and cynical destruction" and "looting police stations, stealing guns and uniforms".

Who does the government blame for the violence?

It accuses the opposition MDC party of using the protests

for political means.

Presidential spokesman George Charamba said on Sunday: "The MDC leadership has been consistently pushing out the message that they will use violent street action to overturn the results of [last year's] ballot."

The opposition rejected a court ruling in August 2018 that confirmed that President Mnangagwa had defeated MDC leader Nelson Chamisa.

Mr Charamba warned on Sunday that the security forces' actions were just "a foretaste of things to come".

However, Mr Mnangagwa struck a different tone on Tuesday, saying that any violence from the security forces will be investigated and punished. -BBC

Nigeria finds 20,000 kidnapped girls in Mali

A Nigerian agency fighting against people trafficking says its fact-finding team has found at least 20,000 girls stranded in Mali.

"We received reports concerning the stranded girls and sent a team to find out", Julie Okah-Donli, the Director General of The National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in

their way to or from school.

She said that the agency was working with the Nigerian authorities, Mali's government, and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) to repatriate the girls.

She described the girls' living conditions as "slave-like", adding that the agency does not have a definite



Persons (Naptip), told the BBC Newsday programme.

Ms Okah-Donli said that some of the girls had been tricked into going by traffickers who told them they were being taken to Malaysia for work. Other girls had been kidnapped on

number of other girls who may also have been trafficked to neighbouring countries.

"We are thinking of going to Ghana and Senegal," Ms Okah-Donli said about where the agency would next send a team. BBC

President's inauguration in DR Congo may be postponed: party source

The swearing-in of the newly-elected president of DR Congo, Felix Tshisekedi, may be postponed by two days until Thursday, a source in his coalition said Monday.

"According to information I was given this morning, the (ceremony) has been put off

until Thursday," Lydie Omanga, spokesman for the opposition coalition which backed Tshisekedi in the race to succeed outgoing President Joseph Kabila, told AFP.

Kabila's deputy head of cabinet, Jean-Pierre Kambila, said "a meeting will take place at 5:00 pm (1600 GMT) today to

settle the matter."

"If the ceremony does not take place tomorrow, it will be on January 24, without doubt," he added.

Sources close to the president-elect said Monday that aspects of the ceremony remained to be decided. Invitations notably have to be sent to foreign heads of state and government, they said.

The timetable of the national electoral commission, which oversaw the long-delayed elections across the vast country, provided for the new head of state to be sworn in on Tuesday, January 22.

Tshisekedi's announced victory was legally challenged by runner-up Martin Fayulu, who called the outcome "an electoral coup" -- an alleged stitchup between Kabila and Tshisekedi.

Leaked figures from the provisional vote count appear to point heavily in his favour.

But the Constitutional Court on Sunday dismissed his appeal.

Kabila came to power in 2001 while war raged in the



Félix Tshisekedi, 55, at his party headquarters in Kinshasa the night his provisional election victory was announced on January 10, 2019. (AFP Photo/Caroline Thirion)

vast and mineral-rich country.

He extended his term by two years from 2016, unleashing protests that the security forces bloodily repressed.

Tshisekedi, 55, is the son of the late veteran opposition leader Etienne Tshisekedi, who

died in February 2017, aged 84.

African countries that had expressed reservations about the provisional results of the election have begun to acknowledge Tshisekedi as the next president. -AFP

EDITORIAL

Silencing critical voices in the House

THERE IS AN ongoing attempt to silent some members of the House of Representatives, who are viewed by the leadership of that august body as being very critical against Speaker Bhofal Chambers and his leadership style.

THREE REPRESENTATIVES ARE currently being investigated by the Committee on Rules, Order and Administration at the House for allegedly bringing that body to public disrepute.

SINOE COUNTY DISTRICT #2 Rep. Nagbe Sloh, Montserrado County District #15 Rep. Adolph Lawrence and Montserrado County District #10 Rep. Yekeh Kolubah are facing probe for publicly disagreeing with Speaker Chambers.

THE SPEAKER FINDS no pleasure in critical comments against his leadership in the press, attributed to some of his colleagues. He is making no secrecy in expressing his disgust about such reports.

ACCORDING TO REPORTS, Reps. Kolubah, Sloh and Lawrence accuse the leadership of the House headed by Speaker Chambers of involvement in malpractices.

HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE the unfolding development on Capitol Hill is far more than probing to set records straight. Rather, it is a calculated attempt to quiet dissenting views and renders that great hall for the exchange of ideals dormant, as it is already a rubber stamp to the Executive.

THE ALL MIGHTY Speaker Chambers is seeking absolute control of the rest of the 72 members in the House. He does not want to entertain any challenge from the floor during session.

LEGISLATIVE FUNCTIONS ARE all about disagreement and debate to derive majority consensus on a way forward. During such exercises, there would be bitter and sometimes, acrimonious exchanges, geared at getting the best ideas.

BUT AS THINGS are proceeding in the House under the Chambers leadership, debate and divergent views are being thrown out of the window. Surely, this is not the kind of legislature Liberians envisage. They do not want a House which members would spend all of their time fighting one another rather than debating the matters of state.

WE CALL ON Speaking Chambers and his entire leadership to abandon the current prosecution of lawmakers with critical views. Instead, Chambers should exercise tolerance and accept criticism in good fate in order to become a better consensus builder in serving the Liberian people rather than going after perceived enemies as the present scenario depicts.

COMMENTARY

By Jean Tirole

Macron's Great Gamble

After weeks of facing down protests and riots by the "yellow vests," French President Emmanuel Macron has called for a national public consultation to determine where citizens stand on a number of pressing issues. But while a genuinely inclusive national debate may be just what France needs, it also could backfire spectacularly.

TOULOUSE - In reaction to the ongoing "Yellow Vest" revolt in France, President Emmanuel Macron has decided to hold a "grand" nationwide debate. Over the coming months, locally organized workshops, Internet-based consultations, and regional citizen conferences will assess the French public's views on four issues: environmental policy, democracy and identity, taxes, and the organization of the state.

But Macron's plan faces three obstacles. For starters, French public opinion is rife with contradictions. The yellow vests, for example, want both lower taxes and more public services. Neither demand is unreasonable. But nor is such a fiscal approach sustainable in a country where public expenditure amounts to 57% of GDP and the debt ratio, already officially estimated at close to 100%, does not include large off-balance-sheet public liabilities like unfunded pensions.

Complicating matters further, there is broad support in France both for the yellow vests, whose rebellion started with a demand to repeal the carbon tax levied on fuel consumption, and for an initiative to sue the French government for failing to address climate change.

Moreover, when the yellow vests complain about inequality, they tend to focus on Macron's elimination of the wealth tax, which previously brought in €5 billion (\$5.7 billion) per year - a pittance compared to the €188 billion (\$214 billion) generated annually by the value-added tax (VAT). Or they complain about the salaries of top government officials. But they offer no concrete proposals that address two key factors driving inequality in France: education and labor-market access.

According to the Programme for International Student Assessment, the educational-performance gap between students from disadvantaged backgrounds and the rest of the population is higher in France than in any other OECD country. And not only does France's unemployment rate rest at around 10%; its two-tier labor market funnels over 90% of new hires - particularly younger, low-skill workers - into short fixed-term contracts.

In addition to contradictory demands, Macron will also have to confront obstacles rooted in public perception. The way French citizens view economic conditions rarely accords with reality. One often hears that France is a particularly inegalitarian country, where the rich don't pay taxes, where retirees are always gouged, or where tax evasion and politicians' salaries consume vast resources. None of these claims stand up to scrutiny.

To be sure, Macron's government was too slow in designing compensatory measures to offset the combined impact of increased oil prices, the programmed increase in the carbon tax, and the repeal of subsidies for diesel vehicles. But the French are also blaming him for the effects of unreasonable policies going back decades, including the diesel subsidies (maintained for 20-plus years to support the French car industry) and measures promoting high inner-city land rents.

The third obstacle to progress is violence. In recent weeks, there has been a striking increase in threats from yellow vests against legislators, journalists, and even fellow protestors who have expressed a willingness to negotiate with the government.

Macron's government thus finds itself between a rock and a hard place. And yet, a public consultation could well create even more havoc. Centuries of political

history stand as a warning against the current enthusiasm for instituting a "referendum d'initiative citoyenne."

After all, most democracies have opted for representative government, rather than rule by referendum, for good reason. In theory, at least, the people's representatives can devote more time to thinking about the tradeoffs of different policy choices, and have more access than average citizens to expertise. And, unlike citizens debating in cafés or on Facebook and Twitter, elected representatives' arguments are publicly scrutinized and fact-checked.

Moreover, there is good reason to delegate certain forms of public decision-making to independent judges, central banks, and regulatory authorities. Insofar as they are insulated from political lobbying and elections, these actors can take a longer-term view and protect the rights of minorities.

By circumventing these checks, referenda in France could open the door to the revocation of laws permitting abortion, banning capital punishment, and recognizing gay marriage. It also could lead to all manner of demagogic economic policies - from a lower retirement age to anti-immigrant measures or even a "Frexit" from the eurozone or the European Union.

On the other hand, if Macron's government merely pays lip service to civic consultation, the malaise will deepen; the yellow vests will have received "confirmation" that elites do not listen when citizens express what they need.

So, what good could come of the consultation? A successful debate would re-engage the French in their country's political life. In France, decision-making is highly centralized, policies are uniform (despite some timid attempts by Macron's government to promote flexibility), and civic participation is weak. The elite's reluctance to trust citizens, combined with citizens' own lack of engagement and occasional puerility, creates a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Against this backdrop, it is little wonder that the feeling of "existing" - of participating in an adventure and having one's voice heard in the media - has become a palpable feature of the yellow-vest experience. The problem is that French citizens' previous disengagement and poor understanding of economic realities predisposes them to make categorical demands, rather than pushing for realistic reforms.

A properly structured consultation in which French citizens ponder tradeoffs, acknowledge objective facts, and rediscover a sense of community could be a tremendous success. For example, once everyone accepts that there is a tension between reducing taxes and improving public services, a debate can be held on how best to achieve an optimal policy mix.

Everything should be on the table. The French must consider the purpose of each and every public service; whether those services are fulfilling their objectives, and at a reasonable cost; and whether there are better alternatives on offer. This is what the Canadians and the Scandinavians did in the 1990s, when they, too, were facing dysfunctional public sectors, rising public debts, and high unemployment.

France is finally engaging in a process to modernize the economy while still protecting its citizens. But the country is at a crossroads, and its citizens could still drag their country down the path of illiberalism and demagoguery.

New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

O-PED

By Guy Verhofstadt

Brexit Demands a New British Politics

BRUSSELS - The populist revolts in the United States and the United Kingdom have each reached a critical juncture. At the start of his third year in office, US President Donald Trump is presiding over the longest federal government shutdown in history. Having painted himself into a corner, he remains largely at the mercy of congressional Democrats to negotiate an end to a crisis he created.

Likewise, British Prime Minister Theresa May, having failed to secure parliamentary approval for her Brexit deal, now must negotiate either with the opposition Labour Party or with Tory Brexiteers and the Northern Irish Democratic Unionists who prop up her government.

Meanwhile, diplomats and politicians in Brussels have been deeply regretting May's latest setback. After all, the agreement that was voted down was not just "May's deal" but also the "European Union's deal" - a point that has been lost on too many British MPs.

Given the "red lines" that May drew around limiting immigration and removing the United Kingdom from the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice, the deal she reached is nothing if not balanced. By settling financial obligations and offering certainty both to EU and UK citizens caught in the crossfire, it provides for an orderly divorce.

Moreover, the political declaration accompanying the divorce agreement lays the groundwork for a close and enduring future relationship between the UK and the EU. Both sides have committed to negotiating a post-Brexit settlement quickly, which means the contentious "Irish backstop" - a necessary safeguard for preserving the Good Friday Agreement and peace in Northern Ireland - will never have to come into play.

To be sure, "Remain"-orientated Conservative and Labour MPs have complained that the political declaration is not prescriptive enough, while Brexiteers argue that it is too prescriptive. But the EU made clear from the very start that a divorce treaty must be concluded before the details of the future relationship can be negotiated. No amount of griping will change that now.

Besides, the framework outlined in the political declaration can still be revised in the coming weeks. For example, Andrew Duff, a Liberal Democrat Remainer, has suggested that a UK-specific conceptualization of the free movement of people or customs-union membership could break the parliamentary impasse.

But while British politicians will no doubt find new doors to open, whether they can reach a multiparty agreement on which one to walk through remains uncertain. Cross-party solutions do not come naturally to the UK's bipolar, adversarial political system. And yet, where there's a will, there's a way to put the national interest before narrow partisan concerns.

A multiparty approach is, of course, familiar to continental European politicians. EU legislation regularly ends up being finalized through late-night negotiations between MEPs and ministers who have locked themselves in a room to thrash out the necessary compromises.

A cultural shift toward an EU-style "co-decision" process could well win the support of the British public, as well as of European Brexit negotiators, who have been eagerly awaiting a more representative position from London for two years now. And if British political leaders are to have any hope of uniting their bitterly divided country, they will have to lead by example.

Looking ahead, the EU will remain somewhat flexible, as it has from the start. What it will not tolerate are attempts by British politicians - Labour or Conservative - to settle domestic political disputes by dumping them onto European policymakers' shoulders.

In this context, British requests to extend the Brexit negotiations should be assessed in good faith and granted if more time is needed to settle technical matters. But no extension can go beyond July 2, 2019, as that is when a new European Parliament will be seated, following an election in May that will be a battle for Europe's soul. With populists in Hungary, Poland, and elsewhere campaigning against the EU's foundational values, European politicians have much more than British domestic political squabbles to worry about.

As for the Remainers seeking to overturn the 2016 Brexit referendum, they should remember that the UK need not remain outside the EU forever. The current deal on the table would not prevent Britain from reapplying for membership, even during the transition period. To my mind, it is almost inevitable that some compelling young British politician will emerge one day to lead the UK back into the EU, where it belongs.

But for now, the clock is ticking, and those who will be the most adversely affected by Brexit - including British businesses, young people, Britons living in the EU, and EU citizens living in the UK - deserve an orderly withdrawal. Given that a chaotic countdown to a disastrous "no deal" Brexit - in which the UK crashes out of the EU single market and customs union - would poison UK-EU relations for decades to come, no responsible politician should even entertain the possibility.

It is time for British politicians to come out of their trenches and start talking. Only Britons can move their politics from adversarial zero-sum brinkmanship to constructive consensus-building. Such a change in the UK's political culture is long overdue.

OPINION

By Robert J. Shiller

Morality and Money Management

NEW HAVEN - The death on January 16 of Jack Bogle, the founder of the investment company Vanguard Group, was met with a slew of flattering obituaries. Of course, obituaries often praise their subjects. But Bogle's seemed more laudatory than usual. And I think there is a reason: Bogle was an unusually morally directed man.

Of course, we cannot judge his success by his personal wealth. When Bogle established Vanguard in 1975, he set it up as a nonprofit. The company has no outside shareholders; all profits are reflected in lower fees, not dividends.

By metrics other than founder wealth, the Vanguard Group is a huge success. It invests for 20 million people in 170 countries. It has \$4.9 trillion in assets under management. It may be the world's most significant investment company.

But this does not mean that we must agree with everything Bogle said, or malign others who are not nonprofit. His is not the only way to be moral.

Bogle's morality was rooted in his conviction that trying to beat the market is futile. This was reflected in his 2007 book *The Little Book of Common Sense Investing: The Only Way to Guarantee Your Fair Share of Stock Market Returns*. His investment strategy is "the only way," and the opening paragraph of the tenth-anniversary edition sums it up:

"Successful investing is all about common sense. As Warren Buffett, the Oracle of Omaha, has said, it is simple but it is not easy. Simple arithmetic suggests, and history confirms, that the winning strategy for investing in stocks is to own all of the nation's publicly held businesses at very low cost."

This means that one should simply invest in an index fund that represents the whole market and then call it a day. But it is a little odd to be quoting Buffett in support of such a strategy, given that the Oracle of Omaha owes his fame (and his moniker) entirely to his ability to outperform the market.

Bogle's statement is best interpreted as applying to his audience of individual retail investors. Because the market portfolio is the average investment for all investors, the average investor can do no better than the average for the market. But the excitement of the market causes people to lose sight of that. As Bogle puts it in his book: "The stock market is a giant distraction from the business of investing."

He is right about the distraction. People look for excitement, and the stock market is one game they can play. People will gamble anyway, if not in the stock market, then in a casino. On the other hand, it is no doubt better overall if people learn lessons about business and real economic activity, rather than card-counting tricks. There may be rough rides for some, but the hurly burly of the stock market is also a sign of a vibrant economy.

Advising people simply to hold the market is advising them to free-ride on the wisdom of others who do not follow such a strategy. If everyone followed Bogle's advice, market prices would turn into nonsense and would provide no direction to economic activity.³

I remember exactly when I began to appreciate the complexity of the moral issues money management entails: October 8, 2009. I received a phone call from the eminent MIT economist Paul Samuelson, who had been my teacher when I was a graduate student in the early 1970s. He was 94 years old at the time, and two months later he died. I was so impressed by the call that I took notes on it in my diary.

Samuelson was responding to my recent publications advocating expanded insurance, futures, and options markets to mitigate the financial risks - for example, those related to housing prices and occupational incomes - that ordinary people face. He said that these markets could, if pitched to the general population, turn into "casino markets," with people using them to gamble, rather than to protect themselves.

He then brought up the example of Bogle, who "gave up a billion dollars for a concept," Samuelson said. "He could easily have cashed this in," but he didn't. "The miracle that was Vanguard came from Bogle's principles."

I thought he was right. In the long run, markets reward principled people. But there is still need for an expanded set of risk markets, because these markets can - and do - carry out useful functions, including risk management, incentivization, and orienting business.

The problem is that attention to these markets requires intelligent and hard-working people to help others in their investing. Theirs is not a zero-sum game, for they help direct resources to better uses. And these people must be paid. Even Vanguard, which now has a number of different index funds, hires investment managers and charges a management fee, albeit a low one.

Not every fund needs a low fee. We live in a world where constant and rapid change and innovation require more attention, and attention is costly. While many financial managers are at times unscrupulous, a higher management fee is not always a sign that something is wrong.

But Bogle is still a hero of mine, because he provided an honest product and was motivated by a sincere desire to help people. And he should be a hero to all, because he showed that markets eventually recognize integrity.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Monrovia is a Challenge

-Mayor Kojee concedes to critics

By Lewis S. Teh

The Mayor of Monrovia Jefferson T. Kojee concedes to criticism here that filth has engulfed the capital and surrounding communities as a result of failure by the Monrovia City Corporation collect garbage in the streets.

However, Mayor Kojee notes that though the city is challenged, but the MCC alone cannot do it all.

Kojee's public admittance came Tuesday, 22 January during an interactive forum with the public and the press, broadcast live on Monrovia City Corporation Television or MCC TV at his office on 1st Street, Sinkor.

"With all the criticisms that dirt has engulfed this city yes; it's true dirt has taken over, and that is because we at this city corporation [are] challenged; the cleanliness of this city must not rest on the shoulders of the MCC alone, but it should be a collective effort", he argues.



He says the MCC is taking a holistic approach to addressing the situation saying "that is why we are calling on our partners, and donors to help [with] logistics, and the support to live up to our promises by making this city clean."

He continues that if people will just sit and criticize the city corporation for dirt in the street without showing any sign of patriotism, then it is unfortunate, noting that part of the approach was to get every citizen involved in the cleanliness of the city by

taking the first in their various communities.

Monrovia and its environs have been overwhelmed by stockpile of garbage, creating serious health hazard and environmental pollution that poses grave danger to inhabitants especially children, thereby contradicting Mayor Jefferson Kojee's much publicized "Green City" campaign.

Residents across the capital have resorted to burning uncollected garbage due to failure of the Monrovia City Corporation under Mayor Kojee to collect waste as part of the MCC statutory functions.

A New Dawn's investigation across Monrovia and its environs discovers heap of garbage in various communities, breeding flies, cockroaches and rodents amid cooked food centers and market places along the streets.

Meanwhile, Mayor Kojee announces the MCC has embarked on an enumeration exercise within Monrovia aimed at locating and tracking waste across the city.

"As I said few days ago in my first press conference, the issue of the numeration exercise is that the entire city was overwhelmed with waste and the project is intended to

engage residents in deriving at a sustainable waste management approach and provide proper address system for homes and business areas."

According to him, the exercise will enable the MCC to have a complete data of households and structures within the city and will guide it in deriving at a minimum amount [fee] to be paid by residents for waste disposal.

"Liberia is the only country that we don't pay for waste. You just take your dirt from your house and put it on the coal tar (asphalt road). We say to you that when we have the data, we will be able to have a full understanding, a proper calculation of how many structures in the various homes. Based on the data, we will be informed to make a sound decision. But people will be asked to pay for their waste," he discloses.

Mayor Kojee emphasizes the exercise is one of the major projects under the "Weah for Clean City Campaign" initiated by his (Kojee) administration, which is expected to cover 10 of the 17 electoral districts in Montserrado County, including districts Seven, Eight, Nine, Ten, Eleven, Twelve, Thirteen, Fourteen, Fifteen and Sixteen, respectively. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

Weah challenged at first year anniversary

By Winston W. Parley

President George Manneh Weah has been challenged not to fail the Church during observance of the first year anniversary of his administration.

The event on Tuesday, 22 January at the Dominion Christian Fellowship in Congo Town marks the first year anniversary of the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) - led government, following the swearing in of President Weah and his Vice President Jewel Howard - Taylor on 22 January 2018.

The service was held under

the theme: "We thank God." Emphasis has also been made that President Weah is president for all of Liberia, not some of Liberia.

Vice President Taylor, First Lady Clar Weah, the Speaker and members of the House, the Pro Tempore and members of the Liberian Senate, the Chief Justice and his associates, the diplomatic corps and members of the public attended the event.

Dominion Christian Fellowship Archbishop Isaac Winker challenges Mr. Weah not to fail the Church amidst opposition and "bad mouthing."

Making prophetic declarations during thanksgiving service Bishop Winker decreed that Liberians be committed to their country with true patriotism and nationalism.

He further urges support for today's leader to pave the way for tomorrow's leader.

"All of you politicians in this nation, hear me, if you don't support the person in power today, there will be no support for you tomorrow," he says, adding that Mr. Weah is bound to succeed.

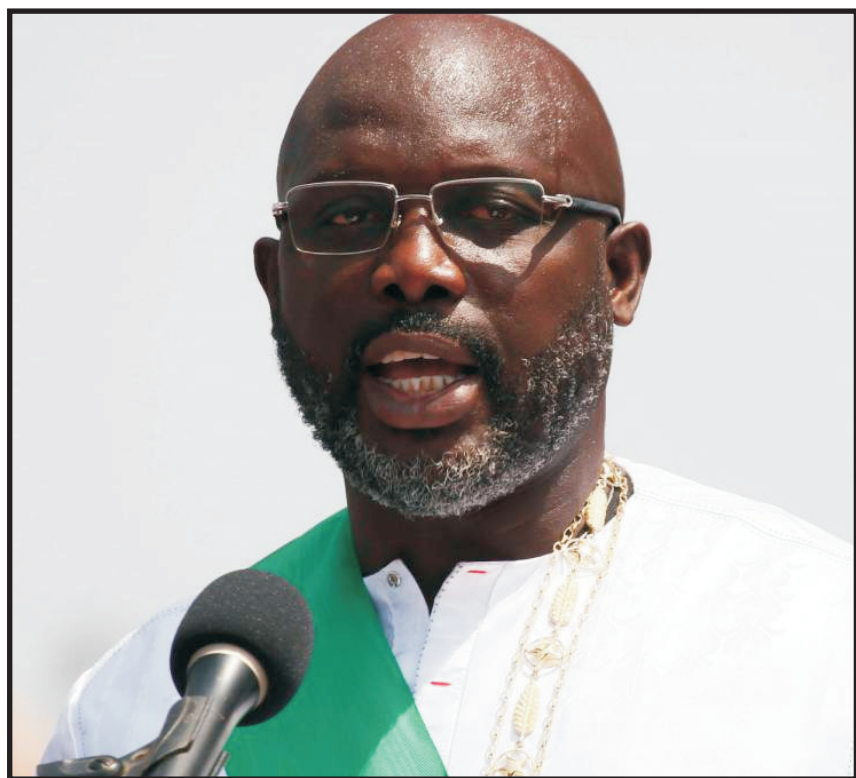
Bishop Winker commands that Liberians' hearts return to their leaders, saying it is their job to follow because whatever God will do, He will do it through a leader.

"So Liberians let us not wait for tomorrow, if you don't support the leader today, there will be no tomorrow's leader. The support we give to our leader today paves the way for another leader that will come tomorrow," he says.

The clergy discourages Liberians against criticizing the government on social media that he says paints the ugly.

Making remarks at the first year anniversary, President Weah reaffirms his administration's commitment to the promotion of peace, protection of human rights, freedom of speech, protection

#Revoke rock and sand mining licenses from Chinese and Lebanese#



of women and girls and the development of Liberia.

He reflected on the goodness of the Almighty God that brought Liberia where it is today, and expressed thanks to Liberians for the confidence reposed in him to serve the nation.

Closing his brief remark, Mr. Weah wished Liberians happy one year anniversary and a prosperous New Year.

Earlier President Weah along with his officials, and members of the diplomatic corps were moved to dance when Nigerian gospel musical star Emmanuel Benjamin, popularly known by stage name Eben, sang his popular

song titled: "Victory."

President Weah also partly sang the song when he was about to make statement at the event.

Delivering the exaltation at the thanksgiving service, Bishop George D. Harris says President Weah is the president for all Liberia, not some of Liberia.

Bishop Harris expresses gratitude to God for Liberia, saying Liberia belongs to Jesus.

He notes that when the 24th president goes to the Church to give thanks, Liberia is represented because he is the symbol of the country.

He notes that their assembly at the Church Tuesday was to give thanks to Yahweh.

Looking back one year after

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

On January 22, 2018 at 4:30 pm the entire country stood still, as President George Manneh Weah took the oath of office, becoming the 24th elected President of Liberia.

The event was Liberia's first democratic transition from one elected President to another in more than 72 years.

According to official results released by the national elections Commission, Mr. Weah received 61.5 percent of the total ballots cast in the run-off presidential election conducted on December 26, 2017 against Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakai's (38.5 percent) of the ex-ruling Unity Party.

George Weah was pronounced the winner on December 28, 2017 by the National Elections Commission.

Few weeks later on 22 January 2018 the grounds of the Samuel K. Doe Sports Stadium in Paynesville and the entire Monrovia, including elsewhere across the country Liberians converged in celebration joined by foreign guests, including Heads of States and dignitaries to grace the historic occasion.

President Weah officially marked his first year in office Tuesday, January 22, 2019 as citizens lined the streets in Monrovia in outburst of cheers and celebration for



Archbishop Michael Kpakala Francis Road

the President's first 12 months in office.

Volleys of cheery tidings filled the air with kids walking along, endeavoring to edge on the President to touch him or simply embrace the leader they love to see. There was running fracas with presidential guards as an official thanksgiving service held at the newly constructed cathedral of the Isaac Winker's Dominion Christian Fellowship Central Church

along Tubman Boulevard started.

One year after, this article reflects on some of the achievements the 24th President of Liberia has made on his six years journey in the Presidency.

President Weah is ambitiously leading the construction process of 400 kilometers of roads across Liberia, including Fish Town/Harper Road, Greenville/Barclayville,

Buchanan/Cestos, Rivercess/Sinoe, and the Ganta/Sanniquille and Zwedru/Ganta, respectively.

Other roads under construction include the Gbarnga/Voinjama highways, Bishop Michael Francis, Chugbor road. The Doe Community- Clara Town road has been completed, so have the Rehab Community road, Jamaica Road to Logan Town Broad Street on Bushrod Island, Streets of Central

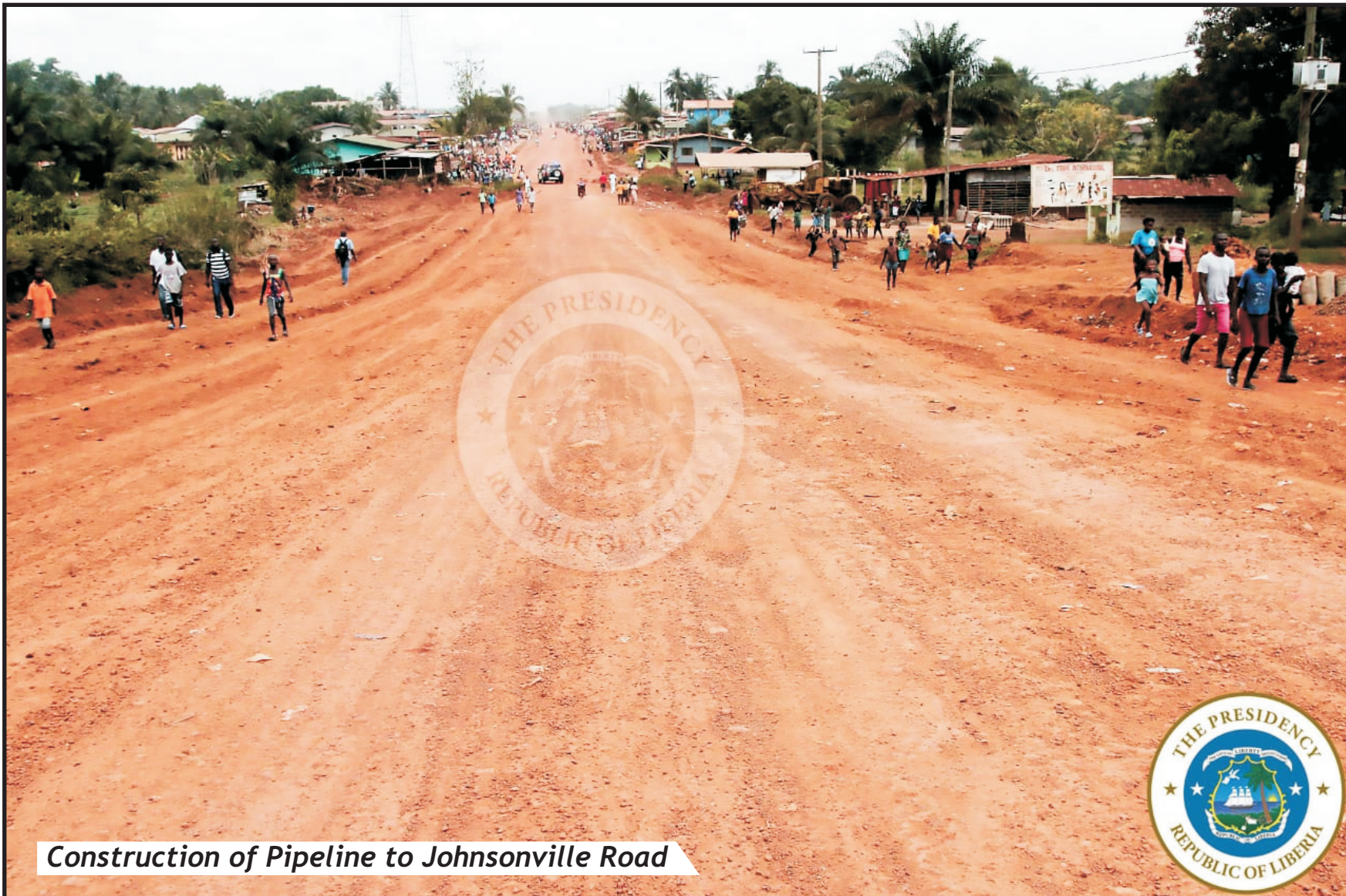
Gbarnga, Fair Ground Road in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County, Tusa Field Community Road, and Johnsonville - Pipeline Community roads.

President Weah is not only interested in roads, but has invested resources in the Coastal Defense Project in New Kru Town, saving D. Tweh Memorial High School and other communities from deadly sea erosion, the first ever to be built since the foundation of the Liberia besides the ongoing 14th Military Hospital along the Robertsfield Highway in Margibi County.

According to officials of the Ministry of National Defense, the ambitious project, first in the history of Liberia is nearing completion. The President is also fast tracking the multi-million Ministerial Complex in Congo Town, Monrovia. The project was initiated by President Weah's predecessor, Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

The Coalition for Democratic Change-led government has revamped the contract with plan to construct an overhead bridge to reduce traffic congestion along the Congo Town-Central Monrovia route.

Being father of the nation, President Weah is concerned about the issue of illiteracy here, he has introduced a tuition-free education for all public universities and colleges across the country. This



Construction of Pipeline to Johnsonville Road





Segmented Internal view of the 14th Military Hospital



which has provided him a solid foundation in fighting corruption with the recent arrest of a sitting managing director for bribery. Currently, the senior team at the National Housing Authority is facing a legal battle for soliciting bribes.

President Weah is also leading a serious battle against narcotics and dangerous substances bent on destroying youth of Liberia, the nation's future leaders. His government has made several arrests of users

and impounded substances for subsequent destruction.

Not forgetting his humble beginning where he rose from to conquer the world through sports, he personally re-roofed homes of residents in Gebriatal, Clara Town, including erecting street lights from Duala to St. Paul Bridge, and construction of the Ganta-Yekepa Road for the first time in Nimba County, among other achievements in his first year in office.

means all Liberian children may now enroll at any government-owned higher institutions of learning without paying a dime. The essence of striving to brighten the future of youthful generation of the country to enable them compute with their peers globally is now in progress.

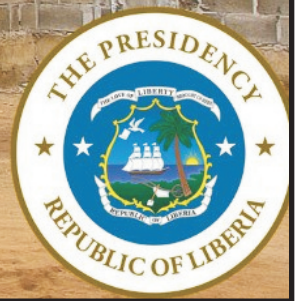
Not satisfied with the tuition-free education campaign, the former African, European and World Best Footballer of the Year embarked on providing scholarly scholarships to 18

doctors to pursued specialized training in the health sector in foreign countries. The CDC-led government has also increased health workers' salaries, pushing the health sector as the highest paid, among civil servants for now.

As a means of encouraging secondary students to go for nothing, but the best, President Weah, himself a Devry University Master's Degree earner, dished out scholarships for high-performing 12th graders from the 2017/18 West African



Partial view of 14th Military Hospital under construction



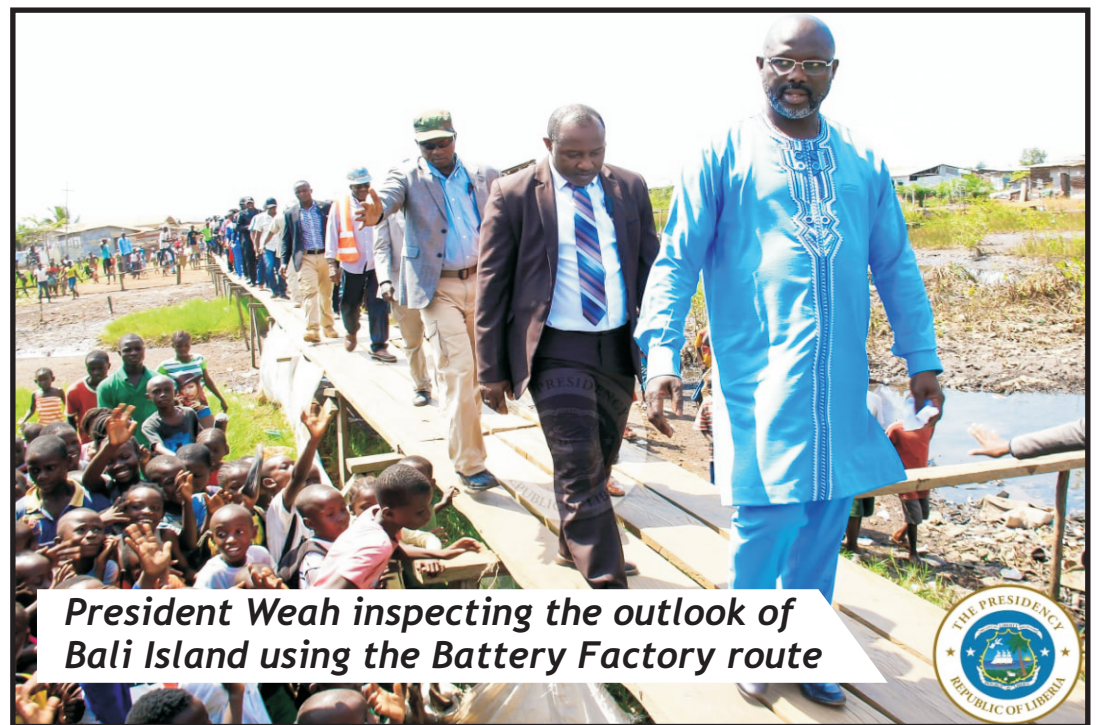
Partial view of the new Airport terminal at the RIA



President Weah presents symbolic cheque to Minister of Commerce and LIBA and LBDI



Coastal Defense



President Weah inspecting the outlook of Bali Island using the Battery Factory route



Français

Le Liberia avance trop vite dans le mauvais sens « opposant »

Pour le leader du parti de la liberté (LP, opposition), Maître Charles Walker Brumskine, le Libéria avance trop vite dans le mauvais sens depuis que le président George a pris les rênes du pouvoir.

« Mais notre pays avance trop vite sur la mauvaise voie ! Heureusement, il n'est pas encore trop tard. Nous pouvons arrêter cette situation et changer le cours des choses dans notre pays. Mais cela nécessitera l'engagement désintéressé de chacun de nous », a dit Me Brumskine le lundi 21 janvier au cours d'une émission radiodiffusée.

Le candidat malheureux à l'élection présidentielle de 2017 accuse le régime actuel d'être entièrement responsable de ce qui arrive au pays, déclarant : « les lacunes et les faux pas du gouvernement actuel au cours des 12 derniers mois ont englouti tous les aspects de la vie du pays ». Cela, à en croire l'opposant, se produit



A wounded PSU officer calls for backup

alors que le corps chargé du rôle de surveillance et de contrepoids, comme dans toutes les démocraties, est lui-même dans un état de désarroi évident.

Il regrette que les allégations de corruption, de détournements des deniers publics et de vol pur et simple soient avérées et que ces

maux constituent une infime partie des problèmes qui affligent le pays aujourd'hui.

Il accuse en outre le gouvernement de George Weah de faire l'apologie de la culture de l'impunité totale qui s'ajoute aux problèmes dont souffre le pays.

Il exhorte donc les pouvoirs législatif et

judiciaire à jouer pleinement leur rôle constitutionnel pour que le pays mette un terme aux pratiques anciennes et entre de plein pieds dans le XXI^e siècle.

L'ancien leader politique du LP a félicité l'opposant Benoni Urey, leader politique du parti politique (All Liberians Party ou ALP), qui, d'après lui, a pris l'initiative de s'entretenir avec d'anciens candidats à la présidentielle pour s'assurer de leur rapprochement et de leur collaboration. « J'ai confirmé mon accord de principe à Ben, et je dis à tous les Libériens, que je suis totalement favorable à une collaboration avec les autres dans l'intérêt de notre pays », a-t-il dit, avant d'ajouter que, pour que cette collaboration politique soit fructueuse, il faut que les partis politiques de l'opposition élaborent un plan comportant les buts et les objectifs bien définis pour faire avancer le pays.

« Notre collaboration ne doit pas porter sur des emplois pour nous-mêmes, que ce soit maintenant ou dans le futur, certes, nous devons collaborer car nous souhaitons changer le statu quo », a-t-il précisé, « Sinon, nous serions comme les autres, qui critiquent simplement parce qu'ils veulent partager le butin du gouvernement, mais sans avoir une idée de ce qu'est la gouvernance ». M. Brumskine s'est prononcé en faveur d'une réforme électorale globale, qui, selon, lui est probablement l'une des

premières et des plus importantes questions sur lesquelles les politiciens de l'opposition devraient s'attaquer pour obtenir de meilleurs résultats lors des prochaines élections.

« Comment pouvons-nous en parler au président Weah, comment convaincre les membres de l'Assemblée législative, comment mobiliser nos partisans et l'ensemble de l'électorat pour qu'ils comprennent que le fondement de notre démocratie repose sur des élections libres, justes et crédibles ? », s'est-il interrogé. « Nous devons comprendre que, à moins d'une réforme électorale complète au Libéria, toutes nos ambitions, déclarations publiques ou condamnations seraient des exercices futiles », a-t-il prévenu, ajoutant que si l'opposition souhaite que les résultats des élections reflètent réellement la volonté des électeurs, elle doit insister sur la réforme électorale avant les élections présidentielle et législatives de 2023.

Pour ce juriste, la réforme électorale doit porter sur trois points essentiels, à savoir notamment :

La recommandation des personnalités susceptibles de servir de commissaires à la Commission électorale nationale (NEC) par les partis politiques ; le choix du président de la commission électorale par les commissaires à travers des élections ; la mise en place d'une cour spéciale habilitée par la loi à entendre les plaintes en cas de contentieux électoraux.

Il croit que la création d'un tribunal spécial ne va pas nécessiter de dépenses extrabudgétaires.

L'ancien chef politique du Parti de la liberté recommande en outre que la liste électorale, les machines, les bulletins de vote et les urnes, ainsi que d'autres documents électoraux sensibles, soient conservés dans un endroit hautement sécurisé afin de rétablir la confiance entre la commission électorale et les partis politiques, en particulier, les partis de l'opposition.

Le calme revient à Glan Town après des violences qui ont fait 2 morts et plusieurs blessés

Le calme revient dans la ville de Glan, dans le district électoral n° 1, dans le comté de Lower Nimba, à la suite des violences qui ont récemment fait deux morts, plusieurs blessés et des dégâts importants.

Au cours de la violence, trois maisons ont été incendiées et des biens

détruits à Glan Town, une communauté située à Gbei & Doru, Nimba.

Tout a commencé lors de la célébration du Nouvel An dans la ville lorsqu'une bagarre a éclaté entre Eric Dahn et Oldpa Gbessiegee, tous deux décédés aujourd'hui, sur une table de beuverie avec des amis.

Des sources racontent que le

regretté Eric Dahn, âgé de 42 ans, aurait poignardé Oldpa Gbessiegee, âgé de 36 ans, à plusieurs reprises. Il a été transporté à l'hôpital Jackson F. Doe à Tappita, dans le comté de Nimba, mais serait décédé en route.

Selon nos sources, lorsque la famille et des amis de feu Eric Dahn ont reçu les nouvelles du décès de ce dernier, ils se sont mis en colère et pris d'assaut le domicile de Oldpa Gbessiegee. Ils l'ont battu à mort et incendié quatre maisons avant de vandaliser plusieurs autres propriétés et blesser d'autres personnes. S'il faut en croire nos sources, avant les violences, Papie aurait menacé de tuer Eric Dahn, qui serait un homme d'affaires dans la région, bien que la raison pour laquelle Gbessiegee voulait sa mort n'a pas été établie.

À la suite des violences qui auraient duré deux jours, un certain nombre d'habitants auraient fui le Libéria pour se réfugier en Côte d'Ivoire voisine, par crainte de nouvelles représailles.



Français

Un an après l'arrivée de George Weah, les Libériens s'impatientent

Il y a un an, le 22 janvier 2018, l'ancienne star du football et premier ballon d'or africain prenait ses fonctions de président du Liberia. Son élection a suscité de grands espoirs parmi les plus jeunes et les classes populaires, enthousiasmés par l'annonce d'un vaste plan de lutte contre la pauvreté dans ce pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest où 80% de la population vit avec moins de 1,25 dollar par jour. Mais les promesses de campagne tardent à se concrétiser, car le gouvernement peine à contenir l'inflation et à stabiliser une économie profondément fragilisée par 15 années de guerre civile, l'épidémie d'Ebola et la chute du cours des matières premières.

« Je veux construire le plus grand mécanisme de gouvernance en faveur des pauvres de l'histoire du pays ». Ce 22 janvier 2018, le stade Samuel Doe exulte tandis que le discours d'intronisation de Georges Weah résonne jusque dans les ruelles en terre battue de Clara Town, le quartier populaire qui l'a vu grandir. Une année s'est écoulée et l'impatience a remplacé l'espoir. « Même le terrain de foot est dans un état déplorable », s'insurge Victor Lamine Belo, un jeune chômeur. « La vie est de plus en plus dure », ajoutent en chœur les vendeuses de charbon. Gérant d'un atelier de menuiserie, Gbessy Kiarzolu apprécie toutefois le désenclavement de son village d'origine : « Dans l'intérieur, c'est indispensable d'avoir des routes pour vendre les produits. Son projet, c'est de sortir les gens de la pauvreté. »

Sortir un million de Libériens de la pauvreté en cinq ans, c'est l'objectif du « Pro-Poor Agenda », le plan de développement présenté fin octobre par le gouvernement. Il s'agit notamment de « combler le déficit d'infrastructures routières et d'électricité qui entravait le secteur privé, détaille Samuel D Tweah, ministre des Finances. Nous allons construire 1 000 kilomètres de routes et investir l'agriculture qui emploie 75% des travailleurs. »

L'attente des retombées économiques

Ainsi, la réforme agraire adoptée mi-septembre et plébiscitée par la société civile vise à protéger les communautés contre l'accaparement des terres. « Jusqu'ici, l'Etat était propriétaire des terres qui n'avaient pas de titre. Le gouvernement pouvait à tout moment les saisir pour les donner en concession à une entreprise comme cela a été fait après la guerre pour relancer l'économie », rappelle Constance Teage, militante de la société civile. La loi reconnaît maintenant le droit coutumier,

mais en l'absence de cadastre, et alors que la plupart des titres de propriété ont été falsifiés ou détruits pendant la guerre, les populations rurales devront attendre avant de bénéficier des retombées économiques.

Les étudiants, eux, ont déjà obtenu satisfaction. « Dix mille de nos camarades avaient abandonné les études faute d'argent », relate Opelo Grene, étudiant en administration publique qui salue la suppression des frais de scolarité du premier cycle. Du côté de l'administration, « plus d'étudiants vont s'inscrire et il nous faudra davantage de salles et d'enseignants », souligne David Fahrat, directeur de master. Le « Pro Poor agenda est très ambitieux, mais les fonds manquent pour le réaliser », juge-t-il. Son coût total avoisine les six milliards de dollars.

Deux monnaies sont en vigueur au Liberia : le dollar américain pour les affaires et le dollar libérien pour la vie quotidienne. Avec l'inflation ce dernier peut se déprécier en quelques jours, affirme Presley Tenoah du Groupement des entrepreneurs patriotes : « Entre l'achat au fournisseur en dollars US et la vente au public le taux de change peut avoir augmenté jusqu'à engloutir le profit. », ce qui désole Elisabeth Morba, vendeuse de fripes sur le marché : « Si ça continue je vais fermer boutique ! »

Pour endiguer la dépréciation, 35 millions de dollars ont été injectés dans l'économie tandis qu'un fond de trois millions devrait faciliter l'accès au crédit des petits commerçants. « Mais nous avons hérité d'un milliard de dette qui limite notre capacité d'emprunt », déplore Samuel D Tweah. « Climat d'incertitude »

« Les problèmes existaient bien avant l'élection, reconnaît Georges Wisner, ancien directeur exécutif de la Commission nationale d'investissement, puis le pays a subi deux chocs majeurs, mais prévisibles : le retrait de la mission des Nations unies au Liberia et la transition politique. Le nouveau gouvernement est arrivé sans véritable stratégie et les partenaires internationaux veulent voir un plan de développement clairement articulé avant de débloquer des fonds. »

« Ce climat d'incertitude pourrait compromettre les plans de George Weah, estime David Farhat, il faut d'abord instaurer l'Etat de droit, lutter contre la corruption et l'argent viendra tout seul. » Le défi est de taille, d'autant que l'équipe actuelle n'est pas épargnée par les soupçons. En un an, les scandales dénoncés par la presse se sont multipliés. « Nous craignons que le président ne devienne comme ses prédécesseurs ».

COMMENTAIRE

Par Jean Tirole

Le grand pari de Macron

TOULOUSE - En réaction à l'actuelle révolte des gilets jaunes en France, le président Macron a décidé d'organiser un « grand débat national ». Au cours des prochains mois, groupes de réflexion au niveau local, consultations sur Internet et conférences citoyennes régionales s'alterneront afin d'évaluer les points de vue de l'opinion publique française sur quatre problématiques : politique environnementale, démocratie et identité, impôts, et organisation de l'Etat.

La démarche initiée par Emmanuel Macron se heurte néanmoins à trois obstacles. Pour commencer, l'opinion publique française est pleine de contradictions. Les gilets jaunes souhaitent par exemple moins d'impôts et plus de services publics. Aucune de ces demandes n'est irraisonnable. Mais une telle approche budgétaire n'est pas non plus viable dans un pays où la dépense publique atteint 57 % du PIB, et où le ratio dette/PIB, d'ores et déjà officiellement estimé à 100 %, omet d'inclure d'importants passifs publics hors bilan, tels que les retraites non financées.

La situation est d'autant plus complexe que les Français soutiennent majoritairement non seulement les gilets jaunes, dont la révolte a débuté par une rébellion contre la taxe carbone, mais aussi une initiative consistant à attaquer l'Etat français en justice pour son inactivité dans la lutte contre le changement climatique.

Par ailleurs, dans le cadre de leur révolte contre les inégalités, les gilets jaunes tendent à se focaliser sur la baisse de l'impôt sur la fortune décidée par Macron, qui rapportait auparavant 5 milliards € par an - une bagatelle en comparaison avec les 188 milliards € générés annuellement par la TVA. Les manifestants se plaignent également des salaires perçus par les hauts responsables gouvernementaux. Or, les gilets jaunes ne formulent aucune proposition concrète en réponse à deux facteurs importants d'inégalités en France : l'éducation et l'accès au marché du travail.

D'après le Programme international pour le suivi des acquis des élèves (PISA), l'écart de performance en matière d'éducation entre les élèves issus de milieux défavorisés et le reste de la population est plus élevé en France que dans n'importe quel autre pays de l'OCDE. En outre, non seulement le taux de chômage en France stagne aux alentours des 10 %, mais son marché du travail à deux vitesses oriente 90 % des nouvelles embauches - notamment les jeunes et les travailleurs peu qualifiés - vers des contrats à courte durée.

Confronté à des demandes contradictoires, Emmanuel Macron devra par ailleurs affronter des obstacles profondément ancrés dans la perception de l'opinion publique. La manière dont les citoyens français entendent les conditions économiques s'inscrit rarement en phase avec la réalité. Ils voient la France comme un pays particulièrement inégalitaire, dans lequel les plus fortunés ne paieraient pas d'impôts, où les retraités seraient systématiquement pris à la gorge, et où la lutte contre l'évasion fiscale (aussi nécessaire soit-elle) et la réduction des salaires des responsables politiques apporteraient d'importantes ressources. Or, aucune de ces affirmations ne résiste à un examen des statistiques et des comparaisons internationales.

Certes, le gouvernement n'a pas élaboré suffisamment rapidement les mesures de compensation face à l'impact combiné de l'augmentation du prix du pétrole, de celle (programmée) de la taxe carbone et de la suppression des subventions aux véhicules diesel. Pour autant, les Français reprochent au gouvernement les effets de politiques déraisonnables qui remontent à plusieurs décennies, notamment les subventions au diesel (maintenues pendant plus de 20 ans pour soutenir l'industrie automobile française) et les mesures gonflant la rente foncière dans les centre-villes.

Le troisième obstacle réside dans la montée des violences. Ces dernières semaines, les menaces se sont amplifiées de la part des gilets jaunes à l'encontre des parlementaires, des journalistes, voire d'autres manifestants qui avaient exprimé une volonté de négocier avec le gouvernement.

Le gouvernement Macron se retrouve ainsi pris entre le marteau et l'enclume. Une consultation auprès des citoyens pourrait engendrer encore plus de désordre. Plusieurs siècles d'histoire politique enseignent la prudence face à l'actuel enthousiasme autour d'un « référendum d'initiative citoyenne ».

En effet, c'est pour de bonnes raisons que la plupart des démocraties ont opté pour un gouvernement représentatif plutôt que pour le gouvernement par référendum. À tout le moins en théorie, les représentants du peuple sont en mesure de consacrer davantage de temps à une réflexion sur les compromis intrinsèques à la prise de décision politique, et ont davantage accès à l'expertise que les citoyens moyens. De même, à la différence des citoyens qui débattent au comptoir des cafés, sur Facebook et sur Twitter, les représentants élus voient leurs arguments soumis à un examen public ainsi qu'à une vérification des faits.

C'est également pour de bonnes raisons que certaines formes de décisions publiques se trouvent confiées à des juges, à des banques centrales ou des autorités réglementaires, tous indépendants du pouvoir politique. Protégés des échéances électorales et des lobbies, ces acteurs sont en mesure de fixer une vision à plus long terme, et de préserver les droits des minorités.

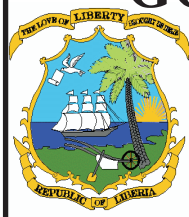
En s'affranchissant de ces garde-fous, les référendums en France risqueraient d'ouvrir la porte à l'abrogation des lois qui autorisent l'avortement, qui ont mis fin à la peine de mort, et qui reconnaissent le mariage homosexuel. Ces consultations pourraient également conduire à toutes sortes de politiques économiques démagogiques - de l'abaissement de l'âge du départ à la retraite aux mesures anti-immigration, voire à un « Frexit » pour la sortie de la zone euro ou de l'Union européenne.

D'un autre côté, si le gouvernement refuse de donner une suite réelle aux consultations civiques, le malaise ira en s'aggravant, les gilets jaunes ayant alors la « confirmation » que les élites n'écourent pas les citoyens lorsque ceux-ci expriment leurs volontés.

Quels aspects positifs pourraient se dégager de cette démarche de consultation ? Un débat réussi permettrait d'impliquer de nouveau les Français dans la vie politique de leur pays. En France, le processus décisionnel est extrêmement centralisé, les politiques uniformes (malgré les timides tentatives du gouvernement visant à promouvoir l'expérimentation), et la participation civique faible. La réticence des élites à faire confiance aux citoyens, combinée au manque d'engagement et à l'immaturation occasionnelle des citoyens, génère en fin de compte une prophétie autoréalisatrice.

Tous les sujets doivent être mis sur la table. Les Français doivent réfléchir à la vocation de chacun des services publics, à la question de savoir si ces services remplissent leurs objectifs pour un coût raisonnable, et à celle de savoir si de meilleures alternatives sont possibles. C'est ce qu'ont fait les Canadiens et les Scandinaves dans les années 1990, lorsqu'ils se sont eux aussi retrouvés confrontés au dysfonctionnement de leurs services publics, à l'augmentation de leur dette publique, ainsi qu'à un taux de chômage élevé.

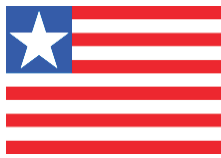
La France entre enfin dans un processus consistant à moderniser son économie tout en continuant de protéger ses citoyens. Le pays se trouve néanmoins à une croisée des chemins, et le risque demeure que ses citoyens ne l'entraînent sur la voie de l'intolérance et de la démagogie.



REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

GOVERNANCE COMMISSION

P. O. BOX 1757
9th Street, Sinkor, Tubman Boulevard
Monrovia, Liberia
<http://www.goodgovernance.org.lr>
www.governancecommissionlr.org
Cell #: 0886518969 / 0777989155



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR

Job Title: RESEARCH ASSISTANT

The Governance Commission located on 9th Street Sinkor, is seeking to hire a qualified Liberian for the position of **Research Assistant**, in supporting the work of the Commission. Women are highly encouraged to apply.

Job Summary:

To provide information, research and analysis, communications and administrative support services to the Governance Commission; and to work creatively and sensitively in supporting research and policy development initiatives.

Scope of Work:

As Research Assistant assigned to the Public Sector Mandate Area, your duties include but not limited to the following:

- Undertake policy and other research activities as required by designated supervisor in promotion of the goals and objectives of programs or project of mandate area and the overall goals and objectives of the Governance Commission;
- Reading and comprehending reports and other political, developmental and democratic governance literature;
- To support the Governance Commission in presenting its policies in an effective manner;
- Go through different research documents and edit them as directed by supervisor and work across mandate areas as required;
- Assist in designing of questionnaires and other survey methodologies as directed by supervisor;
- Take care of the follow-up that is required after the study is conducted;
- To maintain confidentiality at all times, on matters arising from the work, both formal and informal and;
- Perform other tasks as may be required by supervisor and the Commission from time to time.

(i) Minimum Qualifications and Experience

- Bachelor's Degree in Economics, Management, Public Administration, Political Science or Sociology;
- Must be able to work with others in a multidisciplinary professional environment;
- Be a Team player;
- Possess good oral and written communication skills;
- Minimum of 5 years' experience.

Behavioral & Skills Competencies:

- Demonstrated capacity to work in a multicultural environment;
- Capacity to independently think to solve critical policy problems;
- Good interpersonal skills;
- Exhibit strong teamwork skills in a complex or multicultural environment;
- Ability to think strategically at the organizational and portfolio level;
- Ability to effectively communicate, influence, and facilitate at the executive level;
- Understands and enforces mandate/GC's requirements;
- Proven ability to manage program scope, schedule, and budget and hold team accountable for results;
- Proven ability to work and build relationships across mandate areas of the Governance Commission and with relevant stakeholders and partners;
- Being flexible, analytical, collaborative, creative thinker, persistent, confident, open minded, willing and helpful, dependable, honest, trustworthy, reliable, punctual and approachable.
- Willing to go the extra mile.

Duty Station: Monrovia, Liberia

Start Date: February 5, 2019

Salary commensurate with qualification and experience

The Commission now invites eligible candidates to apply.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION IS: January 30, 2019

Application and CV with Supporting Documents including three (3) References and contact cell phone numbers should be submitted to the below address:

Maima M. Roberts
Human Resource Director Governance Commission
9th Street, Sinkor
P.O.Box 1757,
Monrovia, Liberia
Tel: 231886518969/0776356864/0886575542/0777989155
Email:maima_roberts@yahoo.com, mohammedkonneh2002@yahoo.com
mroberts@governancecommission.lr.org

PLEASE NOTE THAT ONLY APPLICANTS SHORTLISTED WILL BE CONTACTED .

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

GOVERNANCE COMMISSION



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Cell #: 0886518969 / 0777989155



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR

Job Title: JANITOR

The Governance Commission located on 9th Street Sinkor, is seeking to hire a qualified Liberian for the position of **JANITOR**, in supporting the work of the Commission. Women are highly encouraged to apply.

Job Summary:

Keep buildings in clean and orderly condition. Perform heavy cleaning duties, such as cleaning floors, shampooing rugs, washing walls and glass, and removing debris. Duties may include tending furnace and boiler, performing routine maintenance activities, notifying management of need for repairs, and office debris.

Specifically, the Janitor shall perform the following duties:

- Keep buildings in clean and orderly condition.
- Perform heavy cleaning duties, such as cleaning floors, washing rugs, washing walls and glass; Clean windows, glass partitions and mirrors; using soapy water or other cleaners, sponges and squeegees; mix water and detergents or acids in containers to prepare cleaning solutions according to specifications;
- Clean building floors by sweeping, mopping scrubbing or vacuuming them;
- Gather and empty trash, Clean and polish furniture and fixtures; Stem-clean or shampoo carpets
- Dust furniture, walls, machines and equipment; strip, seal, finish and polish floors
- Monitor building security and safety by performing such tasks as locking doors after operating hours and checking electrical appliance use to ensure that hazards are not created;
- Move heavy furniture equipment and supplies either manually or by using hand trucks like wheel barrels;
- Cut and trim grass using grass cutters or hand and power trimmers and clear debris from grounds;
- Carry out other responsibilities as required by Supervisor

Minimum Qualifications and Experience

- Two years Janitorial Experience;
- High School Diploma or Experience;
- Willingness to work early morning or late hours;
- Ability to work well under minimum supervision;
- Capacity to take direction;
- Strong attention to details;
- Physically capable of lifting and moving objects as necessary;
- Be a Team player.

Duty Station: Monrovia, Liberia

Start Date: February 5, 2019

Salary commensurate with qualification and experience

The Commission now invites eligible candidates to apply.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION IS: January 30, 2019

Application and CV with Supporting Documents including three (3) References and contact cell phone numbers should be submitted to the below address:

Maima M. Roberts
Human Resource
Director
Governance Commission
9th Street, Sinkor
P.O.Box 1757,
Monrovia, Liberia
Tel: 231886518969/0776356864/0886575542/0777989155
Email:maima_roberts@yahoo.com, mohammedkonneh2002@yahoo.com
mroberts@governancecommission.lr.org

PLEASE NOTE THAT ONLY APPLICANTS SHORTLISTED WILL BE CONTACTED .

Government hospital turns prescription center

By Thomas Domah /Nimba

The government-operated G.W. Harley Hospital in Sanniquellie, Nimba County is now a mere prescription center, directing patients seeking medication to go out and buy drugs for themselves.

Hospital authorities have resorted to providing only prescription services due to acute shortage of drugs in the facility that serves in Nimba and from neighboring Guinea and Ivory Coast.

Patients explain to the New Dawn whenever they report at the hospital daily to seek medication, doctors and nurses instead, direct them to a specific drugstore to buy drugs being prescribed for administration.

They note that this has been the unfortunate situation at G.W. Harley in the past four months or more.

A New Dawn's investigation discovers that due to the lack of supplies, staff in the laboratory department request patients to buy two sets of gloves at the price of 25 Liberian Dollars each to be used them.

Some of the patients, including Olinkeh Tokpah, Yileh Towah, a caretaker from Bowah Town near Saclepea, District#7 and Marthaline

Tokpah from Nenpa in Sanniquellie say this is not the first time that the government hospital has been without drugs.

They disclose that for the past eight months, the authorities have mandate patients to buy all needed materials before accessing services at the facility.

Other patients from far distances lament that due to lack of funds, the G.W. Harley Hospital is the only health facility they go for medication, but situation has changed with

health workers were now asking them to buy materials, including drugs needed for their medication.

Before now, the G.W. Harley Hospital named in memory of a United Methodist missionary, Doctor G.W. Harley had provided free services.

Doctor Harley also constructed the Ganta United Methodist Hospital in Ganta City, which is significantly serving the health needs of residents of the commercial district and the country at large.



The issue of drug shortage is affecting all 74 health facilities in the 17 administrative districts of Nimba County, with some of them being without drugs for almost a year.

When contacted, the medical director for the G.W. Harley Hospital, Doctor Natty Joe, refutes claims that patients are being asked to buy drugs and materials before they can be treated.

She says though drug shortage in Liberia is a national

concern, but the hospital has essential drugs.

Doctor Joe maintains that all services are free, but she calls on the people of Nimba to make maximum use of the facility.

Citizens in the county reveal that half of the health workers at G.W. Harley operate private drugstores where patients are usually referred to buy drugs prescribed for medication.

- **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Stop depriving gov't

Starts from back page

the government also name the New Kru Town coastal defense project, professional policing, the Doe Community to Clara Town Road project and the payment of fees for extra classes for 12th graders.

However, there were some callers saying they want the government to resolve the alleged missing 16 billion Liberian Dollar case, salary disparity, among others.

The callers argued that President Weah's government has done nothing to improve the living standard of the people, instead it has increase the economic woes here.

"There is no transparency, poor health system, bad governance, violation of the constitution, among others," an official of the opposition Liberty Party says.--**Edited by Winston W. Parley**

Police charge Yekeh's

Starts from Back Page

entire program as angry residents, mostly believed to be supporters of ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) went on the rampage in demand of the living body of Mr. Kolubah's security aide.

Mr. Kolubah is a staunch opposition to President George Manneh Weah, restlessly criticizing the CDC government's activities.

Several persons including children were reported to have sustained injuries in the aftermath of the violence.

Police investigators say defendant Keita attempted seizing Bah's phone when the accused bit and cut off piece of Bah's left ear during tussle.

According to police, some individuals including Mohammed Bah, Saah Cooper, and Kollie as well as Kamara made their way into the fence

at FCMA School and began to take pictures.

Defendant Keita is said to have noticed the individuals and walked to them, demanding the phones that they were using to take pictures, but they refused to submit to his demands.

Tussle erupted when Keita attempted seizing Bah's phone, and it subsequently degenerated into riot that witnessed angry residents throwing stones in reaction to Bah's injury.

Bah alleges that Keita bit his ear, forcefully took his phone and further US\$3,500.00 from his pocket.

Keita has been sent to court for aggravated assault in violation of Chapter 14, Sub chapter B Section 14.20 of the New Penal Law of Liberia, pending court trial.

Paynesville marketers protest against waste

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Hundreds of marketers from several markets in Paynesville have held protest in demand for the removal of huge stockpile of garbage in their market places.

The marketers' protest which started on 21 January is expected to last until the authorities of the Paynesville City Corporation (PCC) remove the waste.

According to the protesters, they are paying garbage fees to PCC authorities but nothing has been done by the authorities

to collect waste from their selling places.

The protesters from densely populated market places along the Gobachop Road in Paynesville have threatened that they would not sell unless the garbage are removed timely and disposed off by the authorities.

Explaining further, the angry marketers disclose that they have been selling in the garbage along with their children for the past four-months without any attempt made by the authorities to remove the dirt.

Speaking for protesters,

Mrs. Theresa Nyenkan Siplay wonders why the PCC would not remove the garbage after collecting huge sum of money from marketers as garbage disposal fees.

She discloses that the presence of the waste in market places is causing serious health hazard for sellers and their children.

According to her, some of the marketers take their kids along with them daily to sell, while some customers also take their kids to marketplaces while buying food stuff.

Mrs. Siplay observes that people have to walk through the garbage while search for the goods they want to buy.

According to Mrs. Siplay, five to ten under age children get sick daily at their market places because of the presence of huge garbage.

Meanwhile, our reporter who witnessed the protest says the process was peaceful.

When the PCC was contacted for comment on the matter, our reporter was informed by a staff of the corporation that his bosses were attending a serious meeting with a garbage collection firm and assuch they would not speak to the press.

Investigation continues.-- **Edited by Winston W. Parley**



#Stop prioritizing foreign businesses over Liberian businesses!#

Libेरians react

-to Weah's 1st year in office



By Roosevelt G. Jabah

Libेरians have greeted President George Manneh Weah's first year in office with mixed reactions—those sympathetic to the regime have heaped praises while most critics alarmed that the governance process here has retrogressed.

President Weah took the country's highest seat on 22 January 2018 at the jam-packed Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Complex in Paynesville after overwhelmingly defeating then Vice President Joseph Nyuma Boakai 61.5% to 38.5%.

Partaking in a phone - in live

program hosted on local broadcaster OK FM Tuesday, 22 January, citizens with diverse views were given the opportunity to express their thoughts about President Weah's one year in office.

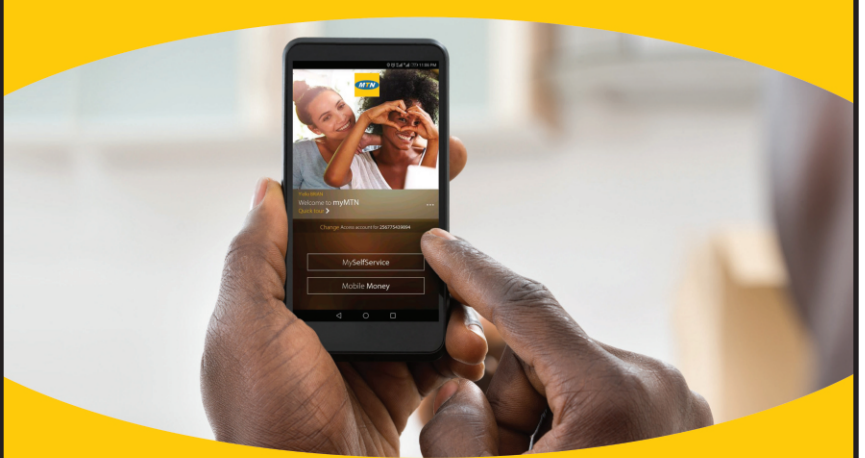
Some callers argued in favor of the government, citing many tangibles in the first year including roads, tuition free enrollment in public colleges or universities, the president's decision to cut his salary and salaries of his appointees, among others.

"Though there are some challenges, but the government has over-performed during the one year in review. The economy is growing at 1.5%, the first military hospital is being built and a whole lot [is] being done as well. In fact the government scores "A," a caller Lauren Sulonteh says.

Some callers arguing in favor of



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Police charge Yekeh's aide

By Winston W. Parley

Police in Monrovia have charged Montserrado County District #10 Rep. Yekeh Kolubah's personal security aide Abu Keita with aggravated assault, following Sunday's violence that erupted during a children party at Smythe Road in Sinkor.

Mr. Kolubah had organized an event at the FCMA School



to entertain kids on 20 January when his security aide Keita and a man using mobile phone to videotape the program, Mohammed Bah clashed.

A piece of Bah's ear was said to have been cut off when Keita allegedly bit the victim in the tussle that ensued over Bah's refusal to leave the hall.

The incident disrupted the



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