

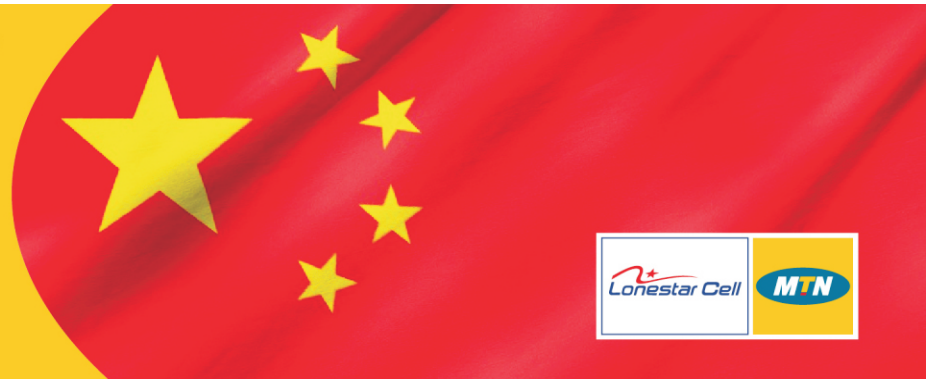
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VOL. 8 NO. 167

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# CBL received money containers



***-Ex-governor Weeks discloses***



# Weah must speak

***-Public pressure mounts***





# Continental News

## Girl, 9, shot dead as troops clear traffic

Four soldiers have been arrested in Somalia after a nine-year-old schoolgirl was shot dead in the capital, Mogadishu, police say.

Deqa Dahir died and another girl was wounded when bullets hit their school bus while it was stuck in a traffic jam, Amnesty International said.

Soldiers opened fire in an apparent attempt to clear the road for their vehicle, the rights group added.

Somalia's president met Dahir's family as public anger over the shooting grew. The nine-year-old was buried on Thursday, two days after she was killed.

She was a first-year school pupil, and was returning home happily, eating ice cream, when she was killed by what appeared to be a stray bullet, reports the BBC's Ahmed Adan from Mogadishu. She was shot in the head and

died instantly.

Her mother, Safiya Mohamed Hooshow, demanded justice from the government of President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed.

"I demand from the

government to bring the murderer in front of me," she told BBC Somali.

Her father Dahir Moalim Ali Farah told Amnesty: "It was shocking to see the dead body of my daughter."

"My 11-year old son, who

was also in the bus with Deqa, came home crying and shouting and told us that she had been shot dead. I ran to the scene of the incident, where I was told the body of my daughter was taken to Masaarida hospital," he said.

How common are such cases?

In another incident, the driver of an auto-rickshaw taxi was hit by a stray bullet fired by a soldier on Monday.

Militant Islamists often detonate explosives in Mogadishu, targeting people caught in traffic, Ahmed Adan adds. It is therefore common to see soldiers shooting near civilians as they try to keep traffic moving.

Police chief Bashir Abdi Mohamed has promised to prosecute anyone who shoots randomly.

"We won't allow civilians to be killed by a gun which is supposed to defend them. Killing people and running away has ended. We will arrest them and bring them into justice straight away," he told the BBC.

Somalia has been without an effective central government since the fall of the Siad Barre regime in 1991.

The country has been hit by numerous conflicts since then, involving rival clans, militias and militant Islamists.

The government is facing its biggest threat from al-Shabab, a group linked to al-Qaeda.

It has carried out a wave of bomb and gun attacks in an attempt to overthrow the government. BBC



Deqa Dahir was eating an ice cream when she was shot

## Hundreds feared missing as ferry capsizes

Hundreds of people are feared missing after a ferry capsized on Lake Victoria in north Tanzania.

A local official told the BBC five people have died and 102 have been rescued, but another said that the vessel was overloaded with more than 400 people on board.

The MV Nyerere ferry overturned near the shore

between the islands of Ukora and Bugolora.

Locals have joined with emergency teams in rescue efforts. Follow live updates

The Tanzanian government has confirmed the ferry capsized but exact figures for those on board are yet to be confirmed. "We pray to God to give us hope in such an accident," Regional Commissioner Adam Malima

told reporters.

"We pray to God to give us hope that there has not been a high death toll."

Accidents are common on Africa's largest lake, Victoria, where boats often depart overcrowded.

More than 800 people died in 1996 when the MV Bukoba capsized. It was one of the worst maritime disasters of the last century. BBC



Volunteers have been helping rescue efforts

## Buhari slams Boko Haram killing



**M**AIDUGURI, Nigeria — Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari is strongly condemning Boko Haram's killing of a Red Cross aid worker and vows his government will do everything possible to ensure the safe return of all held by the extremist group. Saifura Hussaini Ahmed Khorsa was kidnapped in March along with two other health workers after an attack on a military facility in the northeastern town of Rann. The International

Committee of the Red Cross announced Monday she had been killed. Buhari calls the killing "an act of extreme barbarism; utterly reprehensible and inhuman." Boko Haram still holds Khorsa's two colleagues and a Christian girl, Leah Sharibu, who was seized in February during a mass abduction of schoolgirls in Dapchi. The extremists have killed more than 20,000 people and kidnapped thousands during their nine-year insurgency. AP

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# EDITORIAL

## Government knows more but saying less

THE CURRENT LIBERIAN government pretends to be innocent about the disappearance of containers and bags of newly printed Liberian Banknotes from the Freeport of Monrovia, now totaling at least 16 Billion LRD, according to official account.

BUT IT IS highly incomprehensible and repugnant how the Weah administration could claim it is not aware of the disappearance that reportedly occurred since March 31, 2018 under its watch until five months later after the media broke the story last week before coming out to the public.

GOVERNMENT CLAIMS IN a press statement issued here Monday that initial findings into ongoing investigation indicate the containers and bags of moneys allegedly arrived in Liberia between November 2017 and August 2018.

HOWEVER, THE SAME government seems to contradict itself when it says evidence available to the Investigative Team established the current administration was not informed about the arrival of the containers and bags of moneys into the country.

IN JUNE THIS year, President George Manneh Weah constituted an economic management team after the containers and bags of moneys allegedly went missing, to salvage the economy, in face of the high exchange rate and rapid depreciation of the Liberian dollars. The authorities also announced the infusion of US\$25 Million in the market to mop out the excess local currency in circulation that continues to push the exchange rate upward.

WE DEDUCE THAT perhaps the Weah administration was aware after assuming office but never officially informed by its predecessor, the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf government, so the beat goes on with blame- shifting.

WE GATHER THE former Executive Governor of the Central Bank of Liberia J. Milton Weeks and others are being interrogated by the Police in connection with the missing containers and bags of moneys from the Freeport of Monrovia. Mr. Weeks served as the last executive governor of the Central Bank in the former government.

LIBERIA'S MINISTER OF Information Lenn Eugene Nagbe widens the mystery surrounding the missing cash when he told the Voice of America Tuesday, 18 September that the actual amount of money printed and brought into the country has grown from 9 billion to 16 billion Liberian dollars, which seems to indicate that the figure could even be more.

"WHEN YOU SAY the Liberian government, you have to realize that we have a unique situation where a democratically-elected government was taking over from another democratically-elected government, so there was a transition. Now, before the transition happened the order was already in place by the government of Liberia but because we had a new president one would have thought that this new president would have been informed about all of these transactions during the transition notes that was presented to him during the transition meeting but he was not aware..."

THAT PRESIDENT GEORGE Manneh Weah was never informed prior to coming to office, does not negate the fact that after taking the mantle of authority in January 2018, and the subsequent alleged disappearance of the containers and bags of moneys from the Port on March 31, 2018 under his governance, prompt investigation and public pronouncement should have been made five months earlier. But that was never done until the news broke last week before the government, thru the Ministry of Justice publicly issued a confirmation.

**The New Dawn**  
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# COMMENTARY

By Adair Turner

## Japan's Successful Economic Model

*Japan's GDP growth lags most other developed economies, and will likely continue to do so as the population slowly declines. But what matters for human welfare is GDP per capita, and on this front, the country excels.*

TOKYO - Nearly everyone says that Japan's economic model has imploded. Since 1991, growth has averaged just 0.9% versus 4.5% over the previous two decades. Slow growth, combined with large fiscal deficits and near zero inflation, has driven government debt from 50% of GDP to 236% of GDP.

Abenomics, the cluster of reforms initiated by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe when he came to power six years ago, promised to get inflation up to 2%. But five years of zero interest rates and massive quantitative easing have failed to achieve this. A fertility rate of 1.4 and near-zero immigration mean that Japan's workforce could shrink by 28% over the next 50 years, making health care for the elderly unaffordable and dramatically increasing the fiscal deficit, which is already running at 4% of GDP.

Tax increases and public expenditure cuts to reduce the deficit are essential if a debt crisis is to be avoided. Structural reform is needed to raise the anemic growth rate.

Despite all this, the prevailing wisdom about the supposed failure of the Japanese model might be wrong. While Japan's demographic decline poses challenges, it may also imply some advantages: and Japan's debts are far more sustainable than they appear.

True, Japan's GDP growth lags most other developed economies, and will likely continue to do so as the population slowly declines. But what matters for human welfare is GDP per capita, and on this front Japan's 0.65% annual growth in the decade since 2007 equals the US and is better than the UK's 0.39% and France's 0.34% - not bad for a country starting with one of the world's highest living standards.

True, over the last 25 years, US per capita growth has been faster; but Japan's economy is not disfigured by the massive increase in inequality that has left many American workers facing stagnant real wages throughout that period. Unemployment is below 3%.

As a machine for delivering prosperity to a wide range of citizens, Japan's economy therefore compares well today with almost any other. With crime rates among the lowest in the world, the Japanese social model must be doing some things right. And tourism is booming, with the number of foreign visitors up from six million to almost 20 million in the last 15 years.

Of course, what's true today could be demographically unsustainable tomorrow; and if Japan's birth rate remains permanently at 1.4, rapid population decline could pose severe problems. But warnings that the ratio of workers to retirees will fall from 2.1 to 1.3 overstate the case, because they arbitrarily define working age as ending at 65, and ignore the potential to increase retirement ages, as the Abe government is now doing. If the average age at which people stopped working rose to 70, the ratio of workers to retirees would still fall, but

only from 2.1 today to 1.8 in 2050.

Moreover, Japan leads the world in the technologies that can enable older people to remain economically active longer, and in the robotics that allow goods and services to be produced by ever fewer workers. Fears that robots will destroy jobs are notably absent in Japan's national debate. A recent book extolling the benefits as well as challenges of The 100-Year Life has been a bestseller.

In a world of radical automation possibilities, high and rising life expectancy and a declining population are better problems to face than the rapid population growth that threatens to overwhelm job creation in some emerging-market economies.

As for government debt and unsustainable fiscal deficits, doom-mongers who warn of an inevitable crisis if belt tightening is not soon imposed are likely to be disappointed. Japan's gross government debt may be 236% of GDP, but after netting out government-owned financial assets, the International Monetary Fund estimates net debt at a much lower 152%.

Moreover, the Bank of Japan owns government bonds worth 90% of GDP, and ultimately returns to the government as dividends all the money it receives from the government as interest on the bonds it holds. Deducting both public financial assets and all the debts the Japanese government and people effectively owe to themselves, the debt level is only about 60% percent of GDP and not rising. This level of debt could be sustainable even if fiscal deficits remain high for many years.

To see why, suppose a country had gross government debt of 250% of GDP, net debt of 150%, and central bank bond holdings of 100% of GDP, leaving net debt of 50%. Then suppose that inflation and real growth were steady at 1% each, so that nominal GDP grows at 2%. With bond yields at 2% (versus 0.1% in Japan today), those debt ratios would remain stable even if the government ran a primary deficit of 4% of GDP, and a total deficit of 5%, year after year.

That is roughly what Japan is doing now. Far from reacting in horror at this clearly unsustainable behavior, bond buyers around the world still line up to buy government bonds in return for yields that are little more than zero.

None of this is to deny important challenges. Health-care costs could drive fiscal deficits up further. And economic theory suggests that at some point, bond yields should be higher than nominal GDP growth. For both reasons, a medium-term plan for some fiscal consolidation is desirable. And, in the absence of an increase in the birth rate or at least some immigration, the technological progress that Japan seeks will be essential to cope with an aging society.

But the commonplace gloom about Japan's prospects is grossly overdone. Many countries would be lucky to have Japan's problems.





# Lord, please help us to find our containers

Dear Father:

*Umm, Father, I didn't know that our entire village could be so united like this oo. Everybody in our village have turned into volunteers. I mean the entire village has embarked on a container hunt-even our compatriots living outside of the village have joined the search. Um money matters!*

*What happened my son?*

*Father, you haven't heard, how two big, big containers full with money for the village came through our sea and the air ports and just vanished without any trace?*

*Tell me something!*

*Father the thing serious, even sucking babies have spared their mothers, domestic workers have granted their staffs leave and the entire village have embarked on the search for our village money. Some people are searching on the sea asking the fishermen if they had seen a floating container, while others have gone to the borders. I mean from the Nimba Mountain, to the might Atlantic Ocean and the Wologisi Mountain in Lofa, the search is on.*

*Even Kaseproko has forgotten the recent dog fight between him and the old Paramount Chief and the two are leading a search team comprising of young militants from the Footballer's camp to go and search his village in their highly forested fiefdom.*

*Father, you need to help us too oo. The thing is na easy oo. Right now, as I am writing you this letter, the entire village has been placed on an alert.*

*My son yor wait ya, why yor wasting yor time going from one village to another when the people right in Ducor there know where they have hidden the container.*

*Tell me something Father!*

*Yes, haven't you heard the former big man from your big money house saying that the two containers came and one was taken to the big money house and the other one went to one olden time money house that has not been functioning for almost 30 years now?*

*Hmmm, Father, but if this man know where these containers are why he can't just go show the security people the place so we can stop searching all over the place and go back to our normal businesses?*

*I am serious Father. This container business that wahala done come for our village. Many people are afraid that Mamie Watta has even carried those containers like the way she usually does with some of our money around and we go searching in vain.*

*But Father, me I don't care what they say or what the old big man from the big money house says, they must find our container oo. The man must not even breath air or walk on the ground he must show us where those containers are since he says they are not missing in the first place, we thank God, but he must now show us where they carried it.*

*Father the thing is very serious. That 16 billion when they give each tribe one billion sef, some of us that belong to two tribes will get something better because we will collect from so and so. At least da one will help me in my hustle and my kpakpakpa life.*

## FROM WHERE I SEE PRESIDENT WEAH'S GOVERNMENT

By: Jones Octavious Mallay, Esq.  
mallayjones@hotmail.com Cell: 4015720775; @jonesmallay

### Liberia's Chief Justice Korkpor Politicizes the Supreme Court of Liberia

The Supreme Court comes third in rank when naming the three branches of government under a democratic form of governance in Liberia. These include the Executive branch headed by a duly elected president, the Senate and House of Representatives branch headed by a duly elected Speaker and a President Pro tempore that is overseen by a duly elected executive vice president. The Supreme Court is headed by a Chief Justice and flanked by other associate justices appointed by a democratically elected president.

The Supreme Court of Liberia from all intents and purposes is not a Polo society, nor is it a tribal or traditional institution that holds exclusive earnestness unto itself—meaning, when one associate justice is grabbed, then the rest of the associate justices are stirred. This accession by the Liberian Supreme Court is politically charged and pathetically uneasy. The Court will need to characterize its functions with rule of law with the Honorable Supreme Court Chief Justice Francis Korkpor waking-up from his lawful slumber and adhering precisely to the rule of law for which he and other associate justices are placed on Liberian taxpayer dollars after being appointed by the President, confirmed by the House of the Senate for a lifetime job.

The House of Representatives has a lawful jurisdiction to its disposal to remove even the Chief Justice including any associate justice for a probable cause within the framework of the Liberian constitution without fear or favor. The Supreme Court Chief Justice Korkpor and associate Jamesetta Howard Wolokollie direct interfering with the constitutional duties and responsibilities of the House of Representatives linked to the sudden impeachment procedures of Associate Justice Kabineh Ja'neh can be interpreted as an unlawful circumvention of the direct rule of law by Chief Justice Korkpor and Associate Justice Wolokollie. The two law-Stewarts need to emphatically face impeachment benchmark for exercising undue constitutional lawlessness as the third branch of government in the Ja'neh's case against the jurisdiction of the House of Representative's quest backed by the constitution.

On the other hand, the Liberian Supreme Court Chief Justice and Associate Justices are not above the Liberian constitution, they are employees of the Liberian constitution. They are not above the rule of law and due process in Liberia. They can be removed on the basis of probable cause or causes by the second branch of government under the constitution. Associate Justice Ja'neh's gross inaptness to willfully assembled a team of lawyers to fight his impeachment proclamation further questioned his earned legal credentials. This act on the part of Associate Justice Ja'neh's undermines his legal status which could easily make him a legal non-entity. Ja'neh can only do this when he has a case with outside entity which seeks to remove him from office as Associate Justice, but not when another lawful branch of government especially the House of Representatives wants to have him impeached from power because of a cause within their legal jurisdictions.

Associate Ja'neh's act of encouraging his tribal groups, ex-rebel fighters, supporters and paid contractor demonstrators whom he had assembled to fight for him had simply added insults to injuries. This is not a democracy. This is authoritarianism that could lead to a severe political anarchy and political vandalism. The Chief Justice Korkporact of inviting the Justice Ministry in this fray exposes the weaknesses of Chief Korkpor who either doesn't know what he is doing or is simply disconnected from the functions/duties of his office as Supreme Court Chief Justice. This is not the role and the place of the Ministry of Justice.

The problem with the Supreme Court Justice Korkpor and his Justices is that none of them has ever been tried and tested before they were employed to work at the Supreme Court of Liberia, as a result, they have become a square peg in a round hole not knowing exactly what to do. The Supreme Court is to interpret the laws, why is the Supreme Court blatantly refusing to interpret the laws of impeachment procedures which is invested sole under the House of Representatives. But the Liberian Supreme Court has circumvented the laws that empowered the House of Representatives by blatantly politicizing the role of the Supreme Court—this is a sad and undue legal episode.

A very strong and knowledgeable Supreme Court will thoroughly examine the House of Representatives' impeachment cause(s) by directly investigating the accused associate justice without fear or favor. Second, the Supreme Court should play a neutral role whenever one of their kids misbehaved. Third, the court should allow a due process to play out legitimately. Fourth, it should not summon the House of Representatives for any hearing. Fifth, the court shouldn't get the Justice Ministry involved and the accused should desist from commenting on the matter in the media, nor should he gather a team of lawyers to fight back or encouraged paid supporters and other tribal affiliates to demonstrate for and on his behalf.

Such an act can easily exacerbate the matter that could further aggravate the House of the Legislatures' good intention. Seventh, the Supreme court justices should desist pre-judging the impeachment matter in a court of public opinion. The only auction that would be left to the disposal of the Supreme Court had it chosen this approach. The court should have lobbied behind the scheme and let the case be defeated in the Senate. This is what a mature Supreme Court with sober legal minds would embark on.

The action taking by Chief Justice Korkpor and Associate Wolokollie and the accused himself are definitively indicative that associate justice Ja'neh is already guilty of what the House is Representatives accused him about. The House of Representatives understands the law and due process that is one reason why they refused to appear before the Supreme Court, because the Supreme Court, failed miserably to interpret the laws for which they were employed by the Liberian taxpayers. The court will need to stop bullying the House of Representatives which is simply following the constitution of the Republic of Liberia.





# Liberia Airport Authority (LAA)



Republic of Liberia  
Request for Bids (IFB)

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR THE  
(Rental of Roberts International Airport Terminal Stores/Outlets)

**IFB No. RIA/ICB/002/16/17**

- The Liberia Airport Authority acting intends to LEASE out stores and outlets in the new Robert International Airport Terminal once the terminal comes on line in the next 3(three months) as of the tender date. To this end, the LAA-RIA is requesting bids from interested and qualified firms with vast experience in operating the below listed airport facilities:

Item No.	Lot No.	Description
1.	1	Business Class Lounge
2.	2	High End Restaurant
3.	3	Duty Free Shop/Outlet
4.	4	Shops

- The LAA-RIA now invites bids for the rental and operation of the aforementioned facilities within the new RIA's terminal building from firms eligible and qualified firms.
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (ICB) as specified in the Amended and Restated Public Procurement & Concessions Act Published and Approved September 11, 2018 and is opened to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the guidelines.
- Interested firms must demonstrate a strong commercial vision, expertise, outstanding shops and customer service program, and provide a passenger experience at RIA that is competitive with the world's leading international terminals.
- Eligibility and Qualification Requirements

Item No.	Lot	Description	Minimum Qualification Requirements
1.	1	Business Class Lounge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Valid Business Registration Certificate</li> <li>Valid Tax Clearance</li> <li>Article of Incorporation</li> <li>At least five years' experience in Airport Lounge Management or other private lounges</li> <li>Must have a minimum average annual turnover of US\$250,000.00 for the last three (3) years</li> <li>Must provide audited financial statement for the past three (3) years</li> </ul>
2.	2	Duty Free Store	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Valid Business Registration Certificate</li> <li>Valid Tax Clearance</li> <li>Article of Incorporation</li> <li>At least five years' experience in operating an Airport Duty Free Store/Shop or related store/shop.</li> <li>Must have a minimum average annual turnover of US\$500,000.00 for the last three (3) years</li> <li>Must provide audited financial statement for the past three (3) years</li> </ul>

3.	3	High End Restaurant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Valid Business Registration</li> <li>Valid Tax Clearance</li> <li>Sanitary Health Permit</li> <li>At least five (5) years' experience in operating high end restaurants</li> <li>Must have a minimum average annual turnover of US\$150,000.00 for the last three (3) years</li> <li>Must provide audited financial statement for the past three (3) years</li> <li>Must have at least one nutritionist and dietician</li> </ul>
4.	4	Shops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Valid Business Registration</li> <li>Valid Tax Clearance</li> <li>At least five (5) years' experience in operating shops in airports or related stores/shops</li> <li>Must have a minimum average annual turnover of US\$75,000.00</li> <li>Must provide audited financial statement for the past three (3) years</li> </ul>

- A complete set of Bidding Documents and attached copy of historical passenger information from 2013 to 2017 in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Hundred United States Dollars (US\$100.00). Interested Bidder can make payment for the bidding documents at the Roberts International Airport Procurement Section, Margibi County.
- There will a walk through of the facility for the benefit of participants conducted on Thursday, October 18, 2018.
- All bids should be delivered to the address below on or before **Tuesday, the 25<sup>th</sup> of October 2018 at 12:00 Noon** Liberian Time. Electronic bid will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened on the same day in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the address below on **October 25, 2018 at 12:00 Noon** Local/Liberian Time.

Attention:

**Procurement Department  
Roberts International Airport**



# MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Gov't resists executive immunity for Parker

By Winston W. Parley

Government lawyers say defendant Matild Parker's argument that she must be covered under executive immunity because she operated as agent of former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf is inconceivable.

In oral arguments resisting Ms. Parker's motion to dismiss the indictment in court Thursday, 20 September, Solicitor General Cllr. Darku Mulbah argued that if former

any criminal act done while president.

The former National Port Authority (NPA) Managing Director and her former comptroller Mrs. Christiana Kpabar - Pailey were indicted on multiple charges of theft of property, economic sabotage and criminal conspiracy for allegedly defrauding government of US\$837,950.00. between July 2011 and December 2012.

Their lawyer Cllr. Arthur T. Johnson filed a motion this

Parker "took away said immunity."

The State maintains that the fact that Mrs. Parker was subjected to criminal investigation and subsequent prosecution, President Sirleaf knew that the defendants' acts were contrary to her request for the ports to be dredged and security enhanced at the ports.

But defense lawyer Cllr. Johnson read a letter from Mrs. Sirleaf allegedly carrying her signature that he says has become the driving force of the subject of this trial.

He says the former president specifically instructed Mrs. Parker to take actions in the dredging of the Port of Greenville, and Mrs. Parker as NPA Managing Director worked at the will and pleasure of Mrs. Sirleaf.

Cllr. Johnson says their theory of the argument is whenever the president instructs an agent and the agent has performed the activity in the scope of the instruction given by the principal, that activity cannot be questioned in court.

As such, Cllr. Johnson maintains that his clients are immune from all prosecution or appearances in court.

According to him, the only time the president of this country can be prosecuted even if they leave power, is when they were impeached while they were in power.

He requests the court to take judicial notice of the Supreme Court's opinion in the Wiles vs Simpson case where the issue of executive immunity is addressed.

Judge Boima Kontoe has reserved ruling to be delivered on Tuesday, September 25, 2018 at the hour of 9am.



Ms. Matild Parker

President Sirleaf were a party in this case at hand, she would have been included in the trial.

He read Article 61 of Liberia's 1986 Constitution that says the president shall be immune from any suits, arrests or detention, among others, on account of any act done while still president.

He argues further that a portion of this Article indicates that the president shall not be immune upon removal from office for the commission of

week asking the court to dismiss the indictment over claims that his clients were acting under the specific instructions of former President Sirleaf to expedite the removal of wrecks and dredging of the Port of Greenville, Sinoe County.

But prosecutors' written resistance filed Wednesday afternoon contends that the defendants cannot benefit from presidential immunity in this instant case because the principal Mrs. Sirleaf who should have shielded Mrs.

## EFFL plans massive protest

By Lewis S. Teh

The Economic Freedom Fighters of Liberia (EFFL) is planning a massive protest here over the disappearance of LD\$16 billions that had exited the Freeport of Monrovia and the Roberts International Airport (RIA).

The group in a press statement issued Thursday, 20 September says its planned protest is to draw the attention of the government to rampant corruption scandal that is unfolding in the country.

EFFL Commander in Charge Emmanuel Gonquoi calls on all businesses, schools, private and public enterprises to close

their various businesses on Monday, 24 September during the protest.

Mr. Gonquoi urges parents and guardian to keep their children [at home], taken into consideration the national security implication.

The group says the protest is to declare a national state of emergency as they build up toward the official commencement of their protest day in search of the missing 16 billion dollars.

Meanwhile the EFFL also used the medium to remind it's members to assemble on Benson Street around the US Embassy in the morning hours, to join other civil society organizations to carry on the

parade downtown Monrovia.

The EFFL recently frowned on the government of Liberia, after Finance Minister Samuel Tweah announced that the government had given the Wologizi mountain to a Chinese firm to do feasibility studies.

On Tuesday, September 11, 2018, Finance and Development Planning Minister, Samuel Tweah disclosed that Liberia has signed to an agreement giving the natural resources including Mount Wologizi to a Chinese firm.

He said the firm will be allowed to do a feasibility study on the mineral values. - Edited by Winston W. Parley

## Burglary at Faith Healing Temple

- US\$6,000 plus 85,000 LRD allegedly stolen

By Emmanuel Mondaye

The senior pastor of the Faith Healing Temple of Jesus Christ located on Bushrod Island, a suburb of Monrovia Rev. Henry M. Saway, confirms an alleged theft in the Church's finance/administrative office, resulting to loss of US\$6,000 and 85,000 Liberian Dollars, but says matter surrounding the alleged theft has been resolved.

Speaking to this paper following worship on Sunday, 9 September at the church, Rev. Saway did not however disclose how the matter was resolved.

The theft was reportedly uncovered on Saturday, September 8, 2018.

When this reporter contacted Rev. Saway about the alleged theft on Sunday, 9 September after regular service, he summoned the church's Technical Supervisor Christopher Gotieo, whose son is linked to the theft, to provide clarity on the issue.

But Mr. instead, asked this paper to meet him on Monday, 10 September.

When contacted on Monday, September 10, 2018, he was unavailable for comment despite contact made with him by his wife, who refused to call her name via mobile phone to provide clarity on the reported theft allegedly involving their son.

This paper gathered that US\$6,000 along with 85,000 Liberian Dollars were reportedly taken from the administrative office of the church, which prompted the church to launch an internal probe, involving the church, a private security firm which provides security services to the church compound and the son of Technical Supervisor Christopher Gotieo.

This paper also gathered that following immense pressure on the son of Mr. Gotiea, he reportedly produced unspecified amount of

the money with assurance by his father (Mr. Christopher Gotiea) to pay the balance through salary deduction.

Mr. Gotiea himself subsequently told this paper that he has just returned from the burial of a family member of his wife, thus, asking this reporter to return on 10 September 2018 at which he would have compiled report on the matter.

But, several visitations made by this reporter to have Mr. Gotiea provide clarity on the matter proved fruitless as he was absent whenever he was visited at the church compound with the latest visit being Tuesday, September 11, 2018.

However, a woman who claims to be a church administrator, Tuesday, 11 September walked into the newsroom of this paper asking, "Who told your that money got missing at our church compound?... no money got missing, so your please take our church name out of your missing money business", and later walked away.

The money in question was allegedly stolen from the administrative office after Mr. Gotiea's son got hold of keys to the office and reportedly conceived the money within the church compound with an aim transferring it elsewhere subsequently when alarm blew about the situation.

Another female pastor of the church, Rev. Dorothy Karr, who earlier spoke to this paper while Rev. Henry M. Saway was absent from the church's promises, explains that she learnt about the alleged theft when she reported to work on Monday, September 10.

The Faith Healing Temple Church of Jesus Christ was established in the late 1970 by the late Rev. Mother Wilhelmina Dukuly to provide spiritual guidance to Christians in Liberia during the administration of slain President William R. Tolbert, killed on April 12, 1980 in a bloody military coup.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

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# MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Supreme Court transfers Tyron case to remote county

By Winston W. Parley

Associate Justice in Chambers at the Supreme Court Sie - A - Nyene Yuoh has ordered the transfer of late journalist Tyron Browne's murder case to the remote county of Gbarpolu, western Liberia.

She made the decision Thursday, 20 September, granting principal murder suspect defendant Jonathan Williams' request to remove the case from Monrovia over fears that he might face biased media publication and impartial administration of justice in the capital.

But prosecutors have announced appeal against Justice Yuoh's decision to the full bench of the Supreme Court sitting in its October Term.

Justice Yuoh had to abruptly abort the first ruling she was reading in court because she says she had noticed that it was "the wrong draft."

She returned after few minutes expressing apology to counsellors before continuing with the actual draft of her



The late journalist Tyron Browne

ruling.

Justice Yuoh overturns Criminal Court "A" Judge Roosevelt Z. Willie's decisions in the case and orders that co-defendants Alice and Edwina's case be transferred under the jurisdiction of the magisterial court.

She says Judge Willie was in error by denying defendant Williams's request for a bench

trial, change of venue, his failure to refuse jurisdiction over Alice and Edwina's trial.

She has therefore confirmed the alternative writ of certiorari requested by the defendants, issued a peremptory writ of certiorari in the case and transferred Jonathan's trial to the 16th judicial circuit in Gbarpolu County and transfers Alice and

Edwina's case to magisterial court jurisdiction.

She says the only persons mentioned in the indictment as acting in concert were Jonathan Williams and [former] Caesar Kennedy; and not Edwina and Alice Youtey.

Caesar has already testified for the state, having being nolle prosequi (abandoned trial against) by the State.

In line with Article 21 (h) of the Constitution of Liberia, she rules that Judge Willie was in grave error to have denied Jonathan's motion to waive jury trial.

Article 21 (h) of the Constitution calls for trial by jury, but it also allows the person on trial to waive such right with the appropriate understanding of the right to a jury trial.

Justice Yuoh determines that the Constitution is above

the statute relied upon by Judge Willie to deny defendant Williams a bench trial.

Jonathan is alleged to have brutally murdered Tyron on 15 April this year while the victim was paying a visit at the residence of Edwina Youtey and Alice Youtey at the Duport Road Community.

The indictee allegedly dumped Tyron's body around the Kingdom Care Hospital in Paynesville, return home at Duport Road and washed his vehicle that conveyed the victim and burned the plastic that was in the vehicle.

Alice and Edwina remain on trial for hindering law enforcement along with defendant Williams who faces charge of murder.

They allegedly witnessed the incident, but did not report it to police or any law enforcement officer.

## GAC seeks partnership with Media

By Ethel A. Tweh

The General Auditing Commission or GAC holds a one-day forum with the Media to enhance relationship with media institutions here. The program, with theme, "enhancing GAC-Media Relations" was held Thursday at a local hotel in Monrovia in partnership with the European Union.

Liberia's Auditor General Yusador S. Gaye says the media has a major role in disseminating information from the GAC to the public, stressing a need for

collaboration to help make Liberia a better place.

She notes that the public will not get to know works of the GAC without the help of the media. However, she discloses the GAC worked with six other auditing agencies from different countries on the Sustainable Development Goals, noting that her institution was the first to finish its report.

AG Gaye explains that whenever an audit is done, the report is accompanied by recommendations to enable Auditees know what next to do.

However, she notes that from most audit reports in Liberia, recommendations are not adhered to. Therefore, she urges the media to be proactive by accurately and timely reporting published audit reports in depth.

Mr. Martin Sandy, Information, Education and communication Officer from the Audit Service of the Republic of Sierra Leone, who served as lead facilitator, underscores an audit process will never be completed without dissemination of the audit findings to the public, adding that the media is the liaison between the citizens and the GAC.

He says the media should help in making the recommendation to be implemented as well as help the GAC to identify potential areas for auditing.

He cautions whenever an audit report is out by the GAC, the media should not assume, politicize, exaggerate, generalize, or take sides, but report directly from the audit report.

For his part, the Deputy Auditor General of Liberia Foday G. Kiazolu says the role of the GAC is to help legislators to monitor and control public resources, reviews government activities for regularity and compliance, examine transaction against

## Lightning strikes

Starts from back page

lightning.

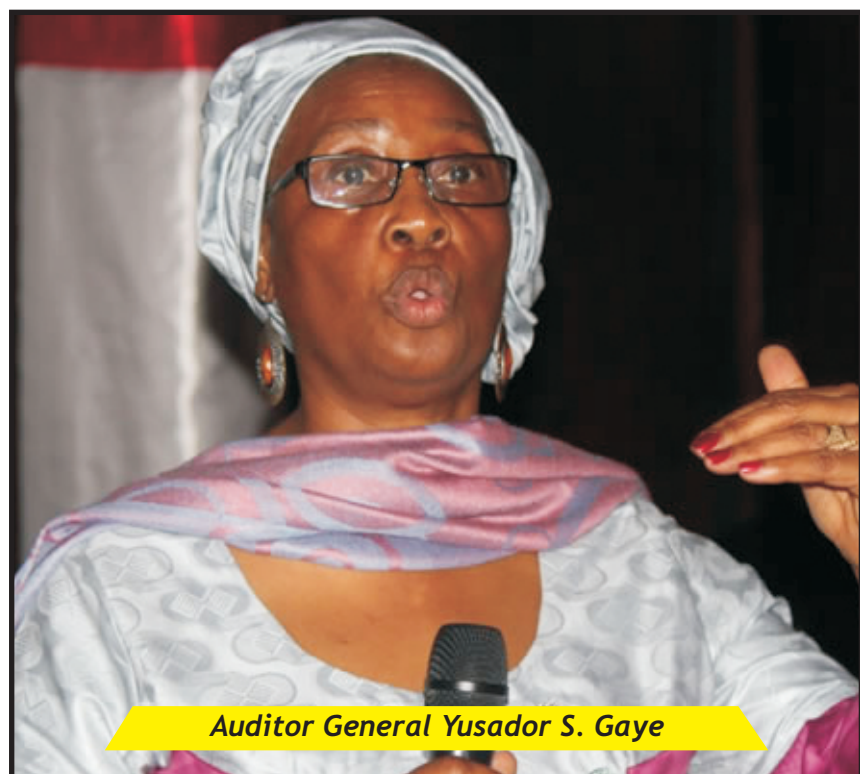
Madam Dolo continues that since she took office at the LMPC Market, this is the first incident that has occurred there.

In 2016 lightning struck and killed several marketers at the main Ganta General Market.

Wednesday's tragedy brings to two, lightning strikes on marketers in the commercial district of Ganta, Nimba

County.

An eyewitness, Julie Karkeh, narrates that at about 4:20 p.m. Wednesday, residents of Ganta City experienced heavy downpour during which the lightning struck and affected several marketers, including her 14-year-old son Sunday Boy Wellbelleh. -Editing by Jonathan Browne



Auditor General Yusador S. Gaye

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circulation of inputs, outcomes and impacts.

However, he says the GAC lacks required funding to carry on all of their audits, recalling that the Commission's budget was cut down, so they will carry out the major ones. In the same vein, he adds the GAC too can be audited, disclosing the last audit done on the GAC was by foreign audit agency from Kenya.

The Long-term Technical Advisor to the EU's 11th EDF

support to the GAC, Ron Mwamba from Zambia, says they are working with the media to bring transparency to the Liberian people.

A former Auditing General of Zambia, Mr. Mwamba stresses the way the media reports the GAC report, citizens will be aware of happenings in various government entities and agencies. -Editing by Jonathan Browne



# Français

## L'ancien gouverneur de la Banque Centrale du Libéria entendu au siège de la police

L'ancien Gouverneur exécutif de la Banque Centrale du Libéria, M. Milton Weeks, s'est présenté mercredi 19 septembre 2018 au siège de la police nationale du Libéria pour y être entendu dans le cadre d'une enquête qui vise à faire la lumière sur les circonstances de la disparition des conteneurs contenant des billets de banque valant un peu moins de 16 milliards de dollars libériens, soit 97 millions de dollars américains.

M. Weeks fait partie des personnalités qui sont actuellement sous le coup d'une interdiction de voyager à l'extérieur du Libéria pendant que les enquêteurs cherchent à trouver des réponses à la question de savoir comment des conteneurs empilés d'argent d'une valeur de 16 milliards de dollars libériens ont pu sortir du port de Monrovia et disparaître dans la nature sous escorte des agents des forces de l'ordre. L'interdiction de



voyager a été imposée par l'Etat.

M. Weeks fut gouverneur de la Banque centrale sous le régime de l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf et a occupé ce poste jusqu'aux premiers mois de

l'administration du président George Manneh Weah cette année avant de démissionner.

Le mercredi 19 septembre 2018, tôt le matin, les journalistes se sont attroupés au siège de la police nationale pour attendre l'arrivée de M.

Weeks. Mais dès l'arrivée de celui-ci, les journalistes ont été demandés de quitter les lieux comme quoi l'interrogatoire se ferait à huis-clos. Pourtant, bien avant son arrivée, il y régnait une ambiance plutôt amicale entre journalistes et policiers. Mais tout a changé soudainement lorsque M. Weeks est arrivé, les journalistes ont été gentiment demandés de prendre la porte.

Toutefois, certains d'entre eux ont réussi à prendre quelques photos de l'ancien patron de la banque centrale du Libéria avant qu'ils ne soient expulsés.

« Cet endroit est réservé aux forces de sécurité et non à quiconque prétend être journaliste, ni même aux journalistes », a tenu à rappeler un policier, avant d'ajouter : « Toute information que nous voulons que vous entendiez, nous vous la passerons ».

L'Etat du Libéria, dans une circulaire relative à la sécurité nationale rendue publique mardi dernier, a sommé des personnes visées par l'enquête de ne pas quitter le pays. Selon le ministère de l'Information, le gouvernement ne prend pas à la légère l'enquête en cours car cela a des implications sur la sécurité nationale.

Le ministre Eugene Nagbe a déclaré que les autorités à tous les points d'entrée ou de sortie, y compris les voies terrestres, les frontières, les voies aériennes et maritimes, ont reçu l'ordre de prendre dûment acte de la circulaire.

Selon la circulaire, l'équipe d'enquête a demandé aux personnes suivantes de coopérer pleinement. Il s'agit de Milton Weeks, George Abi Jaoudi, Charles Sirleaf, Richard Walker, Mariea E.G. Toe, Musulyn R.B. Jackson, Opheila Nyenpan, Oldada Deshield, Prince Bull, J. Barquolleh Gabriel, Theodosia B. Jreh, Zinnah Davison, Solomon Jaykpah, Kollie Ballah, et Andrew Pabai, entre autres.

## RDC : la Céni publie la liste définitive des candidats à la présidentielle

En RDC, le processus électoral entre dans sa dernière ligne droite. A trois mois du scrutin, la Commission électorale nationale indépendante (Céni) vient d'annoncer la liste définitive des candidats à la présidentielle du 23 décembre prochain. En RDC, la Céni a publié la liste définitive des candidats à la présidentielle

du 23 décembre prochain. Cette publication est sans surprise : les poids lourds de l'opposition, déjà écartés, n'ont pas été repêchés.

Comme l'a décidé la Cour constitutionnelle, Jean-Pierre Bemba et Adolphe Muzito ne pourront pas participer à la présidentielle de décembre. Idem pour Moïse Katumbi qui n'a même pas déposé sa

candidature.

Sur les 25 candidatures enregistrées, six ont été déclarées irrecevables par la Céni. Après contentieux, deux candidatures ont été récupérées. Au total, 21 candidats vont concourir, dont les opposants Félix Tshisekedi, Vital Kamerhe, Martin Fayulu ou encore Freddy Matungulu.

Avec quatre figures de l'opposition dans la course se pose à nouveau la question de la candidature unique. Evoquée ces dernières semaines à Kinshasa, Bruxelles ou Johannesburg, aucune décision n'a encore été prise.

Si pour la présidentielle, il n'y a pas de surprise, ce n'est pas le cas pour les législatives. Consécutivement aux arrêts de la Cour constitutionnelle, la Céni va devoir accepter les dossiers de 107 autres candidats après les requêtes introduites en contestation des listes provisoires.

« En application de l'article 168 de la Constitution, un dispositif spécial de réception de ces nouvelles candidatures est installé au niveau du siège, conformément à l'article 27 alinéa 4 et 5 de la loi électorale pour 48 heures à partir du jeudi

20 septembre 2018 », a déclaré Onésime Kukatula, rapporteur adjoint de la Commission électorale.

Mais on ne sait pas si ces repêchés sont des candidats de la majorité ou de l'opposition. La Céni devrait rendre publique leur identité ce jeudi.

Au total, 15 355 candidatures à la députation nationale sont validées et 19 640 pour les provinciales.

Avec la publication de ces listes définitives, la Céni se dit satisfaite que le calendrier électoral soit respecté.

Corneille Nangaa, président de cette institution, estime qu'il n'y a donc plus d'obstacle à la tenue des scrutins du 23

décembre. « Un nouveau pas de géant vient de nouveau d'être franchi et le chemin est définitivement balisé en direction des élections du 23 décembre 2018 ».

Ainsi il a appelé les différentes parties prenantes à l'adhésion au processus électoral, faisant fi une nouvelle fois des inquiétudes formulées face à l'utilisation de la machine à voter et face aussi à un fichier électoral avec plus de six millions d'électeurs sans empreinte digitale. Les opposants demandent que soient extirpés des listes électorales les 16,6 % d'électeurs enrôlés sans empreintes digitales.



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# Français

## Le président Weah a promulgué les lois sur les droits fonciers et les collectivités locales

Le président George Manneh Weah a promulgué la loi sur les collectivités locales et la loi sur le droit foncier (Liberia Land Right Act), accordant ainsi aux citoyens des droits fonciers et plus de pouvoir aux autorités traditionnelles locales.

Lors de la cérémonie de signature, le mercredi 19 septembre, à Monrovia, le chef de l'Etat a promis de veiller à ce que les Libériens bénéficient de ces lois, se disant convaincu que ces deux lois sont un élément clé pour le développement du pays.

M. Weah a déclaré que pour développer le Liberia, il va falloir que les gouvernants fassent ce qui est bien pour le peuple, tout en ajoutant que tout le temps qu'il a fallu pour que les législateurs adoptent finalement ces lois en valait la peine.

Il a exprimé l'espoir que le peuple sera désormais propriétaire des terres et respectera les règles et les directives entourant la terre et faire en sorte que cela apporte des retombées économiques dans le pays.

Le président Weah a indiqué que c'est la deuxième fois qu'il appose sa signature sur ces documents, l'ayant fait la première fois en tant que sénateur du comté de Montserrado et maintenant en tant que président du Libéria.

Il a dit merci à l'assemblée législative pour ses efforts et aux partenaires internationaux qui ne se lassent jamais d'être au chevet du Libéria pendant les moments difficiles.

Le ministre des Affaires intérieures, Varney Sirleaf, a déclaré qu'avec la promulgation des deux lois par le président Weah, le gouvernement allait maintenant procéder à la décentralisation en

permettant aux gouvernements locaux de prendre les décisions importantes. « Ces deux lois apporteront une valeur ajoutée aux citoyens libériens car ils se sont vu accorder des droits fonciers tandis que les chefs traditionnels se voient également accorder plus de pouvoirs », a-t-il ajouté.

Il a rappelé que ces deux lois sont issues de la Commission de la gouvernance (GC) qui a travaillé avec le ministère de l'intérieur et l'ancienne Commission foncière pour que les documents soient transmis au parlement.

Il a salué l'ambassade des États-Unis et l'USAID, l'ambassade de Suède, l'Union européenne et le PNUD pour leur soutien sur la phase du programme de décentralisation liée à la prestation de services.

Le chef du conseil traditionnel du Libéria, Chief Zanzan Karwor, a célébré cette initiative qui vise à redonner du pouvoir aux autorités locales et des droits fonciers aux citoyens. « C'est un défi, mais la terre sera protégée », a-t-il promis.

Il a ainsi exhorté les libériens à retourner à la terre pour commencer à faire des plantations et mettre en valeurs les bas-fonds, tout en avertissant d'éviter les forêts afin de protéger le pays contre les tornades. « Nous ne voulons pas être propriétaires de ces terres et continuer à mendier des sacs de riz », a déclaré le chef Karwor aux populations rurales.

L'Ambassadrice des États-Unis Christine Elder, l'Ambassadrice de Suède Ingrid Wetterqvist et le Coordonnateur résident des Nations Unies, Yacoub El Hillo, ont salué la signature des deux lois et se sont engagés à continuer à travailler avec le Libéria.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Adair Turner

### Un modèle économique japonais efficace

**T**OKYO - Pour la quasi-totalité des observateurs, le modèle économique du Japon a implosé. Depuis 1991, la croissance atteint en moyenne seulement 0,9 %, contre 4,5 % au cours des décennies précédentes. Cette croissance lente, combinée à d'importants déficits budgétaires et à une inflation proche de zéro, a fait passer la dette publique de 50 % à 236 % du PIB.

Les Abenomics, ensemble de réformes lancées par le Premier ministre Shinzo Abe à son arrivée au pouvoir il y a six ans, ont fixé la promesse d'une inflation à 2 %. Mais cinq années de taux d'intérêts nuls et d'assouplissement quantitatif massif ont entravé cet objectif. Un taux de natalité de 1,4 % et une immigration proche de zéro annoncent au Japon une possible diminution de 28 % de la main d'œuvre au cours des cinq prochaines années, ce qui rendrait la santé inabordable pour les personnes âgées, tout en creusant considérablement le déficit budgétaire, qui s'élève d'ores et déjà à 4 % du PIB.

Des hausses d'impôts et réductions des dépenses publiques visant à réduire le déficit sont indispensables si le pays entend éviter une crise de la dette. Une réforme structurelle est également nécessaire pour dynamiser un taux de croissance anémique.

Malgré tout, la conception dominante autour du prétendu échec du modèle japonais est sans doute erroné. Bien que le déclin démographique du Japon soulève des difficultés, il pourrait également présenter certains avantages : les dettes du Japon sont beaucoup plus viables qu'elles l'apparaissent.

Certes, la croissance du PIB du Japon est à la traîne par rapport à celle de la plupart des autres économies développées, et elle le restera probablement à mesure du lent déclin de la population. Pour autant, l'important en termes de bien-être humain réside dans le PIB par habitant, et sur ce front la croissance annuelle de 0,65 % du Japon au cours de la décennie écoulée depuis 2007 est égale à celle des États-Unis, et bien meilleure aux chiffres britanniques et français, à savoir respectivement 0,39 % et 0,34 % - pas si mal pour un pays présentant l'un des plus hauts niveaux de vie de la planète.

Bien entendu, ces 25 dernières années, la croissance américaine par habitant s'est révélée beaucoup plus rapide. Pour autant, l'économie du Japon n'est pas affectée par ce creusement massif des inégalités qui a confronté de nombreux travailleurs américains à des salaires réels stagnants au cours de cette période. Le taux de chômage se situe en effet en dessous de 3 %.

En tant que moteur de prospérité pour un grand nombre de citoyens, l'économie du Japon figure ainsi en bonne position aujourd'hui par rapport à la quasi-totalité des autres. Si le pays enregistre l'un des plus faibles taux de criminalité de la planète, cela doit signifier que le modèle social japonais présente certaines réussites. Le tourisme est par ailleurs en plein essor, le nombre de touristes étrangers ayant augmenté de six millions ces 15 dernières années, pour atteindre près de 20 millions de visiteurs.

Évidemment, la vérité d'aujourd'hui pourrait se révéler démographiquement peu viable demain ; et si le taux de natalité au Japon ne dépasse définitivement plus 1,4 %, le déclin démographique rapide pourrait soulever de sérieux problèmes. En revanche, les inquiétudes selon lesquelles le ratio travailleurs/retraités chutera de 2,1 à 1,3 exagèrent la situation, puisqu'elles considèrent arbitrairement que l'âge de départ à la retraite se situerait à 65 ans, et ignorent la possibilité d'élever cet âge de départ en retraite, comme le fait actuellement le gouvernement Abe. Si l'âge moyen auquel les individus cessent de travailler passait à 70 ans, le

ratio travailleurs/retraités diminuerait tout de même, mais seulement de 2,1 aujourd'hui à 1,8 en 2050.

Par ailleurs, le Japon figure au premier plan mondial dans le domaine des technologies permettant aux personnes d'âge avancé de rester économiquement actifs plus longtemps, ainsi que des robots permettant aux biens et services d'être produits par un nombre sans cesse inférieur de travailleurs. La crainte selon laquelle les robots pourraient un jour détruire les emplois est remarquablement absente du débat national au Japon. Un récent ouvrage vantant les avantages et abordant les défis qui accompagnent l'espérance de vie centenaire, *The 100-Year Life*, est devenu un bestseller.

Dans un monde caractérisé par des possibilités radicales d'automatisation, une espérance de vie élevée et croissante ainsi qu'un déclin démographique constituent de moindres problèmes à affronter qu'une croissance démographique rapide menaçant de submerger la création d'emplois dans certaines économies émergentes.

S'agissant de la dette publique et des déficits budgétaires intenable, les pessimistes qui annoncent une crise inévitable si le pays ne se serre pas la ceinture rapidement seront probablement déçus. En effet, bien que la dette publique brute du Japon s'élève à 236 % du PIB, le Fonds monétaire international estime la dette nette à un niveau bien moindre de 152 % après déduction des actifs financiers appartenant à l'État.

En outre, la Banque du Japon détient des obligations d'État pour une valeur de 90 % du PIB, et restitue en fin de compte au gouvernement, sous forme de dividendes, l'ensemble des montants qu'elle perçoit de lui en tant qu'intérêts sur les obligations qu'elle détient. Après déduction à la fois des actifs financiers publics ainsi que de l'ensemble des dettes que le gouvernement du Japon et ses citoyens se doivent effectivement mutuellement, le niveau de dette ne se situe plus qu'à 60 % du PIB, et n'augmente plus. Ce niveau de dette pourrait demeurer viable même en cas de déficits budgétaires élevés pendant de nombreuses années encore.

Pour le comprendre, imaginez qu'un État présente une dette publique brute de 250 % du PIB, une dette nette de 150 %, et des détentions d'obligations de banque centrale de 100 % du PIB, soit une dette nette de 50 %. Supposons ensuite que l'inflation et la croissance réelle s'élèvent chacune à 1 %, soit une croissance du PIB nominal de 2 %. En présence de rendements obligataires de 2 % (contre 0,1 % au Japon aujourd'hui), ces ratios de dette demeureraient stables même si l'État enregistrait un déficit primaire de 4 % du PIB, et un déficit total de 5 %, année après année.

Le Japon est globalement dans cette situation aujourd'hui. Loin d'être horrifiés à la vue de cette situation manifestement peu viable, les acheteurs d'obligations du monde entier se pressent aujourd'hui pour acheter des obligations d'État présentant des rendements légèrement supérieurs à zéro.

Il ne s'agit pas ici de nier l'existence de défis majeurs. Les coûts de la santé pourraient en effet creuser encore davantage les déficits budgétaires. La théorie économique suggère par ailleurs qu'à un certain stade, les rendements des obligations pourraient être supérieurs à la croissance du PIB nominal. Pour ces deux raisons, un plan à moyen terme apportant une certaine consolidation budgétaire est souhaitable. Et en l'absence d'augmentation du taux de natalité ou à tout le moins d'une part d'immigration, les avancées technologiques que vise le Japon seront essentielles pour faire face au vieillissement de la population.

Pour autant, le pessimisme généralisé autour des perspectives du Japon s'avère tout à fait excessif. De nombreux pays seraient heureux d'avoir à affronter les mêmes problèmes que ceux du Japon.

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# CULTURE & ENTERTAINMENT



## LIBERIA WINS LOS ANGELES JOLLOF FESTIVAL

Liberia is once again in the headlines; this time, for winning the Los Angeles Jollof festival.

According to Monrovia Times, Liberia won the competition ahead of Ghana, which came second followed by Sierra Leone third with Nigeria at fourth place, respectively.

Jollof, otherwise known as Jollof Rice, is an African cuisine popular in West Africa. The sumptuous dish is cooked in various styles and tastes, depending on which country you visit.

Organizers of the competition praise Liberia for her win and say the country of 4.5 Million people is on the move and deserves congratulations in the face of such stiff competition with other countries.

Liberia recently won the Washington, D.C. Jollof festival held in Washington where organizers announced that the event will take place in several cities, across the United States, including Los Angeles.

The next Jollof festival is scheduled for Oakland, California with organizers planning to host similar event in London, Houston, and New York City, respectively.

With the competition gaining momentum around the world, the question many are asking is, will Liberia keep winning the Jollof wars or are the



Ghanaians and Nigerians going to bounce back and make these Jollof conversations all about themselves? Jollof rice is the most debated dish amongst West Africans, and if you have not tasted it before, well, you are not late to the party; there is still hope, so let

Liberian Jollof inspires you In the meantime, you can watch out for the next Jollof festival coming to your city as Liberia enjoys another comfortable recognition for having the best Jollof in West Africa.

## Origin of Liberian culture



The culture of Monrovia has two distinct roots, the Southern US heritage of the freed Americo-Liberian slaves and the ancient African descendants of the indigenous people and migratory tribes.

Most former Americans belonged to the Masonic Order of Liberia, outlawed since 1980, but originally playing a huge part in the nation's politics. Settlers brought the skills of embroidery and

quilting with them, with both now firmly embedded in the national culture.

The haunting slave music and songs of the American South with ancient African rhythms and harmonies blended well with indigenous musical traditions of the region.

The diverse tribal ethnicities making up the population of Liberia today have all added to the richness of cultural life in the country.

Christian music is popular, with hymns sung a-cappella in the iconic African style. Spirituality and the region's ancient rituals are reflected in the unusually intricate carving style, and modern Liberian artists are finding fame outside the country.

Dance is a valued heritage, with the Liberian National Culture Group giving performances both in the country and overseas based on traditional themes.

The gradual integration of all Liberia's ethnic groups has given rise to a renewed interest in its tribal culture as a reminder of the diverse roots of the new country.

## CIC calls on all celebrities to VIP themselves

Branding and Marketing yourself as an artist is one the most valuable things every artist should take advantage of in order to add taste and gain profits from the game, because image serves as an integrity of brand.

Like old folks say: if they cook you in tomato cup, they will dish you out with broom sticks.

This was the point made by Lonestar Cell Brand Ambassador CIC, who took to his Facebook Page about one hour ago, cautioning artists to stop floating

around and instead, make use of their image. "You float all over the way say, da one da I can see anytime to all lay zinc round entertainment center nen. Birthday party and all there. Da dirty artist down there and da lay reason they na geh respect seh"

You relax Yor lil hustle and be on your low key and boommm... " Da one like to act leh say he too special leh to say he some kindda good human being seh. He's proud.... and can't even make sound, sound music nen seh"



**Read this page every Friday**



# CBL received money containers

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Former Executive Governor of the Central Bank of Liberia Milton Weeks, currently being interrogated for the alleged disappearance of 15 Billion Liberian dollars printed abroad and brought in the country admits to the joint security investigative team that the containers bearing the LRD15 billion were received by the CBL during his tenure.

Making the pronouncement recently before the joint security team, including the National Security Agency, the Intelligent Financial Unit and the Liberia National Police, Weeks explains the containers and bags of moneys were received during his stay at the Central Bank of Liberia and deposited both in vaults at the CBL and the former national housing and savings bank, respectively.

When quizzed further, he discloses that some of the newly printed banknotes were infused in the Liberian market to replace mutilated

banknotes notes.

Mr. Weeks is yet to explain clearly whether the total amount was infused in the market.

government approved the printing of new banknotes in August 2016, as the country recovered from a devastating Ebola epidemic.



The CBL is the institution clothed with the authority to print currency in the country in consultation with the Liberian Legislature the former Liberian

Charles Sirleaf, son of former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, and former Central Bank governor, Milton Weeks, are among those

barred from travel as part of the investigation, said a Ministry of Information statement released late on Tuesday.

Charles Sirleaf was suspended from his position as Deputy Central Bank Governor in 2012 during an anti-corruption investigation.

Meanwhile the Liberian government is inviting investigators of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and other reputable international bodies to assist in its ongoing probe.

An official in the corridors of the Executive Mansion told this paper via mobile phone Wednesday that letters were being sent to the FBI, IMF and other international bodies to

assist the government in solving what is fast becoming one of the biggest financial crimes in the nation's history.

The government circular says the investigation team has asked for the continued cooperation of Milton Weeks, George Abi Jaoudi, Charles Sirleaf, Richard Walker, Mariea E. G. Toe, Musulyn R. B. Jackson and Opehila Nyenpan. Others are Oldada Deshield, Prince Bull, J. Barquolleh Gabriel, Theodosia B. Jreh, Zinnah Davison, Solomon Jaykpah, Kollie Ballah, and Andrew Pabai, among others.

- **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

# Weah must speak

Amid the reported disappearance of containers and bags of newly printed Liberian Banknotes from the Freeport of Monrovia and inconsistent accounts from within government on the issue, public pressure mounts here for President George Manneh Weah to address the nation.

"I mean no harm to President Weah, but it is an error by the Executive. President Weah must speak to the Liberian people", stresses Montserrado County District#7 Representative Solomon George, a member of President Weah's ruling Coalition for Democratic Change.

Mr. George laments here Thursday, 20 September while on a live radio talk show that lies are being told to the public about the alleged missing containers and bags of moneys.

"My advice to the President", he continues, "he has to try by all means to speak to the Liberian people immediately."

Since a local daily broke news of the disappearance of two 40-foot containers stacked with freshly printed Liberian Banknotes that the Government of Liberia thru the Ministry of Justice

confirms, and the Minister of Information Lenn Eugene Nagbe discloses the total amount at US\$16 Billion Liberian Dollars, President Weah is yet to publicly comment on an act some of his officials describe as treasonable.

President Weah, who is expected to leave the country this weekend to attend the United Nations General Assembly, is embattled from two fronts: While one group of U.S.-based Liberians are protesting before the UN Headquarters in New York, calling for the establishment of war and economic crimes court for the country, Liberians back home want him to public speak on the alleged disappearance of billions of Liberian dollars.

A press statement issued in Monrovia by the Ministry of Justice on September 17, confirms that on August 8, 2018, a Special Presidential investigative Team, comprising investigators from the Liberian National Police (LNP), the National security Agency (NSA) and the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) was constituted and mandated to investigation information surrounding the arrival of containers and bags of moneys into the country, by and thru

the Freeport of Monrovia and the Roberts international Airport.


But Representative George thinks President Weah is not being presented the facts, and his conspicuous silence on such a major financial crime, the first in the country's history, could exacerbate the situation as citizens are enraged.

"Satan is creeping in the Executive Mansion", he says, and warns; "We can't be playing with the hearts of the Liberian people."


The Liberia National Police has been interrogating the former executive governor of the Central Bank of Liberia, J. Milton Weeks, who has categorical said moneys from one of the containers are deposited both in the vault of the CBL in Monrovia and another vault at the ex-national housing and savings bank in the commercial district of Waterside.

However, the former governor maintains that he does not know the whereabouts of one of the containers that reportedly went missing.

However, the Government of Liberia this week thru the Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism issued national security circular, advising persons of interest needed to assist with ongoing investigation into circumstance surrounding the importation of Liberian banknotes between November



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**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)**  
**Supply and Delivery of Transformers, Conductors, Pre/Post Payment Meters, Tools and Equipment for Liberia Electricity Corporation**

**Background and Context**  
 The United States of America, acting through the Millennium Challenge Corporation ("MCC") and the Government of Liberia (the "Government" or "GoL") have entered a Millennium Challenge Compact for Millennium Challenge Account assistance to help facilitate poverty reduction through economic growth in Liberia (the "Compact") in the amount of approximately 256,726,000 USD ("MCC Funding"). The Government, acting through Millennium Challenge Account - Liberia (the "MCA Entity"), intends to apply a portion of the MCC Funding to eligible payments under a contract for **Supply and Delivery of Transformers, Conductors, Pre/Post Payment Meters, Tools and Equipment for Liberia Electricity Corporation.**

**For the intended procurement of goods, LEC provided specific technical requirements for various electrical equipment, instruments and tools. To avoid restrictive technical requirements, MCA-Liberia wish to provide generic technical requirements, which can be met by different manufacturers for similar equipment, instruments and tools. To source the required information, MCA-Liberia intends to conduct a market survey for obtaining the generic technical specifications vis-à-vis the technical requirements /specifications required by LEC and to determine the availability of the goods meeting the required specifications from various national and international manufacturers.**

This request is to obtain information only, not a request for quotation. This RFI does not obligate MCA-Liberia to release an Invitation to Bid or award a contract, nor does it commit MCA-Liberia to pay for any costs incurred in response to this RFI.

This RFI is for:  
**Supply and Delivery of Transformers, Conductors, Pre/Post Payment Meters, Tools and Equipment for Liberia Electricity Corporation**

**How to Participate in the Process:**

Interested Suppliers/ manufacturers should send an email to [MCALiberiaPA@cardno.com](mailto:MCALiberiaPA@cardno.com) requesting a copy of the RFI, which is free of charge.

Important activities and dates:

No.	Activity	Dates
1	Release of RFI	September 18, 2018
2	Deadline for Submission of Information	September 25, 2018 at 3:30 pm

2017 and August 2018, not to leave the country.

A press statement issued Tuesday by the Ministry of Information says authorities at all points of entry or exit, including land, border, air and sea ports have been directed to take due cognizance of the circular.

The release discloses that investigation team has asked for the continued cooperation of several individuals, including ex-governor Milton Weeks, George Abi Jaoudi, Charles Sirleaf, Richard Walker, Mariea E. G. Toe, Musulyn R. B. Jackson and Opehila Nyenpan. Others are

Oldada Deshield, Prince Bull, J. Barquolleh Gabriel, Theodosia B. Jreh, Zinnah Davison, Solomon Jaykpah, Kollie Ballah, and Andrew Pabai, amongst others.

Representative George, who was member of the 53rd Liberian Legislature under the administration of former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, recalls that members of that defunct body mandated the Central Bank to print 50 million Liberian banknotes in order to replace mutilated banknotes in circulation, but he is surprised that excess money was printed. -**Story by Jonathan Browne**

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# Lightning strikes marketers in Ganta

## -9 admitted in hospitals



A victim receiving medication



Another victim in hospital

**By Thomas Domah/Nimba**  
Lightning has reportedly struck a group of marketers in Ganta, Nimba County, leaving nine marketers admitted at the Ganta United Methodist Hospital and the Esther and Jeremiahline Hospital in Ganta City.

The incident occurred Wednesday, 19 September in the Ganta LPMC Market. No death has been reported yet.

Victims in critical condition at the two hospitals are identified as 22-year-old

Neomen Kpeah, who is receiving medication at the Esther and Jeremiahline Hospital, while the other eight being treated at the Ganta United Methodist Hospital include Cyrus Dahn, 18, Sunday Boy Wellbelleh, 14, Cythina Kehmie, 25, Abarahm Kollie, 25, Shela Sennah, 26, Alice Yormie, 32, and Lovettee Sorgbeh, 28, among others.

Our Nimba County Correspondent, who visited scene of the incident, says the nine victims were in the market along with other

colleagues, selling various commodities when the lightning struck, hitting only nine of them.

The LPMC Market is an extension of the Ganta General Market aimed at helping to provide easier access to market facilities.

The head for the LMPC Market Madam Yar Dolo, narrates that while enroute to a night school to acquire basic literacy, her son called and informed her that her marketers have been hit by



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# UEFA open disciplinary proceedings against Ronaldo red card

UEFA have officially opened disciplinary proceedings over Cristiano Ronaldo's red card – but he will not find the result until next week.

UEFA Disciplinary proceedings have been opened following the UEFA Champions League group stage match between Valencia CF and Juventus Football Club, played on 19

September in Spain.

Charges against Juventus Football Club: Cristiano Ronaldo - direct red card - Art. 15 of the UEFA Disciplinary Regulations.

The case will be dealt with by the UEFA Control, Ethics and Disciplinary Body on 27 September.

Cristiano Ronaldo stole all of the headlines on the second night of the Champions League, as he was sent off

during Juventus' 2-0 win over Valencia on Wednesday.

The Portugal international was shown his very first red card in Europe's premier club competition after he appeared to pull the hair of defender Jeison Murillo.

Ronaldo was astonished at the decision to the point that he was even reduced to tears as his first return to Spain since his departure from Real Madrid turned sour.



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