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The New Dawn

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Weah gets rousing welcome



In Missing 16bn:

Journalists to be investigated



Continental News

Five charged for plot to kill Ethiopia PM

Ethiopian prosecutors have charged five suspects with terrorism over an attempt to kill Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed in a grenade attack at a rally in June.

The attack in the capital, Addis Ababa, killed two people and injured more than 100, but Mr Abiy was unharmed.

The accused have made no comment.

Since becoming prime minister in April, Mr Abiy has introduced a series of political, economic and diplomatic changes, that have been widely welcomed.

The bomb was thrown on 23 June amid tens of thousands of people attending the rally in support of Mr Abiy in Addis Ababa's Meskel Square. The prime minister was whisked away immediately after the blast.

He described the attack at the time as an "unsuccessful attempt by forces who do not

want to see Ethiopia united". The five suspects - Getu Girma, Birhanu Jafar, Tilahun Getachew, Bahiru Tollosa, and Desalegn Teafaye - were pensive as they were arraigned in court, BBC Amharic's Kalkidan Yibeltal reports.

The prosecutors said that the suspects did not believe Mr Abiy would secure the interests of the country's largest ethnic group, the Oromos.

The prime minister, an ethnic Oromo himself, came to power after three years of

protest led by Oromos, who were demanding an end to what they called an era of political and economic marginalization.

According to prosecutors, the suspects allegedly believe the once-outlawed Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) should have been allowed to assume leadership of the country. Under the prime minister's reforms the OLF was one of the groups recently removed

from the country's list of terrorist organisations. The group's exiled leaders returned to the country on 15 September.

Since taking power in April, Mr Abiy has proven to be a politically astute politician, who has loosened the state's hold on some economic sectors and pushed Ethiopia's rapprochement with with neighbouring country Eritrea. BBC



The blast happened moments after Abiy Ahmed had finished a speech in the capital

Zambia refuses entry to Kenyan law expert

A Kenyan law professor and former director of his country's anti-corruption commission was on Saturday refused entry to Zambia due to "security considerations", authorities said.

Patrick Loch Otieno Lumumba, director of the Kenya School of Laws, had been due to deliver a talk on Chinese influence in Africa on Sunday.

On arrival at Kenneth Kaunda International airport in Lusaka, however, he was refused entry before being deported back to Kenya.

"(The) government through (the) immigration department has denied entry into Zambia of Prof Patrick Lumumba, a Kenyan national, due to security considerations," Information and Broadcasting Minister Dora Siliya said in a tweet.

Lumumba's planned talk entitled "Africa in the age of China influence and global geo dynamics" followed growing anger at Beijing's grip on the economy of the southern African nation.

China is the main investor in Zambia as it is in several other African countries and with its offers of "unconditional" aid, most public tenders are awarded to Chinese bidders. In Lusaka and



across the country, China is busy constructing airports, roads, factories and police stations with the building boom largely funded by Chinese loans.

Zambian public debt is officially around \$10.6 billion but suspicions have grown in recent months that the government is hiding its indebtedness -- as happened in neighbouring Mozambique, which in 2016 was forced to admit it had kept secret \$2 billion of borrowing.

Fearing that Zambia might be in a similar position, the International Monetary Fund at one point delayed talks over a \$1.3 billion loan deal.

Finance Minister Margaret Mwanakatwe has insisted that in the first half of 2018 \$342 million was paid in interest to creditors, of which 53 percent were commercial sector -- and only 30 percent of which were Chinese. AFP

Secret life of rare antelope revealed

The world's largest forest antelope has been caught on camera in Uganda for the first time.

The elusive striped antelope, known as the lowland bongo, was snapped in dense forest near the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Scientists say there could be more new discoveries in the remote, unexplored, lowland rainforest.

The forest-dwelling antelope is classed as Near Threatened on the extinction list, due to habitat loss and hunting.

Populations in central and western Africa have declined

to about 30,000 individuals. The bongo was spotted using motion-sensor cameras in Semuliki National Park, home to one of Africa's most ancient forests, which harbours hundreds of different birds and mammals.

It was identified during a survey of mammals across the park. More than 30 mammal species were spotted among 18,000 pictures, including elephants, chimps, buffalos and leopards.

"We were amazed that such a large, striking animal could go undetected for so long, but bongo are a notoriously shy and elusive species," said Stuart Nixon of Chester Zoo's Africa Field Programme, which carried out the study alongside the Uganda Wildlife Authority.

"It could be that bongo and other species are moving between Virunga National Park in DRC and Uganda, showing just how important it is to protect the rainforests, which still connect the two countries." The researchers think there may be other rare animal species in the forest, which are yet to be discovered.



The lowland bongo (*Tragelaphus eurycerus eurycerus*) was spotted on camera traps

"There are very few places on the map that are true wildernesses," said Scott Wilson, head of field programmes at Chester Zoo. "It's nice to know there are still places to be explored and species to be found."

There are no lowland bongos kept in zoos, so efforts must focus on protecting the animal in the wild.

The species is rare

throughout the forests of western and central Africa, with populations declining due to habitat destruction and hunting for meat, mainly through using snares.

"As thrilled as we are with this discovery, much more work is needed to learn more about this newly found species in Uganda and elsewhere across its range," said Stuart Nixon. BBC

EDITORIAL

Someone must take responsibility

IN THE PAST three weeks to one month Liberians have been beset by news of the alleged disappearance of billions of newly printed Liberian banknotes brought to the country, a story that has not only kept citizens both at home and abroad restless, but rest of the world watching.

THE ACTUAL AMOUNT in question deepens on who you speak with: The Minister of Information, Lenn Eugene Nagbe says 16 Billion LRD, but the Minister of Finance and Development Planning Samuel Tweah says it is far less, while former executive governor J. Milton Weeks of the Central Bank of Liberia and members of the former 53rd Liberian Legislature are tussling between 5 and 10 billion LRD, respectively.

THE FACT OF the matter is, there was no burglary or armed robbery at the Freeport of Monrovia, neither at the Roberts International Airport where containers and bags of moneys allegedly vanished in thin air. How did it happen?

DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE AVAILABLE shows that authorities from the Central Bank of Liberia signed and took delivery of containers and bags of moneys from the Freeport of Monrovia under the administration of former executive governor J. Milton Weeks.

ONGOING PROBE BY a Special Investigative Team has been able to only identify persons of interest, including ex-governor Weeks and Deputy Governor Charles Sirleaf, among others. The Ministry of Justice in a press release says, initial findings indicate that the containers and bags of moneys allegedly arrived between November 2017 and August 2018.

YET, NO ONE seems willing to take full responsibility for circumstances surrounding the missing billions, not even the administration of former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf or the current Pro-Poor government of President George Manneh Weah.

RATHER, THE SPECIAL Presidential Investigative Team seems to be going after individuals whose roles were conducted thru official government functions. If containers and bags of newly printed moneys were brought in the country between the period mentioned above, do we need the FBI, IMF, ECOWAS, AU, and the United States Treasury Department to tell us that these were official transactions executed during one legitimate (Ellen Sirleaf) government to (George Weah-led administration) another democratically elected leadership?

IT SEEMS LIKE the past and current Liberian administrations are playing games, in this case, a serious blame game with the Liberian people, pointing fingers here, and there, when the facts are in the public glare.

LEADERSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY are being called into question here. Neither the 53rd Legislature nor the 54th Legislature is being gracious enough to accept some level of blames for the missing billions. Someone has to be man enough to say to the nation yes, we did so, but it was in error.

WE CAN BUT only remind all sides involved in this current national disgrace that a leadership that runs away from responsibility and accountability does not deserve to lead in anyway.

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Tel: +231-0886484201, +231-0777007529, +231-0886551057

E-mail: info@thenewdawnliberia.com; www.thenewdawnliberia.com

COMMENTARY

Shirin Ebadi &
Christophe Deloire

Defending Democracy's Essence

For any democracy to be meaningful, citizens need open access to trustworthy information produced in a free and pluralistic environment. With this basic requirement being tested as never before, some of the world's leading civil-society advocates are unveiling their plan to fight back.

PARIS - On December 10, 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, affirming the view that "the will of the people" - democracy - should form the basis of any government. But seven decades later, the world's democracies are in peril. After a fourfold increase in the number of democracies between the end of World War II and 2000, we are now in a sustained period of political regression. Once-open societies are veering toward dictatorship, and in many countries, despotic tendencies are strengthening.

These trends can be reversed, but only if we agree on the causes of democratic backsliding and target our solutions accordingly.

That is easier said than done. In her 1967 essay "Truth and Politics," the philosopher Hannah Arendt noted that, "Freedom of opinion is a farce unless factual information is guaranteed and the facts themselves are not in dispute." Unfortunately, Arendt's farce has become our reality.

For any democracy to be meaningful, its people need access to trustworthy information produced in a free and pluralistic environment. But this basic requirement is being tested as never before. Around the world, oligarchs are buying up media outlets to promote their interests and increase their influence, while journalists who report on issues like discrimination and corruption are met with intimidation, violence, and murder. How can we guarantee freedom of opinion under such conditions?

Information and communication technologies were supposed to give us more freedom, not less. The early Internet democratized news and ended the dominance of traditional publishers and pro-government conglomerates. But this initial promise has given way to an "information jungle," where deep-pocketed predators outmaneuver an unassuming public. Today, governments wage information wars; politicians use social media to spread lies; and corporate lobbyists disseminate deceptive content with ease. As a study from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology recently found, fake news spreads online faster than real news - often significantly so.

Simply put, the globalization of information has tipped the scales in favor of those who view falsehood as a tool of control. Dictators easily export their ideas to open societies,

whereas content produced under conditions of freedom rarely moves in the opposite direction. This challenge has been magnified by the growth of multinational technology companies, which have come to dictate the architecture of the public sphere.

In the history of democracy, mechanisms have evolved to improve the accuracy and ethics of journalism. Although imperfect and often invisible, these regulatory protections have brought many benefits to users and producers alike. But the pace of change in the media industry - for example, between television and print, or news and advertising - has blurred the clear distinctions on which these rules were originally based.

Protecting democratic ideals in this conflicting environment is a vital and historic task. That is why Reporters Without Borders (RSF) is joining with Nobel laureates, technology specialists, journalists, and human rights activists to launch the Information and Democracy Commission. As co-chairs of this independent initiative, our goal is to refocus global attention on the value of "a free and pluralistic public space," and to offer solutions that enable journalists to work without fear of reprisal and allow the public to access accurate information easily.

In the coming weeks, we will draft an International Declaration on Information and Democracy, and in coordination with the leaders of several democratic countries, work to secure support from governments around the world. Our efforts will accelerate in mid-November, when global leaders gather in Paris to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day and to attend the Peace Forum and the Internet Governance Forum.

Democracy, with its roots in the Enlightenment ideals of freedom and reason, must be defended. Democratic governments and citizens must not fall victim to fake news, "trolls," and the whims of despots. The International Declaration on Information and Democracy is intended to strengthen open societies' ability to combat authoritarian forces.

We all have the good fortune to be alive during a period of extraordinary technological potential. And yet, we also have the responsibility to ensure that new ways to share information are not turned into tools of oppression. As the mission statement of our commission succinctly puts it: "Democracy's survival is at stake, because democracy cannot survive without an informed, open, and dynamic public debate."



Happy Birthday President Weah



The Board of Directors, Management Team and Employees of the Liberia Airport Authority extend compliments and best wishes to His Excellency, Dr. George M. Weah, President of the Republic of Liberia, on the occasion of his 52nd Birth Anniversary... Happy birthday, Mr. President and may God continue to guide and strengthen you as you lead this noble country.

FROM WHERE I SEE PRESIDENT WEAH'S GOVERNMENT

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

Firestone Enslaves 6,000 Liberian Workers under President Weah?

The 6,000 Liberian breadwinners and their families at the Firestone rubber plantation company are being recourse like modern day captives by the Firestone money eating authorities. These Liberian wage earners are currently working under a calamitous and inhumane working condition who are being viewed as lesser humans in their native land Liberia—this cannot happen even in the United States.

Let it be comprehensibly said that the great United States of America doesn't acquiesce any person or group of persons or a company or group of companies to affix their signatures to a butcher or a bitter cut-throat 99-years contract for a land in Margibi county for at least 6 cents per acre or its renewal phase at 37-years, and 50 cents per acre. The US government doesn't support such a diabolical and dangerous bad labor practices or would indulge the perseverance of any American company in Africa to manipulate Liberian workers in a fashion that is willfully poisoning underground waters and other reliable water sources that is killing marine life with the Firestone escaping a gross-impunity without justice being executed against the Firestone company.

This revealing and pathetic situation currently ruining the 6,000 strong workers in Firestone Margibi County cannot be buried quietly by the Firestone authorities. The Firestone company has numerous rubber plantation sites all over Liberia in the name of job creation and the improvement of a better living condition of the Firestone dying workers.

The below gross human rights abuses and modern day-slavery sanctioned by the Firestone company with the Weah's government doing absolutely nothing about such a disastrous working condition in Margibi County is not only pathetic but politically deceptive. Though, President Weah did not help in pioneering the signing of the so-called 37-years contract with the payment of 6 cents per acre per land nor did he actively participate in such agreement in the past, President Weah is realistically to rescue the 6,000 Firestone's workers from such a terrible menacing of a self-made death trap ugly situation that lies squarely at the doorsteps of those slowly dying 6,000 workers.

6,000 Firestone tippers enslaved conditions:

1. Facts gathered from ten workers who asked to be anonymous, disclosed that 4,600 out of the 6,000 workers are casual laborers with no fix salaries, no insurance, no medical benefit, no saving. They are three times subject to severe workplace abuses by Firestone plantation authorities.
2. The anonymous weary workers revealed how they are living in prison-like house cages, with prison windows, small prison doors and very small prison-like toilets in each apartment. The workers lived side-by-side with dangerous crawling creatures each night from the rubber plantation such as rats, raccoons, cockroaches, deer, bush pigs and crawling insects etc
3. The Liberia tippers are forced to be awake between 6: am to 5:30 am in the morning each day against their will. They are compelled to walk 2hrs., or would cover over 5-kilometers of distance while walking sleeping and talking to themselves. The workers will work from 6; am to 6: pm which is an abuse of their labor rights and bad labor practices. Most, especially the casual laborers are denied shelters when it is raining. They are forced to work under the torrential rain till night falls.
4. The Firestone workers walked between 10 to 15 miles each day sometimes barefooted to tip rubbers, some of them get exposed to dangerous chemicals with no compensation. They go blind and are asked by the Firestone company to vacate their prison-like houses in shame an in disgrace.
5. The source further disclosed that they are



deprived of adequate electricity, pure drinking water, and ample night time security. Most of them relied heavily on contaminated and unsaved well-waters for their daily use which sometimes makes them very ill.

6. The sources revealed that most tippers sleep in darkness, no electricity. It was also revealed that the living condition at Firestone is appalling and deplorable. Most of the houses that they lived in (the workers) are either broken or are falling apart. Some of the prison-like houses do not have floors, some workers are forced to live a very, very and very dangerous living condition thus exposing them to more and more health risks in Firestone.

7. One tipper is compelled to tap about 1,500 rubber trees a day on a 750 tree which is direct enslavement and gross abuse of tipper rights in Firestone.

Exposing Firestone Dangerous Chemicals:

Thousands and thousands of Liberians living in Firestone are exposed to "dangerous "endocrine disruptor chemicals" This dangerous chemical affects tipper's lunch where tippers are three times likely to develop a sudden nerve break down and subsequently develop early cancer disease.

The Firestone's authorities are secretly using another strange dangerous chemical unknown to the government of Liberia that poses health-danger to the 6,000-workforce in Firestone. For example, the use of Arsenic, Perchlorate, Dioxins DDT (Dichloro-Diphenyl-Trichloroethane, HCB, Dacthal (dimethyl tetrachloro terephthalate), or DCPA and MtBE. These chemicals are used secretly and dumped in Liberian water bodies in Margibi county that would continue to affect the health of other Liberians downstream of other water sources.

Mercury Chemical:

Mercury chemical is extremely toxic. This chemical can cause brain damage, blindness, nerve damage, cognitive disability, impairment of motor functions, headaches, weakness, muscle atrophy, tremors, mood swings, memory loss, and skin rashes, and the people of Firestone are being exposed to this dangerous chemical. PCBs is also another dangerous chemical that destroys the central nervous system of children and elderly people and the workforce of Firestone are exposed to this chemical.

Environmental degradation:

The Firestone Company is willfully destroying the Liberian soil by creating environmental danger, poisoning of marine life and making water unsaved due to the use of hazardous and unguided disposal of hundreds of dangerous chemicals. These chemicals also leave behind the lead in drinking large drinking water

for the population of Margibi County and Firestone. The poisoning of the water bodies/Soils is killing Liberian marine three times each day.

The water bodies, creeks, and streams are seriously contaminated by the hazardous chemical used by Firestone Company, for example, the chemicals named Dimethylamine, Tetramethyl thiuram is very dangerous to fish and crab. The residue of these chemicals is often dumped in Liberian water which has continued to kill marine life like frogs etc., and other living marines in those water bodies.

The soils in Firestone is also contaminated with dangerous chemicals, which has continued to affect safe underground water. Liberian women do not go finishing any longer in Firestone. They do not fetch water from their wells and creeks and stream any longer, because the water is contaminated by Firestone rubber production chemicals. Another secret money-making venture of Firestone includes the production of furniture, timbers, intercropping, mining of diamond, gold logging that violates the terms and agreements in the MDA coupled with very bad labor practices, poor living conditions among others.

But here is the true political puzzle. President Weah did witness the signing of the 37-years Firestone contracts when he served as Montserrat County's Senator that is the reason why the ball is currently in his court. Will President Weah join the Firestone's company morally corrupt hegemony to slaughter the 6,000 workers, or will the president join the 6,000 workers in Firestone to fight against the deplorable that has existed from generation to generation in Firestone? Or is President Weah going to receive the usual normal cuts and tips from the Firestone authorities at the detriment of the 6,000 workers who are dying slowly at the endangerment of the Firestone land that is being poised every day with Firestone dangerous rubbers' chemicals and hundreds and hundreds of Firestone tippers are sick and dying regularly from the dangerous chemicals that are produced slowly by the Firestone authorities?

Does President Weah know the facts surrounding the potential enslavement of the 6,000 strong Firestone tippers who are dying slowly in Margibi? Firestone has 6,000 employees who are virtually the Whiteman's modern slaves on their own land in a number of painful ways: Firestone was formed by the late Harvey Firestone (An American) on August 3rd, 1900; it is a 119-years old company at present. Firestone has 6,000 workers, 4,500 are casual laborers.

TO BE CONT'D

Weah receives heroic welcome



Weah receives heroic welcome



Français

Qui a autorisé l'impression des 10 autres milliards de dollars libériens ?

La recherche du conteneur contenant près de 16 milliards de la devise libérienne, soit environ 104 millions de dollars américains, semble avoir cédé la place aux accusations mutuelles entre les membres de la 53ème législature libérienne, l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf et l'ancien gouverneur de la Banque centrale, Milton Weeks.

La semaine dernière, M. Weeks a déclaré lors d'une conférence de presse qu'il avait obtenu l'autorisation de la 53ème législature pour imprimer les 10 milliards supplémentaires, plusieurs mois après avoir obtenu l'autorisation d'imprimer 5 milliards en 2016.

« Je tiens à déclarer clairement que nous avons obtenu l'autorisation d'imprimer l'argent. La première autorisation concernait les 5 milliards et la seconde autorisation était en



2017 pour les 10 milliards que nous avons imprimés. Cette autorisation est venue du parlement », a déclaré aux journalistes l'ancien gouverneur de la CBL.

Dans une lettre qui date du

19 juillet 2017, adressée à M. Weeks et signée par Mildred N. Sayon, greffière en chef et secrétaire du Sénat, Nanborlor F. Singbeh Sr., l'ancien gouverneur de la CBL avait notamment pour mandat de

remplacer complètement les anciens billets avec les billets de banque nouvellement imprimés, de sorte qu'il puisse exister un seul type de monnaie libérienne.

Cependant, la lettre n'indiquait pas quelle quantité devait être imprimée, laissant ainsi apparemment la latitude au conseil des gouverneurs de la CBL de décider du montant à imprimer. Dans son entretien avec la BBC, la présidente Sirleaf a insisté à plusieurs reprises sur le fait qu'elle n'avait pas autorisé l'impression des 10 milliards supplémentaires, mais que l'autorisation venait plutôt du parlement. Dans une lettre qui date du 7 août 2017 adressée à l'ancien gouverneur Weeks de la CBL, Mme Sirleaf a notamment accusé réception d'une lettre datant du 31 juillet 2017 dans laquelle elle était informée par M. Weeks de la décision de l'Assemblée législative l'autorisant pour remplacer totalement tous les

billets existants par une version plus récente.

"Je suis d'accord avec la décision de l'Assemblée législative à cet égard et je suis heureuse que la Banque centrale prenne à sa charge les coûts de remplacement", a déclaré l'ancienne présidente Sirleaf.

Ces communications concernant le changement complet des billets de banque libériens ont eu lieu juste au moment où il y avait de plus en plus de spéculations non fondées selon lesquelles l'ancien gouverneur de la LCB, J. Mills Jones, qui avait démissionné et avait immédiatement annoncé sa candidature à l'élection présidentielle de 2017, avait dissimulé des billets de banque du dollar libérien pour financer sa campagne.

Toutefois, malgré ces communications, certains membres de la 53e législature continuent de nier avoir eu connaissance de ladite autorisation d'imprimer des billets supplémentaires ou de remplacer complètement les anciens billets.

Parmi les membres de la 53ème législature qui ont nié toute connaissance de l'autorisation, on trouve le sénateur J. Milton Teajah du comté de Sinoe, le président actuel de la Chambre des représentants, Bhofal Chambers, et le président du comité sénatorial sur les banques et les finances, Marshall Dennis.

Dans le même temps, le ministère de la Justice a déclaré qu'il avait demandé à la Commission libérienne de lutte contre la corruption de jouer un rôle de premier plan dans l'enquête en cours sur l'argent manquant.

Milliards perdus : La CBL accusée d'avoir enfreint la constitution

Marshall Dennis, président du Comité sénatorial chargé des banques et des finances, a déclaré que le montant indiqué par la Banque centrale du Libéria (CBL), outre les cinq milliards approuvés par l'Assemblée législative pour remplacer les billets de banque mutilés, constituait une violation de la Constitution. Le sénateur Dennis a déclaré à OK Fm jeudi soir, qu'il n'existait aucune

communication permettant de prouver que le gouverneur de la banque centrale, Milton Weeks, était revenu à l'Assemblée législative pour obtenir l'approbation du législateur pour l'impression supplémentaire de 10 milliards de dollars libériens.

« La communication entre nous et la Banque centrale consistait tout simplement d'aller et de revenir avec des détails. Les détails ne nous sont pas parvenus », a expliqué le

sénateur Dennis.

Il a indiqué qu'il ignore le montant qui a été imprimé, ce, en tant que président du Comité sénatorial sur les affaires bancaires et financières.

Le sénateur Dennis a précisé que la CBL, après l'approbation des législateurs pour l'impression des premiers cinq milliards de dollars en 2016, était retournée voir les législateurs pour les informer de la nécessité de trouver un financement pour imprimer des billets supplémentaires afin de supprimer tous les anciens billets du marché.

Selon le sénateur Dennis, les législateurs avaient demandé à la CBL de savoir quel montant avait-elle l'intention d'imprimer pour remplacer les anciens billets de banque. Les législateurs n'ont donc donné leur accord que pour l'impression des cinq milliards de dollars. « Ce serait ce que l'ancienne Présidente Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf a dû accepter car ils n'avaient rien approuvé d'autre ».

Le sénateur Dennis estime que, compte tenu de la manière dont les choses se sont passées en ce qui concerne



Articles traduits
Par Valéry G. Guhénéa
E-mail: valeryghn10@yahoo.com
Tel: 076 589 44 0881483394

l'impression de l'argent, ceux qui ont tiré la sonnette d'alarme sur la disparition de l'argent ne peuvent être condamnés sans une enquête. « Parce que ce sont eux qui nous ont permis de savoir que pendant que nous attendions la Banque centrale pour nous donner les détails, elle s'était mise à imprimer de l'argent sans l'accord de l'Assemblée nationale », regrette-t-il.

Il estime qu'il se peut que la

banque ait imprimé même plus de 30 milliards de dollars libériens d'autant plus qu'elle n'avait eu besoin de l'accord du pouvoir législatif.

Cependant, il a déclaré qu'au cours de leur enquête la banque a avoué avoir imprimé un total de 15,5 milliards de dollars libériens.

Concernant les billets de 500 dollars, le sénateur Dennis a affirmé que ces billets facilitent la portabilité.

Liberia Cement Corporation (CEMENCO)

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS



The Management and Staff of the Liberia Cement Corporation (CEMENCO) extend best birthday wishes to H. E. George Manneh Weah, President, Republic of Liberia, in observance of his 52nd Birth Anniversary. Long live Mr. President. We wish you all the best as you continue to diligently steer the affairs the state.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

ECOWAS Parliament detests extortion at borders

By Thomas Domah/Nimba

A high-level fact-finding delegation from the ECOWAS Parliament is calling on border security forces along the Liberian-Guinean borders to stop continuous harassment of peaceful citizens and traders moving in and out.

The call was made over the weekend when the ECOWAS Parliament sensitization and fact-finding mission paid a working visit at the Liberian-Guinean border.

The mission provides border securities between the two sisterly countries opportunity to explain problems they face with each other.

The forum brought together joint security forces from both countries, including their respective citizens, Ambassadors, and ECOWAS executives, among others

Liberian immigration personnel Lt./Col. Louis Dennis, Ganta Detail Commander for the Liberian Immigration Services or LIS explains that citizens, including travelers and marketers from the Liberian side of the border usually complain of difficulty they face at hand of Guinean border

securities, who deny them access to free movement inside Guinea despite displaying all relevant traveling documents.

Lt./Col. Dennis explains to the ECOWAS delegation during

She discloses that even marketers from Liberia complain daily about being harassed by Guinean border guards.

But Guinean border securities say they face similar complain from Guinean coming into Liberia and

tradition, including intermarriages.

He explains that even former Liberian refugees in Guinea desirous of coming back home, will go to the Liberian Embassy in Conakry to obtain get their proper

Some marketers from Ganta, Nimba County accused the Guinean securities that on a daily basis they have been harassed by the Guineans.

Madam Kemah Yini narrates that for them to even get goods from Guinea, it is very difficult, lamenting that they pay more money to Guinean border securities to allow them cross into Liberia, including hiking the exchange rates between the Guinean francs and the Liberian dollars.

Prior to the fact-finding mission to the border, there had been complaint by marketers from Liberia that every Thursday, which is Balla Market Day inside Guinea, they are forced to pay not less than a thousand Liberian dollars to cross into Liberia with goods.

They explain on the Guinean side of the border are four gates, including the dreaded Lion Gate where huge cash are extorted from them before they are given access into Guinea.

They want all ECOWAS traveling documents respected by border securities in the subregion to ensure free movement of goods and people.

Ambassadors from both Liberia and Guinea, including Parliamentary member Senator Prince Yormie Johnson of Liberia, who is an executive of ECOWAS Parliament, Amara Jabeth Head of Guinean Transport graced the occasion.

ECOWAS Speaker Mustapha Cisse'lo thanks border guards from both countries for their hard work at the borders.

Speaker Cisse'lo assures that ECOWAS will conduct sensitization on the need to respect traveling documents from member countries.



ECOWAS Parliamentary delegation at the Ganta-Guinea border

an hour's long meeting on the Liberian side of the border that their Guinean counterparts usually disregard traveling documents from Liberia, harassing peaceful citizens crossing into that country.

returning home, lamenting of harassment at the hands of Liberian border securities.

The head for the Guinean immigration forces Diallo Mammadou, notes that both countries have citizens with common tribes, languages and

documents, but the process will last for three months after which they will be allowed to move about freely.

The Guinean immigration boss however notes not all travelers, including marketers citizens are saying the truth.

The fact-finding mission began at Bo Waterside near the Liberian-Sierra Leonean border in Grand Cape County on the Liberian side of the border and ended at the Liberian-Guinean border in Ganta City, Nimba County inside Liberia.

Members of the delegation were unable to say who were saying the truth as the accusations came from both sides of the borders.

Volunteers participate in Eu's global clean-up effort

As part of the European Union's global efforts to promote a clean and safe environment, over five hundred volunteers participated in a beach clean-up and awareness raising event at the weekend.

The measure is aimed at addressing the issues of pollution, marine litter and waste management.

The volunteers covered a distance of over 1.3 kilometres on the beach behind the

German and Nigerian Embassies in Congo Town Monrovia and collected a total of 300Kg of various forms of trash such as hard and soft plastic materials, landfills, medical wastes.

Working in collaboration with the Monrovia City Corporation (MCC), the Paynesville City Corporation (PCC) and Accountability Lab, the volunteers were mobilized from communities along the beach, Community-based

Enterprises (CBEs), and included members of the Diplomatic Corp, staff of the United Nations in Liberia and other organizations.

During the clean-up event, the Head of the Political, Press and Information Section at the European Union Delegation to Liberia Mr. Juan Antonio emphasized that the task of ensuring better, cleaner and healthier future is the responsibility of everyone and expressed the hope that the event will help in keeping the beach clean and promoting new ways of reusing and recycling plastic waste.

"We cannot reach the goals without you. The communities and each and every citizen of Liberia are crucial for supporting proper waste disposal in Liberia," Juan Antonio said.

The EU Head of Delegation recognized the support of other EU member countries including France, Germany, Finland, the Kingdom of Sweden and the United Kingdom and all community-based enterprises.

"We thank the Community-based enterprises (CBEs) for their support today. Their contribution has been crucial to ensure the waste is not all going to the landfill but can be

reprocessed and we hope that you all, as consumers, will support the market by buying recycled products and less plastic."

Also speaking, the Manager of the Solid Waste Department at the Monrovia City Corporation (MCC) Hafiz A.V. Sarnor highlighted the risks associated with improper disposal of waste and urged communities along the beach in Monrovia to work alongside various CBEs and municipal authorities to put in place systems that will help address the issue of waste management to protect the environment.

Philip Biah, Director of the Environment Division at the PCC also stressed the need for more community involvement and ownership of efforts to keep their environment clean and safe.

At the close of the beach

clean-up, the EU Delegation in Liberia handed over the tools and equipment used for the clean-up to communities that participated to help empower them to continue cleaning and maintaining the beach.

The weekend's beach clean-up event follows on commitments from the Our Ocean Conference (OCC) in Malta 2017 where the EU reaffirmed its leading role on ocean governance and pledged to act, and help build momentum behind the global call for cleaner and safer seas.

The EU and its Member States with a diplomatic mission in Liberia are actively supporting Liberia's efforts to address key environmental challenges, including degradation of natural resources (forestry, land and water) and loss of biodiversity (forests, ecosystems, marine, wetlands and mangroves).

Press Release



Weah gets rousing welcome

By Winston W. Parley

President George Manneh Weah has received a rousing welcome on his return from the 73rd United Nations (UN) General Assembly in New York, the United States of America, his first as sitting president of Liberia.

The gathering at the Roberts International Airport (RIA) in Margibi County early Sunday morning, 30 September was peaceful with no sign of protest observed by this paper in spite of the huge multitude of supporters that assembled in high enthusiasm to welcome Mr. Weah.

With heavy security presence, hundreds of supporters from his ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC), government officials, students, cultural troupes, traditional people and so many other organizations assembled to receive Mr. Weah in a heroic welcome.

The gathering of the huge crowd of supporters on Sunday was in response to a demonstration here last Monday September 24, by the Economic Freedom Fighters of Liberia or EFFL demanding



that a missing container with 16 billion Liberian bank notes amounting to US\$104 million be returned.

Mr. Weah's supporters were conveyed to and from the airport in scores of long buses and other private and government owned vehicles as jubilant citizens lined up along the road in towns along the highway, waving to the returning president.

In their different groups and organizations, jubilant citizens carried banners with different

inscriptions on them welcoming the president.

Most of the people welcoming the president had been at the airport since the early morning hours of Sunday up to 3:17 pm when the flight conveying President Weah landed at RIA and received a triumphant applause and cheers.

An intercessory service was held at the Dominion Christian Fellowship in Congo Town upon Mr. Weah's arrival on Sunday from the UN General Assembly.

At the Church, prayers were offered by the Clergy for God to grant President Weah the wisdom to confront challenges and take independent decisions that will sustain the peace and bring development here.

The church was flooded again during the service in the afternoon with a multitude of supporters and dignitaries, some of whom had been at the airport since the early morning

hours of Sunday.

Addressing the audience at the Church, Mr. Weah expresses thanks to regional bloc ECOWAS, EU and the US Embassy in Monrovia for their works in organizing his trip to the UN General Assembly.

Mr. Weah says he and his delegation went to the UN to make sure that the body and the international community are assured that his government is ready to work and give account of everything done in this administration.

He repeatedly stresses on development of roads in his administration to enable Liberians move about without hindrance.

According to him, everything he did at the UN and his recent trip at the Forum on China - Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) was done in the interest of Liberia.

He announces that programs and good policies have been put in place to ensure that development is achieved here and the country is moved forward. -Editing by Othello B. Garblah

Journalists to be investigated

By Winston W. Parley

In an angry response to protests and incessant reportage against alleged missing 16 billion Liberian Dollars bank notes, President George Manneh Weah announces that journalists will also be included in the investigation surrounding the money issue.

"There will be international

service organized upon his arrival on Sunday, 30 September from the UN General Assembly.

"So those journalists that said that 16 billion lost and nine billion lost, they also going to be in the investigation," President Weah says amidst cheers from supporters at the Dominion

something to damage the country.

"We [are] going to bring them to the investigation so they can tell us where the 16 billion go," he continues.

He tells the public that he is requesting international forensic experts, the FBI and ECOWAS to help to ascertain if it is true or not, that money is

Suspected thief

Starts from back page

the scene after they were alerted that an angry mob was at their verge of killing a suspected criminal.

A senior police officer, who declined to be identified, expressed thanks to the mob for containing the suspect in the drainage, which prevented him from escaping arrest.

He then requested the mob

to allow the police take delivery of the suspect and take him to the depot for investigation.

The suspect thief was handcuffed and placed in a police van with the crowd chasing the vehicle, but could not get closer as the van speeded away from the scene.

-Editing by Jonathan Browne



people, we have our international partners, the journalists, the information that they got that 16 billion lost, nine billion lost, they're going to join these people to make sure that what they're saying is right," President Weah says at a thanksgiving

Christian Fellowship in Congo Town.

Still on journalists, President Weah says it's sad because "just the other day" government was trying to sign law decriminalizing free speech, arguing that such right doesn't mean they can say

missing here.

He says if it is established that money is actually missing, those involved will be given the opportunity to return it, or face prosecution if they fail to bring back the money.

According to President Weah, it's a shame he had to

be explaining to his counterparts at the UN General Assembly on this alleged missing 16 billion matter that caused protests both back home and in New York while he prepared to address the UN.

In what may be his first public reaction since the alleged 16 billion issue broke out here, Mr. Weah explains that while he was in the Senate during the 53rd Legislature, there is no record on the book showing that he ever signed for the first and second resolutions to print the controversial money.

"And you know we're quick to forget. You forget to know that this issue, I was Senator before. And there's record on the book that even the money, the first money that was allocated, I refused to sign," he explains.

For the second resolution, he also says whether legitimate or not, some of his colleagues signed, but he refused to sign it again.

President Weah notes that his refusal to sign for the printing of money was not intended to suffer Liberians, but he found that nearing campaign and elections, it was not the right time to print money to replace mutilated banknotes.

He argues further that about eight months in office, his pro - poor government has not written the Legislature to request for money to come into this country.

But he frowns against protesters' calling on the international community to place a sanction against his administration pending the outcome of the investigation of the alleged missing money.

He wonders why the protesters did not call for international sanctions against the "government that was in power that had the right to print money" but are seeking sanctions against his regime that has not printed money yet. -Edited by Othello B. Garblah

Suspected thief escapes death in Paynesville



The notorious criminal with his right hand on his head hiding in drainage

By Emmanuel Mondaye

A notorious criminal narrowly escapes death at the hands of angry mob after attempting to snatch cell phones from an unsuspecting prey in Plank Field community, Paynesville City.

The suspect, according to eyewitnesses, snatched a phone of an unidentified woman, who had reportedly gone to the market adjacent Plank Field community, but his

attempt to escape with the phone backfired when angry mob intervened.

The eyewitnesses disclose on many occasions, criminals in the market vicinity harassed and inflict bodily wounds on their victims, who dare to pass in the area day or night.

Josephine McClaim, who claims she was at the scene when the suspect criminal snatched the woman's phone, narrates that after the act

was committed, the victim alarmed immediately, thereby claiming the attention of marketeers, passers-by and motorcyclists who chased the suspected thief in an attempt to retrieve the phone.

She continues that when the criminal observed he was being chased by angry crowd, he jumped into a nearby zinc shack to escape arrest, but the crowd threw stones at the shacks, forcing him out towards the direction of Pipeline road.

She says when the criminal noticed there was no escape route for him, he quickly jumped in a drainage along the Pipeline road and concealed himself under a culvert, but the crowd persisted in throwing stones at him and hitting his body with steel rod in order to kill him.

She adds that officers of the Liberia National Police assigned at the Pipeline Police Depot rushed to



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Ronaldo denies rape claim as 'fake news'

Cristiano Ronaldo has dismissed as "fake news" accusations by a US woman who alleges she was raped by the Portuguese footballer in 2009.

In an Instagram video, Ronaldo said: "They want to promote [themselves] by [using] my name. It's normal."

Ronaldo's lawyers say they will sue Germany's Der Spiegel magazine, which originally reported the allegations.

The magazine wrote that Kathryn Mayorga had claimed Ronaldo, 33, raped her in a hotel room in Las Vegas.

Ms Mayorga, 34, is reported to have filed a rape report with Las Vegas police shortly after the alleged incident.

In 2010, she reportedly reached an out-of-court settlement with Ronaldo involving a \$375,000 (£288,000) payment for agreeing never to go public with the allegations.

Her lawyers are now seeking to declare the non-disclosure agreement void.

In a statement, Ronaldo's lawyer Christian Schertz said "the reporting in Spiegel is blatantly illegal".

He added that he had been instructed to seek compensation for "moral damages" over "probably one of the most serious violations of personal rights in recent years".



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