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The New Dawn

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VOL. 8 NO. 175

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 03, 2018

PRICE LD\$40.00

What next?



-CBL says no money missing



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-Demands records



Continental News

US first lady arrives in Ghana for solo Africa trip

US First Lady Melania Trump has visited a hospital in Ghana's capital, Accra, at the start of her solo trip that will see her visit four African countries.

She was welcomed by traditional dancers and drummers at the airport but the public reaction has been low key.

The tour, which also takes in Kenya, Malawi and Egypt will focus on promoting health and education.

In February, a row broke out after President Donald Trump allegedly used "shithole" to describe African nations.

Mrs Trump's week-long trip to the continent is seen as helping to heal some of the divisions.

What is Mrs Trump doing?

The visit, alongside Ghana's First Lady Rebecca Akufo-Addo, to Accra's Ridge Hospital set the tone for the trip as a whole.

Mrs Trump observed babies being weighed as part of a project aimed at promoting nutrition in children, which is supported by funding from the US government's foreign aid organisation, USAid

She is also set to promote her Be Best initiative which

aims to tackle issues such as cyberbullying and boost healthy living. She tweeted that the campaign was going "international".

Ahead of her trip Mrs Trump said that she was looking forward to visiting "four beautiful and very

different countries in Africa".

"She is interested in Africa because she has never been before and knows that each country will have its own unique history and culture." Stephanie Grisham, her communications director, said.

Ahead of her trip, Mrs Trump said that she was looking forward to seeing how the US can continue working together with Malawi to support a USAid programme that is focussed on children's education. The first lady also highlighted the work the US was doing in Kenya to support early-childhood education, wildlife conservation, and HIV prevention. "My final stop, which is Egypt, will focus on

the country's tourism and conservation projects," she said.

How has she been received?

Mrs Trump got a warm reception at the airport but there has been little reaction by the public so far.

The BBC's Thomas Naadi, who is in the capital, says it is just like a normal day.

Views about the visit have been mixed. "I think Melania is a great woman. Her story is particularly inspiring," one resident of Accra told the BBC. But another compared her unfavourably to former First Lady Michelle Obama who travelled to Ghana with her husband on a trip in 2009. -BBC



Image copyrightAFP: First Lady Melania Trump visited a project focusing on child nutrition

Namibia follows South Africa with land reform pledge

Namibian President Hage Geingob vowed Monday to push ahead with land redistribution, echoing the government of neighbouring South Africa, where the issue has become a fierce political battleground.

Namibia, which was ruled by colonial Germany and then

apartheid South Africa until 1990, has large swathes of agricultural land, as well as major diamond and platinum mining industries.

"Many Namibians were driven off their productive land," Geingob said at the opening of a national conference in Windhoek to discuss new land policy.

"The fundamental issue is the inequality... We also share a burning land issue and a racialised distribution of land resources with South Africa.

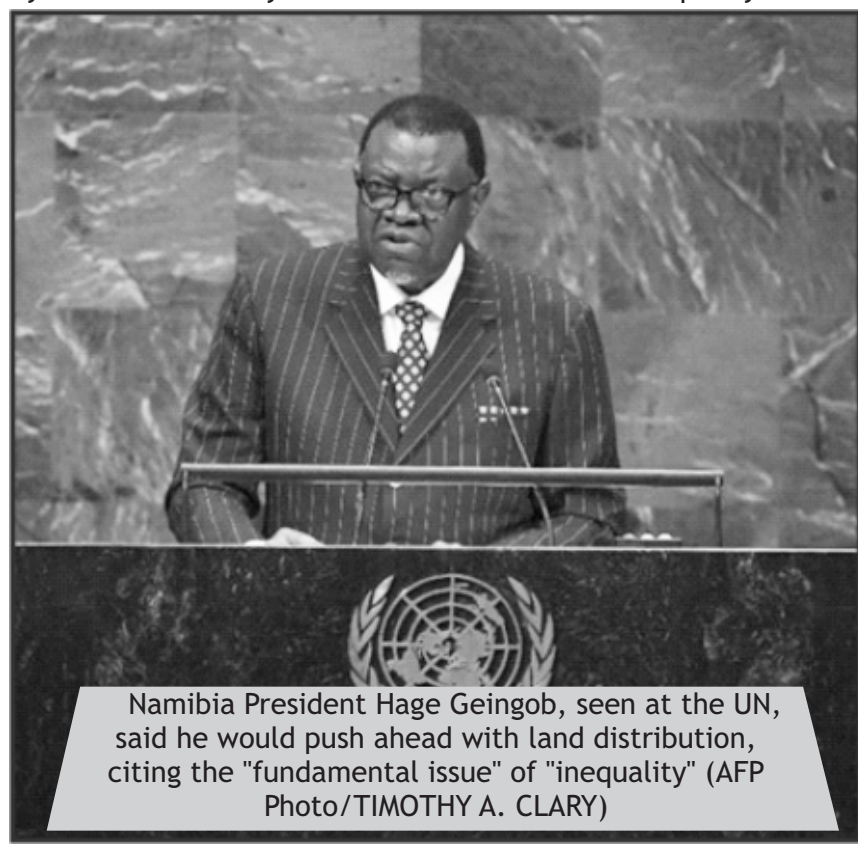
"This comes from a common history of colonial dispossession. What we also agree to is that the status quo will not be allowed to continue."

Geingob added that "careful consideration should be given to expropriation", but urged that the process remain peaceful.

The conference has been boycotted by several traditional leaders, civil society organisations and political parties for allegedly having predetermined outcomes.

Traditional leaders have called on the government to resettle people on land that belonged to their ancestors.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, who faces elections in 2019, has said expropriating farms without compensating their owners would "undo a grave historical injustice" against the black majority during colonialism and the apartheid era. -AFP



Namibia President Hage Geingob, seen at the UN, said he would push ahead with land distribution, citing the "fundamental issue" of "inequality" (AFP Photo/TIMOTHY A. CLARY)

SA child rape case sparks protest

Hundreds of people have gathered for a protest against child rape outside a court in the South African city of Pretoria.

Nicholas Ninow, 20, was arrested after allegedly raping a young girl in the public toilets of a restaurant last month.

girl from a play area to the toilet where he allegedly raped her.

In court, his lawyer outlined the injuries he suffered when members of the public confronted him in the restroom.

He sustained several cuts to his face, neck and earlobe from broken bottles and



Abuse was shouted at him from the public gallery as he made his second court appearance.

Mr Ninow faces charges of rape, intimidation, possession of drugs and assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm. He is not applying for bail.

Bystanders say he had followed the seven-year-old

claims the police also assaulted him after his arrest.

This case has elicited widespread anger in South Africa.

Recent police statistics show 46 children are raped in the country every day, yet the conviction rate remains very low. -BBC

EDITORIAL

Liberians have reason to be restless

PRESIDENT GEORGE MANNEH Weah sounded not only enraged, but combative Sunday, 30 September upon his return to the country from New York when he ranted threats and near invectives against Liberians for protesting and calling on the international community to hut aids to his government, until the US\$16 billion Liberian banknotes that allegedly went missing can be accounted for.

MAKING REMARKS AT the Dominion Christian Fellowship Central Church along Tubman Boulevard during an intercessory service held for his safe arrival from the 73rd U.N. General Assembly, President Weah roared and fumed about citizens not exercising patience to allow ongoing investigation to be concluded to bring those responsible to book.

“CAMPAIGN IS OVER. Whether it is [Liberty Party] partisan, the Unity [Party] partisan that went into the street and for people saying that money lost ... that was the wrong thing to do because you put people's children in jeopardy,” he says.

BUT BEFORE THE President mounted the pulpit and spoke, Archbishop Dr. Isaac S. Winker of the Dominion Christian Fellowship Central Church in a brief exhortation called on President Weah to expedite the ongoing probe and come out with findings to the Liberian people, warning, “This money issue Mr. President, should not be swept under the carpet. The Liberian people want to know what happened to the money.”

WHEN ISSUE OF such huge magnitude engulfs our nation like the current case regarding the missing 16 billion Liberian dollars, citizens have right and reason to be concerned just as the rest of the world is because it is their wellbeing and joy that is at stake.

HOW ELSE COULD they have expressed their concern other than thru peaceful protest like they did on Monday, 24 September? Should they ignore such grave matter that affects their destiny as a nation? No!

THE HOLY BIBLE that all Christians subscribe to reminds us that the voice of man is the voice of God, meaning when the people rise up for matters that threaten their survival, it is God speaking; therefore, the leader should listen with humility and act accordingly.

EVEN ARCHBISHOP WINKER is concerned when he told the President right in his face at the intercessory service that investigation surrounding the alleged missing 16 billion Liberian banknotes should not be swept under the rug, speaking from experience of past investigations by previous Liberian administrations that were inconclusive, such as the issue of the Japanese grant to Liberia and the appearance of a strange vessel on the shores of Liberia, among others.

SO, PRESIDENT WEAH should be reminded that no one is accusing him personally of squandering the missing “containers and bags of moneys”, but as Head of State, he must account thru his government, because these are public moneys. And this is the demand of the Liberian people as expressed in their recent peaceful protest.

LIBERIANS, WHETHER MEMBERS of opposition political parties or not, peacefully demanding their government to account for moneys printed abroad, brought into the country, and allegedly missing should never be misconstrued as enemies of the President or his government. It is their right to do so, because they have a national stake in the matter at hand.

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc., Crown Hill-Broad Street,
Adjacent Afriland Bank Monrovia-Liberia.

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COMMENTARY

By Kaushik Basu

Profit Sharing Now

Recent proposals to grant workers equity in the economy have been met with skepticism by those who fear that radical intervention in the market inevitably paves the road to serfdom. But profit-sharing schemes, if designed properly, could be an ideal response to today's dangerously high levels of inequality.

NEW YORK - At the British Labour Party's annual conference in Liverpool this month, the shadow chancellor of the exchequer, John McDonnell, proposed a profit-sharing scheme that would grant workers equity in the firms where they are employed. McDonnell raised this idea in what was decidedly a political speech; and policy experts and economists have reacted skeptically. While a poorly executed profit-sharing program could do serious damage, that is no reason to reject the idea altogether. It is in fact a good sign that the idea is being publicly defended by a political leader.

Many mainstream economists, from Martin Weitzman and Richard B. Freeman to Joseph E. Stiglitz, Debraj Ray, and Kalle Moene have proposed variants of the concept. And with many advanced economies at a critical juncture, with unconscionable levels of inequality threatening to shred the very fabric of democratic politics, “equity for the poor” is an economic principle whose time has come.

As this month marks the tenth anniversary of the collapse of Lehman Brothers, it may help to go back a decade and pick up the story from there. The post-2008 Great Recession affected all sections of society, including the rich. In fact, it was a rare period when the number of millionaires in the world actually declined. But fret not for the wealthy. They have recovered well: whereas the world's richest 1% of households owned 42.5% of all wealth in 2008, they own 50.1% today.

No matter how you slice the data on wealth and income, the super-rich are doing very well, and the gap between them and median-income earners - not to mention the poor - continues to widen. The near-unprecedented levels of inequality within countries today helps to explain the past decade of political upheaval and social strife, from the open-ended conflicts in the Middle East to the rise of populism and xenophobia in the West.

The rise in inequality today is largely due to technological change, such as rapid advances in robotics and digital technology, and it has been aggravated by heightened awareness on the part of the poor. For much of history, the powerful managed to persuade the slaves, outcasts, and downtrodden that their poverty was a “natural” result of their own inferiority, laziness, and - testing the limits of human gullibility - sins committed in past lives. But with the diffusion of information technology, the poor no longer have the wool pulled over their eyes.

Economic change is thus necessitating new ideas - and not for the first time. The Industrial Revolution is often remembered for its “Satanic mills”; but it was also a time of

radical new thinking in economics, spearheaded by Adam Smith, John Stuart Mill, David Ricardo, Antoine Cournot, and many others. Governments eventually pursued revolutionary reforms of labor laws and other social-welfare measures.

Moreover, it was during this earlier period of change that the income tax was introduced. Until then, income taxes had been used only sporadically to raise funds for wars. But in Britain in 1842, the income tax became a systemic, permanent feature of the economy. Many at the time rejected the policy altogether, warning that it would destroy incentives and bring the economy to a halt. Fortunately, their hue and cry went unheeded.

Owing to today's technological advances, the share of total income accruing to labor (as opposed to capital) is declining worldwide. It is only reasonable, then, that workers should be granted the right to some share of the economy's profits. That is why McDonnell's proposal deserves consideration, provided that we remain alert to incentives and the laws of the market.

To that end, it would be better to pursue a fractional form of profit sharing, rather than large-scale nationalization. If all of a country's wealth were to be aggregated into one pot, the temptation for looting would be too great. In the case of the Soviet Union, a small group quickly captured the pot. The history of the Soviet Union has alerted us that the last stage of Communism may well be crony capitalism.

A better alternative is to address the problem with a scalpel, rather than an axe, by having the state grant workers equity, from which they can earn a supplementary income. The standard objection - that people are robbed of their dignity when they are given money without having to work - is ahistorical. Under feudalism and slavery, suzerains and plantation owners grew enormously wealthy from the unremunerated work of serfs and slaves. No one ever pitied the them for missing out on the “dignity of labor.”

For whatever reason, it does make a difference psychologically whether one earns by dole or ownership. That is why I personally have reservations about a universal basic income. Equity and a claim on some share of profits, however, would bypass the problem completely. Workers would have a genuine sense of ownership, which will become increasingly important in a world of diminishing work.

Much will depend on how such profit-sharing schemes are designed and implemented. But, whatever we think of proposals like McDonnell's, we no longer have the luxury of dismissing the idea as a non-starter.

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?

Starts from last edition

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.

The Firestone Company in 2004 worth 2.09 billion dollars in the US at the expense of Liberians tippers. The 1,500 gets an hourly wage of between \$8.50 and \$12.50. Firestone six top management team make over 350,000 annually while Liberian tippers get peanuts of between \$8 and \$ 12.50. Rubber processed in the US yield multiples' different produce that the agreement doesn't cover. Firestone has created over 40,000 well-paid jobs in the US for over 40,000 personnel and not even a single American makes \$8 or \$12.50 an hour at Firestone offices in the US, not even the cleaners or the janitors. Firestone uses the income of the rubber to reinvest in the multi-billion dollars project other than rubber. Firestone produced 10 million tires each year, which represents 25 percent of America total output.

Six (6) Familia Constraints Ahead of Public Work Min. Nyenpan's Road Networks

Honorable Mabutu Vlah Nyenpan's ambitious and costly intercounty-road network project is a key component of President Weah's pro-poor' government's initiatives which cannot be overemphasized because Liberia indeed needs a feeder, primary, secondary, and major high ways have not been implemented due to systemic constructional neglect. Road construction in Liberia had been an embattled issue since Liberia gained its independence July 26, 1847.

There are accusations and counter-accusations as to why Liberia road network had continued to be a nightmare or unfulfilled dreams under most Liberian governments. In the perspective of Hon. Nyenpan, "the lack of roads networks in Liberia had been due to what he termed "neglect." Though the Minister would be right, the road network issue can be associated with other more serious factors. Several of those factors will include but not limited to trust, corruption, lack of patriotism, lack of interest, lack of commitments on the part of a government, lack of initiatives by the benefactors of the roads itself and finally the issue of the misappropriation and the misapplication of road funds by a government over time.

Every Liberian government aside from the then Charles Taylor government included Liberia road network in their future deliverable but to no avail. But during President Weah's inaugural speech he characterized his entire utterance with the concept of a huge inter-county road network as his government's first and paramount priority.

It is due to this huge ambitious road network project, President Weah and his government may have entered into an agreement with International Monetary Institutions to secure almost a 1 billion-dollar loan agreement to fulfill his road network project at all cost. But road construction project, especially in Africa, is often susceptible to acute corruption, bribes, and persistent frauds.

These types of problems are three times prevalence in



Africa where construction companies compete for road contracts from government and government in turn demands the usual 10% of the total road construction budget as bribe before contracts are awarded in earnest which is one acute problem that affects ongoing road construction in Africa with Liberia being no exception to rampant and corrupt business rules.

However, there exists (6) familiar acute manmade hurdles that lied ahead of Min. Nyenpan's ambitious road network project which could easily undermine his ability to fulfill President Weah's road construction dreams projects thus making the president a phytological liar in the next elections.

The most familiar Hurdles to road construction in Liberia

1. The will of the people is a big problem: The citizenry of the various counties who should benefit from these road networks should have the will to welcome these projects and provide their own support mechanism by providing free labor and protecting all the road equipment from a number of thieves.

b. In some areas, the practice of witchcraft can serve as a serious roadblock to the construction of road projects, where witchcrafts are known for demolishing pavement and or breaking time down bridges which would affect the road projects.

c. Road construction can affect a stubborn demon's in some towns and villages, to the extent that constrictors will begin to die prematurely and the road equipment will remain unmovable

Undivided minds: If all of Minister's Nyenpan's principle deputies and construction engineers have divided minds about the road network, it will destroy the road dream before it begins in earnest under the minister. The minister and his deputies will need to have one word and rally behind the minister proper

3. President Dr. Weah's support:

- a. The full support of President Weah will be key to the road network project if the Minister of Public Work should succeed to connect the various counties
- b. President Weah can support the Minister by throwing officials in jail for corrupting and the laundering of road construction funds.

- c. laundering of road construction funds. President Weah can support the Minister by not reallocating the road construction fund to other governmental projects.
- d. President Weah can support the minister by not undermining his efforts but rather agrees with the implementation of the road's agenda.
- e. President Weah can support the minister by warning other government officials not to interfere with the public work road construction projects and funds
- f. President Weah can support the minister by not having any special interest in any construction companies that will build the road network
- g. President Weah shouldn't entertain gossips from the minister principle deputies that will undermine the road project.
- h. President Weah should insist reviewing contracts awarded by the minister to the detrimental of the road project, because the president will likely develop an interest in other companies that are dealing directly with him, thus undamming the minister which could affect the road construction projects
4. Transferring of the minister of public work
- a. Political seats are musical seats. Ministers can be transferred at any time at the will and pleasure of the president who appointed him/her for no cause
- b. The minister could also be transferred as soon the road funds hit the ground which often affects the entire planning process from scratch by the incoming minister who will want to renegotiable the contracts all over for his own aggrandizement
5. Corruption, corruption
- a. Road work always attracts corruption from the government, the contractors and even from an official of the public work ministry. Other government officials will demand tips, bribes from multiple construction companies to be awarded a contract in the form of 10 percent which can lead to shadow work, poor construction and abandonment of contracts
6. Non-payment of contracts' funding
- a. The government withholding contractors' funds and nonpayment or delay in payment can be serious hurdles in the road construction business, where the contractors can also begin to undermine the project indirectly.



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

1. 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"> Valid Business Registration Certificate Valid Tax Clearance Article of Incorporation At least five years' experience in Airport Lounge Management or other private lounges Must have a minimum average annual turnover of US\$250,000.00 for the last three (3) years Must provide audited financial statement for the past three (3) years
2.	2	Duty Free Store	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valid Business Registration Certificate Valid Tax Clearance Article of Incorporation At least five years' experience in operating an Airport Duty Free Store/Shop or related store/shop. Must have a minimum average annual turnover of US\$500,000.00 for the last three (3) years Must provide audited financial statement for the past three (3) years

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

- 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 25th 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

ECOWAS Speaker calls on citizens to work together

By Bridgett Milton

The Speaker of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Parliament, Mustapha Cisse Lo, has called on citizens of Liberia and Guinea to work together and know that both countries are founding members of ECOWAS.

statement over the weekend when he led a delegation of ECOWAS Parliamentarians to visit the Guinea-Liberia border in Ganta, Nimba County.

According to him, the dream of the founders of the regional body was to ensure the unhindered movement of community citizens and, as such, both countries should

come together and work to fight those who desire to divide West Africa.

He says the only reason documents like passports and *liaise passé* are used to commute in the various West African countries is to avoid illegal activities and terrorism.

The ECOWAS Parliament Speaker notes that no one should be depressed of free movement.

He additionally urges marketers of both Liberia and Guinea to continue trading as part of efforts by ECOWAS to promote economic growth within the sub-region and spur development.

For their part, legislators from Liberia and Guinea, Senator Prince Johnson Alpha Dialo promised to put these concerns before their various legislative bodies in order to find a solution.

They called on both Ambassadors of ECOWAS and Guinea to work together in restoring harmony among the two nations' citizens as well as reinstating access to free movement and trade.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



Mr. Mustapha Cisse Lo

Liberian pushes for more support to Refugees here

The Minister of Internal Affairs, Varney A. Sirleaf has presented a request to the UN Refugee Agency, UNHCR, which among other things, called for more support to Liberia as it caters to a refugee caseload of about 9,454 Ivorian refugees in camps in Liberia.

Of this number, Minister Sirleaf told the UN, 800 refugees have opted to be integrated in Liberia thereby obtaining Liberian citizenship, which is guaranteed under the refugee protocol.

A press release from the Ministry quotes the Internal Affairs Minister as saying the Liberian Government has already secured 310 acres of land in one of the refugee hosting areas to support the local integration program for those opting to live in Liberia.

He however requested the UNHCR and other partners to assist with the construction of quality, duration, and modern housing units similar to President Weah's proposed low cost housing project.

Though Minister Sirleaf acknowledged the collaboration and support of

UNHCR-Liberia, more was needed to be done.

The Internal affairs Minister was speaking Monday in Geneva, Switzerland, when he presented Liberia's refugee

and Resettlement Commission-LRRRC.

In the statement, the Minister who heads the Board of the LRRRC disclosed that the Government of Liberia



situation at opening of the 69th Session of the UNHCR General Assembly. The Minister is in Geneva along Honorable Festus R. B. Logan, Executive Director of Liberia Refugee Repatriation

continues to allow persons fleeing persecution to seek asylum in Liberia. "In 2018, of the 33 asylum applications in the country, 5 have been granted refugee status". He

AFL soldiers flog motorcyclist

By Thomas Domah/Nimba

Officers of the Armed Forces of Liberia [AFL] allegedly flog a commercial motorcyclist Otis Domah Tuayen in Graie Town along the Sacleapea-Tappita highway in Nimba County, leaving him hospitalized.

The 27-year-old victim currently receiving medication at the Ganta United Methodist Hospital in Ganta, Nimba County narrates he and a friend were on their way from Graie Town to Zoela Town to call an herbalist when 11 AFL soldiers riding in a truck stopped their bike and demanded them to join other motorcyclists in helping to open the road for the truck to pass.

According to the victim, he informed the soldiers that he was sent to call an herbalist so he had no time.

The soldiers were traveling from Monrovia with supplies to Grand Gedeh County when their truck stocked in the mud, forcing them to spend few days on the road.

Ernest Zuo, a cyclist in the town where the incident occurred, explains since the soldiers arrived there, they allegedly forced all motorcyclists in the area to help in fixing the road to enable them deliver the supplies to Grand Gedeh.

However, other eyewitnesses claim the soldiers used arms and objects in flogging Otis Domah Tuayen severely, leaving the victim bleeding.

The father of the victim, Mr. Orlando Tuayen explains that when he arrived on the scene,



Victim Otis Domah Tuayen

he saw soldiers mal-handling his son.

Mr. Tuayen continues that the commander for the soldiers only identified as Jalleh, gave US\$20.00 to him to transport the victim to the Sacleapea Health Center for medical treatment.

But he says when they arrived at the health center, his son was bleeding profusely all over his body, so authorities there advised that the victim be taken to the Ganta United Methodist Hospital for proper medication.

Mr. Tuayen further discloses that while in Ganta with his son, Commander Jalleh sent 3,000 Liberian Dollars thru Mobile Money transfer service to his phone to help with the medical bill.

AFL soldiers in the area declined to comment on the issue when contacted. -*Editing by Jonathan Browne*

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said.

He assured that Government, under the leadership of President George Manneh Weah is aimed at continuing the efforts of past governments by fostering the peace process toward national reconciliation, through a well-reenvisioned Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development of which the refugee program is aligned fully with.

Mr. Sirleaf told the UNHCR that as a mark of commitment of the Liberian Government, President Weah on July 26, 2018, Independence Day of Liberia, achieved a major milestone when he issued Certificates of Naturalization to 375 former Sierra Leonean Refugees; and is in the process

of completing the civil documentation for the residual caseload of 1,101 former Sierra Leonean Refugees living in Liberia.

He said over the past years, Liberia has made great gains in providing durable solutions to refugees, asylum seekers and other persons of concern (POC) living in Liberia.

The Minister boasted that refugee services which traditionally were handled by the UNHCR, have now been integrated in the national framework, where both Liberians and refugees have access to and getting the same services. "These services include Health, Education and Social Protection". He emphasized.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Defense resists old evidence in Parker's trial

By Winston W. Parley

Prosecutors and defense clashed Tuesday, 2 October in a bid to convince the court for and against the use of old testimonies and evidences provided during the previous trial of Ms. Matilda Parker and Mrs. Christiana Kpabar - Pailey in the ongoing retrial.

Criminal Court "C" Judge Boima Kontoe has reserved ruling pending notice of assignment, after listening to arguments from both parties.

The first trial in the alleged economic sabotage case against former National Port Authority (NPA) Managing Director Ms. Parker and her former comptroller Mrs. Pailey was disrupted by prosecution's claims of jury tampering.

In the ongoing retrial, the case is being heard before a new judge without jurors based on the defense's request.

But prosecutors are saying the court has the backing of the law to accept the introduction of witnesses' testimonies, evidences and exhibits provided during the previous trial of the defendants between 2015 and 2016.

According to Solicitor General Cllr. Darku Mulbah, the indictees are being represented in this new trial by one of the counsels who was part of their defense team during the first trial in the person of Cllr. Arthur T. Johnson.

Cllr. Mulbah argues that the purpose of trial is for parties to proffer evidences, witnesses, and for them to be examined or cross-examined.

After the defendants

pleaded not guilty at the start of the new trial, Cllr. Mulbah says prosecution told the court that it had one or three of its witnesses that cannot be reached now, but their testimonies from the past trial are before the court.

According to him, the State does not have the time to get back to those witnesses.

Another contention from the prosecution is that even if the witnesses are subpoenaed to court, no court can compel

them to utter a word if they are unwilling to comply and provide testimonies.

Cllr. Mulbah says it is the right of the witnesses to speak or remain silent because the Constitution protects their rights to remain silent.

He says, the Supreme Court has already given a clue on things to be done to meet up with speedy trial, adding that the superior court has ruled that testimonies of witnesses who have appeared in past trial, testified and cross-examined by the accused's lawyer, those testimonies can be allowed to form part of the new trial.

He concludes with a plea for the court to grant the application for the testimonies and exhibits referenced in the application to be made to form part of the proceedings and order a continuance of the trial.

But Cllr. Johnson disagrees with the prosecution's points, informing the court that if a subpoenaed witness fails to comply, they could be held in contempt and punished by the court.

Cllr. Johnson is concerned that in this new trial the prosecution is seeking to produce no witness that shall appear before Judge Kontoe.

Beside, Cllr. Johnson indicates that the prosecution did not rest with the production of witnesses during the first trial when the case [was disrupted].

According to Cllr. Johnson,

the defense did not cross examine State witness Deneah Flomo.

The two officials were indicted during the regime of former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf following the awarding of two contracts for the dredging and removal of wrecks from the Port of Greenville, Sinoe County.

They face 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.

They are being accused of allegedly designing awarding two "sole source" contracts to co-defendant Deneah Martins Flomo and his Denmark Enterprise.

The State says the contracts were allegedly awarded without the approval of the Public Procurement and Concession Commission (PPCC). Under the Liberian law any public contract above US\$10,000 should be put up for a bidding process and not through single sourcing. Single sourcing are only applicable in extreme cases and based on an official request from the awarding entity based on the urgency of the needed service.

Under the contracts, the State says defendant Flomo and his Denmark Enterprise had obligation to remove wrecks from the Port of Greenville and provide security consultancy at the ports of Monrovia, Buchanan and Greenville on behalf of the NPA. -Edited by Othello B. Garblah



Ms. Matilda Parker

YAU Foundation to help Liberian youth

Thousands of Liberian youths are expected to benefit humanitarian services from a newly established group, "You Are Us Foundation" or YAU, headed by Liberian-born Lebanese Linda K. Fawaz.

The Foundation was established in May 2018 with an emphasis on humanitarian works in Liberia. It seeks to tackle extreme poverty, hunger, education, lack of agricultural activities and healthcare.

Making brief remark at the launch of YAU Foundation in Sinkor Monrovia, Linda says it is sad that Liberian kids go to school daily hungry.

Providing the thrust of the Foundation, she notes that everyone in Liberia and the

Diaspora is fully aware of the devastating consequences and levels of deprivation inflicted on Liberia and its people, mainly school-age children by the civil war.

"It is in response to these long-range realities as outlined in YAU Foundation prospectus that I am endeavoring to mobilizing support that will contribute toward alleviation processes leading to the level of empowerment envisaged, essentially it is most gratifying to note that we have a common vision because "You Are Us and We Are You", she says.

Ms. Fawaz says YAU Foundation's first mission is helping to improve the educational system in Liberia, adding the Foundation will help school-going kids and

young people to achieve their goals.

"We will ensure that every child and young adult has the opportunity at education, as well as reducing the high dropout rate."

She continues the Foundation also looks forward to tackling humanitarian issues. "From an underperforming educational system to non-existent healthcare system, extreme cases of poverty and hunger - our foundation is committed to facing every issue head-on, starting with ensuring the empowerment of the youth of Liberia through improving educational institutions."

Liberia's educational system is struggling to recover from prolonged civil unrest and the closure of schools in 2014 due to the Ebola crisis also contributed to the setback of the educational system.

On the question of agriculture, Linda vows to work with various communities by providing tools, seeds, and training farmers to ensure food self-sufficiency.

"Hunger is the world's biggest health problem - every year it kills more people than AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis combined. Join us

Read The NewDawn Online Daily

and help put an end to hunger," she pleads.

"We will provide food to poor people, we will give them rice every time at least to help parents who cannot afford to find food for the kids after school."

Serving as chief launcher, Montserrado County District#9 Representative Munah Pelham Youngblood stresses a need for unity in the society.

She expresses delight that a young Liberian woman could establish such big dream to help her fellow compatriots.

Representative Youngblood urges well-meaning Liberians to embrace Linda's vision and calls on young people here to put aside politics and concentrate on contributing to the growth of the society.

"We will support this initiative because it is about giving back to humanity and the society, not many people will share what has been given them with other people," she notes.

The Chief Executive Officer of the National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Commission, Bobby Whitfield pledges to partner with YAU Foundation.

He says YAU could be helpful in disseminating WASH messages to students and community dwellers about hands-washing, cleaning the environment, increased access to safe water supply, sanitation and improved hygiene practices, among others.

"With the establishment of this Foundation, it means that Liberia is heading somewhere, and we will get there in the soonest possible time with the vision of our President George Weah and his government's pro poor policy," Bobby notes.

The program was graced by several dignitaries, including representatives from the U.S. Embassy, Orange Liberia, CEMECO, Stop and Shop Supermarket, Fawaz Building Material Store, and United Commodity Incorporated (UCI), among others.



Français

Disparition de 16 milliards : Weah s'en prend à son prédécesseur

Le président George Manneh Weah semble très agressif depuis son retour des Etats-Unis dimanche. M. Weah a déclaré lors d'un culte d'action de grâce organisé à son honneur que les journalistes qui ont fait l'annonce de la disparition de 16 milliards libériens doivent être associés à l'enquête.

Le lundi 1er octobre, le président Weah, qui semble douter de la disparition de l'argent à l'instar de son ministre des finances et de la planification du développement, a critiqué son prédécesseur, l'ex-présidente Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, accusant son régime d'être responsable du mal financier dont souffre le pays actuellement, ajoutant que « peut-être » l'argent est perdu sous l'administration Sirleaf.

« Tous les membres de la communauté internationale savent que 16 milliards ont disparu au Liberia. Mais... peut-être que c'est sous le régime précédent, pas sous mon



gouvernement », a déclaré Weah le lundi 1er octobre au marché Pepperwulu à Johnsonville, dans le comté de Montserrado.

Les commentaires de M. Weah font suite à une série de publications et d'entrevues

menées par Mme Sirleaf et son ancien gouverneur de la Banque centrale, Milton Weeks, d'une part, et par le ministre de l'Information actuel, Eugene Nagbe, d'autres part.

Alors que Mme Sirleaf et M. Weeks semblent avoir contesté

les informations selon lesquelles de l'argent est perdu, le ministre M. Nagbe, appuyé par le ministre de la Justice, ont confirmé ces informations. Selon eux, un conteneur contenant de l'argent a disparu entre l'autorité portuaire nationale et la banque centrale.

Il s'en est suivi des mouvements de protestation organisés par des libériens pour exiger que toute la lumière soit faite autour de cette disparition inédite des billets de banque.

Les responsables du ministère de la Justice ont fait valoir qu'ils examinaient les circonstances entourant la disparition présumée de l'argent et ont sélectionné plusieurs personnes clés à interroger. Cependant, alors que cette enquête est toujours en cours, le ministre des Finances, Samuel Tweah, a contesté la version de ses collègues, le ministre de l'Information Nagbe et les responsables de la justice, indiquant que le montant en question a été mis en circulation, parce que, selon lui, si le montant dont il est question était vraiment perdu, l'économie du pays serait paralysée.

Le gouvernement a annoncé avoir fait appel au FBI, à l'UE, à la CEDEAO et à d'autres partenaires pour aider à l'enquête.

Comme si cela ne suffisait

pas, le président Weah, dès son retour dimanche, s'est joint à son ministre des Finances pour écarter la possibilité de la disparition d'argent, notamment sous son régime, en affirmant que si tel est vraiment le cas, alors ce n'est sous son régime, c'est plutôt sous le régime de son prédécesseur.

« Je ne sais même pas quand les 16 milliards sont arrivés et sont perdus. 16 milliards de dollars ont perdus au Libéria ? Je ne sais pas. Alors je vais vérifier », a-t-il dit, avant d'ajouter : « Nous entendons les gens dire que 16 milliards sont perdus. Où ? Sous mon régime, non, je n'ai pas imprimé d'argent ».

Il a déclaré que s'il est établi que 16 milliards de dollars ont disparu, les responsables le rembourseront ; mais si rien n'est perdu, ceux qui ont déclaré que cet argent est perdu vont répondre à des questions et donner la raison pour laquelle ils ont fait une telle déclaration qui est susceptible de déclencher la guerre.

« Vous ne pouvez pas mentir à l'ensemble des citoyens pour qu'ils sautent dans la rue », a-t-il dit, rappelant que les reportages des journalistes ont suscité des conflits dans d'autres pays. M. Weah soutient que, lorsqu'il était sénateur lors de la 53ème législature, il a refusé de signer la résolution qui autorisait l'impression des nouveaux billets de banque, car il pensait que ce n'était pas bon, surtout à la veille des élections présidentielles et législatives. Il s'en est pris à l'opposition, notamment le parti de l'unité et le parti de la liberté, pour avoir organisé des manifestations. « La campagne est terminée. Que ce soit les militants du Parti de la liberté ou les militants du Parti de l'unité qui sont descendus dans la rue ou encore des gens qui croient que de l'argent a disparu, qu'ils sachent que c'est une mauvaise chose, parce qu'ils mettent les enfants des autres en danger ». Il a exhorté les jeunes à ne pas permettre aux politiciens de mettre leur avenir en péril.

Liberia : le fils de l'ex-présidente dans la tourmente

Au Liberia, le fils de l'ancienne présidente Sirleaf est aujourd'hui directement visé par l'enquête portant sur la disparition de plusieurs millions de dollars.

Il y a quelques semaines, le Liberia apprenait avec stupeur qu'une livraison d'argent en direction de la Banque centrale n'avait pas eu lieu. Et pour cause, celle-ci aurait tout simplement disparu, de quoi poser de nombreuses questions, d'autant plus que le président Weah n'a été mis au

courant de cette histoire que quelques mois après son déroulement. Charles Sirleaf, directement visé par l'enquête

Aujourd'hui, l'enquête avance et les choses semblent enfin avancer. Au total, la justice a d'ailleurs lancé un mandat d'arrêt contre une trentaine de personnes, dont Charles Sirleaf, le fils de l'ancienne présidente libérienne, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf ainsi que Milton Weeks, le directeur de cette même banque centrale. Ceux-ci sont

soupçonnés d'avoir été au cœur de vol et d'avoir voulu quitter le pays alors même qu'ils sont actuellement au cœur d'une enquête.

Difficile cependant d'en savoir plus puisque les personnes concernées elles, n'ont fait aucune déclaration à ce sujet. Milton Weeks en revanche est sorti de sa réserve au sujet du vol en lui-même et a assuré que la disparition de ces millions de dollars n'avait en fait, jamais eu lieu. Ce dernier a toutefois assuré qu'il restait à disposition afin d'aider les forces de l'ordre à enquêter.

Le gouvernement donne plusieurs versions

Une déclaration qui corrobore celle de ministre libérien des finances, Samuel Tweah, qui a carrément appelé à ne pas écouter le ministre de l'information, Eugene Nagbe, assurant que personne ne recherchait cet argent. Une sortie qui prouve que le gouvernement n'est pas vraiment serein, plusieurs versions étant données aux civils. De quoi nourrir les questionnements de la population qui ne demande qu'une chose, voir l'argent



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réapparaître, d'autant plus qu'un second ministre est sorti de sa réserve. En effet, le ministre de la justice, Musah

Dean, confirmé qu'une enquête était en cours mais que l'argent était arrivé à bon port. La Nouvelle Tribune

Français

Les supporters de Laurent Gbagbo suivent son procès avec attention

Qu'ils donnent de la voix à La Haye, devant la CPI, ou qu'ils se réunissent dans quelques lieux privés ou publics d'Abidjan, les partisans de Laurent Gbagbo et de Charles Blé Goudé suivent les audiences qui doivent décider du sort de leur champion.

Avec notre envoyé spécial à La Haye, Pierre Firton

L'audience venait à peine d'être levée lorsqu'un partisan de l'ancien président ivoirien a crié depuis la galerie vitrée attenante à la salle d'audience : « Libérez Laurent Gbagbo, libérez Charles Blé Goudé ». S'en sont suivis cris et applaudissements.

Salut bruyant

Le rappel à l'ordre de responsables de la Cour n'y a pas changé grand-chose. La salle toute entière a alors salué bruyamment l'ancien homme fort d'Abidjan, qui, tout sourire, a répondu par un signe de la main.

Ses partisans étaient arrivés tôt le matin. Pour beaucoup, en provenance de France. Des soutiens, qui, avant l'audience, avaient manifesté devant la prison

où il est détenu et ce, malgré la pluie et le froid. Pas un problème pour Audrey qui a maintenant l'habitude : « Même la neige, tout et tout. Depuis huit ans, ce n'est rien pour nous. Je viens depuis 2011 à La Haye. On est là. Moi je venais deux fois par semaine ». Des militants qui ont même appelé en chanson à la libération de l'ancien président ivoirien : « Il n'a rien fait, Gbagbo... ».

Certains voulaient même croire à une libération rapide : « Je crois qu'il va être libéré parce qu'il n'a rien fait ». Puis, « aucune preuve jusqu'ici n'a pu être démontrée. Donc la libération s'annonce imminente, je dirais ». Imminente, sans doute pas car même si les juges venaient à prononcer son acquittement dans quelques semaines, le procureur pourrait faire appel de la décision.

Dans le quartier de Cocody aussi

A Anono, quartier de Cocody, au siège d'EDS, l'une des plateformes de l'opposition, ils sont une cinquantaine à suivre, dans le calme, l'audience de la CPI, ce 1er octobre.

Guinée : célébrations des 60 ans de l'indépendance avec de nombreux chefs d'Etat

Ce mardi, la Guinée fête les 60 ans de l'indépendance du pays. Un anniversaire célébré comme il se doit, en présence de plusieurs chefs d'Etat étrangers lors d'une grande cérémonie au stade de Conakry. Il y a beaucoup d'ambiance.

C'est une ambiance des grands jours dans le quartier de Dixinn dans la proche banlieue de Conakry. Des milliers de personnes déferlent depuis ce matin et ont envahi le stade mythique du 28-Septembre. L'ambiance est festive. Il faut dire que les Amazones et le Bembeya Jazz, ce sont deux orchestres mythiques de la 1ère République sont chargés de chauffer le stade.

Cette foule est majoritairement jeune et chante et danse au rythme endiablé des orchestres guinéens. Beaucoup de drapeaux, rouge, jaune et vert, flottent au-dessus des arbres, cocotiers et autres acacias, qui entourent l'enceinte du stade. Le thème est panafricaniste puisque les

portraits de héros de la décolonisation ornent le stade : Lumumba, Nyerere ou encore bien sûr, Ahmed Sékou Touré, le premier président de la République qui reste une figure tutélaire en Guinée.

Boycott de l'opposition
Lors de la cérémonie, le président guinéen Alpha Condé était aux côtés de ses homologues africains qui ont fait le déplacement à Conakry : Idriss Déby, Denis Sassou-Nguesso, Macky Sall, Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta ou encore Ali Bongo. Après la grande parade, impliquant forces de défense et de sécurité, ainsi que différents services de l'administration, un grand concert doit avoir lieu puis un feu d'artifice.

Des cérémonies boycottées par l'opposition. En effet, elles se déroulent dans le stade du 28-Septembre, lieu des événements tragiques de 2009. Lorsque l'armée a ouvert le feu sur un rassemblement de l'opposition, faisant une centaine de morts.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Kaushik Basu

Le temps est venu de partager les profits au bénéfice de tous

NEW-YORK - La conférence annuelle du parti travailliste a eu lieu en septembre à Liverpool. John McDonnell, le ministre des Finances du cabinet fantôme, y a prononcé un discours retentissant avec une proposition forte : mieux partager les profits réalisés par l'économie en distribuant aux travailleurs des actions de leur entreprise. Mais les experts et les économistes ont réagi avec scepticisme. Il est vrai que mal appliquée, cette idée pourrait avoir des conséquences néfastes ; mais ce n'est pas une raison pour jeter le bébé avec l'eau du bain. Et c'est plutôt un bon signe de voir un leader politique la défendre publiquement.

Nombre d'économistes classiques, de Martin Weitzman et de Richard B. Freeman à Joseph E. Stiglitz, en passant par Debraj Ray et Kalle Moene, ont fait des propositions voisines en ce sens. L'économie de beaucoup de pays avancés se trouvant à un point critique, avec des niveaux d'inégalité éhontés qui menacent de déchirer l'essence même de la démocratie, le temps est venu de mieux partager ses bénéfices.

C'est ce mois-ci le 10^e anniversaire de la faillite de Lehman Brothers, à cette occasion il serait utile d'examiner ce qui s'est passé durant ces 10 ans. La Grande Récession qui a suivi la crise de 2008 a affecté toute la société, y compris les riches. Cela a été l'une des rares périodes de l'Histoire au cours de laquelle le nombre de riches dans le monde a diminué. Mais ne les plaignons pas, ils s'en sont très bien sortis : alors qu'en 2008 les 1% des ménages les plus riches du monde détenaient 42,5% de la richesse mondiale, ils en détiennent aujourd'hui 50,1%.

Peu importe la manière dont on découpe les données sur la richesse et les revenus, les super-riches s'en tirent très bien, tandis que le fossé entre eux et ceux dont les revenus sont proches de la médiane - pour ne pas mentionner les pauvres - continue à se creuser. Le niveau d'inégalité record atteint aujourd'hui au sein de chaque pays explique en partie la décennie de soulèvements politiques et d'instabilité sociale (des conflits en cours au Moyen-Orient à la montée du populisme et de la xénophobie en Occident).

La hausse des inégalités est due en grande partie à l'évolution technologique, par exemple les progrès rapides de la robotique et des technologies digitales. La situation est d'autant plus critique que les pauvres en ont une conscience de plus en plus aigüe. Durant la plus grande partie de l'Histoire, les puissants ont réussi à persuader les esclaves, les marginaux et les opprimés que leur pauvreté était le résultat "naturel" de leur infériorité, de leur paresse, voire (allant aux limites de la crédulité humaine) de péchés commis dans des vies antérieures. Mais avec la diffusion des nouvelles technologies de l'information, les pauvres ouvrent les yeux sur les réalités du monde.

Le changement économique exige donc de nouvelles idées - mais ce n'est pas la première fois. On se souvient de la Révolution industrielle pour ses "noirs moulins sataniques",

mais ce fut aussi une période de changement radical dans la pensée économique, sous l'impulsion d'Adam Smith, John Stuart Mill, David Ricardo, Antoine Cournot et bien d'autres. Cela a donné naissance à des réformes révolutionnaires en matière de code du travail et de protection sociale.

L'impôt sur le revenu a été créé au début de cette période de changements. Jusque là, il n'avait été collecté que sporadiquement pour financer des guerres. Mais à partir de 1842 il a été appliqué de manière systématique en Grande-Bretagne. Beaucoup de voix se sont alors élevées contre cette mesure, en disant que cela allait supprimer l'incitation à travailler et mettrait l'économie à genoux. Heureusement leur clameur a été ignorée.

En raison des progrès technologiques, la part du travail (par opposition au capital) dans le revenu total d'une économie baisse pratiquement partout. Il n'est donc pas absurde de reconnaître aux travailleurs le droit de bénéficier d'une partie des profits de l'économie. C'est pourquoi la proposition de McDonnell mérite d'être prise en considération, dans la mesure où l'on reste attentif aux incitations et aux lois du marché.

Pour cela, il vaut sans doute mieux partager une partie des profits plutôt que de nationaliser à grande échelle. Si toute la richesse amassée par un pays se retrouvait rassemblée sous une tente par exemple, le risque d'une razzia serait élevé. Dans le cas de l'Union soviétique, un petit groupe a rapidement mis la main dessus. L'Histoire de l'Union soviétique nous montre que le capitalisme de connivence pourrait bien être le stade ultime du communisme.

Une meilleure solution consiste à traiter le problème au scalpel plutôt qu'à la hache, l'Etat garantissant aux travailleurs des titres de leur entreprise susceptibles de leur fournir un complément de revenu. L'objection classique qui consiste à dire que les gens perdent leur dignité en recevant de l'argent sans travailler est dépourvue de fondement historique. Mais sous prétexte qu'il ne jouissait pas de la dignité liée au travail, à l'époque du féodalisme ou de l'esclavage, personne n'a jamais plaint le suzerain ou le propriétaire d'une plantation qui s'enrichissait hors de toute proportion sur le dos de ses serfs ou de ses esclaves.

Qu'elle qu'en soit la raison, ce n'est pas du tout la même chose sur le plan psychologique de tirer ses revenus des indemnités chômage ou de ses titres de propriété. C'est pourquoi je suis réservé quant à l'idée d'un revenu universel de base. La participation des travailleurs aux bénéfices de leur entreprise court-circuiterait ce problème. Ils auraient le sentiment d'être partiellement propriétaire de leur entreprise, ce qui aura de plus en plus d'importance dans un monde qui offre de moins en moins de travail.

Beaucoup dépendra de la manière dont le partage des bénéfices sera conçu et appliqué. Mais, quoi que l'on pense de la proposition de McDonnell, on ne peut plus se permettre le luxe de la rejeter sans même l'examiner.

FEATURE ARTICLE

Weah Gave Fine Speech At The UN But Faces Problem At Home

By Dagbayonoh Kiah Nyanfore II

I saw the video of President Weah's speech to the UN 73rd Session General Assembly. The address was his first to the world body since his presidency. I was proud not only for making the case for Liberia to the UN but also for proving the truth that you should not overlook a person because he/she is from a low social background; that the person whom you unjustly view unqualified can prove you wrong.

During the Liberian 2017 presidential election, his opponents considered him dumb, unable to speak and read, that he was a mere soccer player. They said that if elected president, he would be unable to address the UN General Assembly and would embarrass the country. Weah, however, proved them wrong. He proved them wrong at his inaugural address in Liberia; at his annual speech before the Liberian legislature; at the European Development Days Summit; at the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit at the UN; and now at the general assembly. Hundreds of Liberians greeted him a hero's welcome upon his return home at the RIA Sunday, September 30th. He talked tough in the Liberian colloquial when he spoke at a local church. He talked briefly of the UN and of the problem awaiting his administration.

Weah presidential opponents could not have given a better speech at the UN. He demonstrated that the one you view the least could become the greatest. History has shown us of this truth. Biblically, David, a shepherd boy, was considered the least by his family. Yet he was selected by God, went to kill Goliath and later became one of the most powerful and successful kings. There were other great world leaders like David.

Weah's speech touched on his administration main goals, including to help bring Liberia from poverty to prosperity, to fight corruption, to remember the past pain and bring to a discussion just resolution, to administer a pro-poor government for all Liberians, and to foster national development through road connectivity, agriculture, and unity.

While the president should be applauded for a well-delivered speech, he faces challenging issue at home; and it could lead to the rise or fall of his administration. Presently in Liberia, there is a saga of a missing container of \$16 billion Liberian money. According to information, the container of newly printed banknotes arrived in Liberia and got missing since November 2017 before the Weah government came to power to August 2018 during his administration. No one has given a full account of the money. Some Liberians blame the Sirleaf administration while others point their fingers at Weah for the amount. Of those who have been listed as persons of interest, no one, except former Central Bank Governor Milton Weeks, has been questioned by the authority.

While the president was in New York, hundreds of Liberians protested in Monrovia asking the administration to "bring back the money". They peacefully marched to key embassies requesting the countries suspend foreign aids to Liberia. Demonstrators protected in the rain made some school children stay home, and some protestors were said to have thrown rocks at police sent to guide the march.

Demonstrators have the right to peacefully protest, to bring to the public attention of a problem. But to demonstrate during a pending investigation of a matter and to also request suspension of foreign assistance is unfortunate and could hurt largely the poor, the majority whom you claimed to stand for. Just protest is democratic, effective, and constitutional in many countries. In the 70s we demonstrated against the Tolbert government when it killed unarmed citizens. We marched because the government failed to bring to justice those who perpetrated the atrocity and massacre, allowing a continual culture of impunity, nepotism, and corruption. Demonstrating with facts or investigated evidence helps a just cause. About a year after our demonstration, the Tolbert government fell; and that was the end of the True Whig Party political dynasty; that was the death of a one-party state in Liberia. The government fell after Tolbert address to the UN.

President Weah must take the container issue seriously. He should not feel that because he gave a brilliant speech and majority Liberians love him he will brush aside the problem. He must get to the bottom of the matter, persecute those found guilty. He should not treat the investigation like the



Sable Mining bribery case, which did not go anywhere and those involved went scot-free. The case involved some officials of the Sirleaf administration, including her party chairman, now a senator. If Weah takes no serious action on the missing banknotes, he could be seemed weak, powerless, and ineffective. He will be viewed as an ordinary politician protecting friends and the powerful. It could tarnish his image, discourage and letdown the masses that stood and voted for him. His opponents would be cheering and dancing. It would be difficult and hard for another young person to become president and inspire the poor and downtrodden in Liberia. The culture of impunity has historically led to the downfall of many past Liberian presidents.

I have suggested and advised that the Weah government audit the past administration, but mine and those of others were ignored. Protecting the Sirleaf government appeared to have been the norm. Sirleaf and her cliques are seemingly the darlings of the administration, though they would not have been nice and kind to Weah and the CDCies, if the shoes were on the other feet. That is the truth. Sirleaf sent the late Gyude Bryant to jail for corruption when she just took power. Bryant was the chairman of the transitional government, which paved the way for the 2005 elections. Had the Weah administration audited the Sirleaf regime, the new government could have unearthed the missing money. Auditing a previous administration is not strange and impossible. Succeeding administrations in Africa have done that. For instance, the new government of Julius Maada Bio in Sierra Leone audited the Ernest Bai Koroma administration, and the result was positive.

I was disappointed when I learned that many suggestions sent to the administration were held back by some officials or those close to the president fearing and assuming that the persons making the suggestions were seeking jobs. As I see, there are many qualified Liberians who are not wishing and looking for government employment but want the administration to succeed. I was also informed that those officials do not even let the president see or read communication of suggestions. This behavior is sad; it resembles those of past administrations. Former President Doe, for example, was surrounded by some insecure officials, professional sycophants who fooled and betrayed him.

Madam Sirleaf was angry at and strong on Weah and his administration in her reaction to the missing container, accusing that the regime was trying to damage her image, that of her administration and the good reputations of her officials. That is classic Sirleaf, her image is paramount. Why could not the former president first call Weah for clarity before lashing out? Since the money got missing in her and Weah administrations, she could have said that she would cooperate with the administration to get to the bottom of this problem, because it makes Liberia look bad. Weah needs to wake up, fight, and protect his administration. He should not appear naïve. He is in high-level politics now and not in a social and nice people club. President Weah reminds me of Doe, an average Liberian from a poor family background and who suddenly became Liberian head of state and later elected president. He was

Liberia's first president of full native parentage. Doe was considered uneducated and inarticulate. I met him in his first year as head of state at the executive mansion in a private setting. He appeared to me to be intelligent, curious about things and eager to learn.

Secondly, I met him in Washington DC where he addressed the Liberian community. Our community speaker, the late Dr. Robert Stewart, addressed the program in a prepared speech. He was critical of the Doe administration, calling it corrupt and brutal. The atmosphere was tense; Doe apparently had not been confronted publicly in that way. Doe spoke without a text, responding to Stewart's accusations point by point.

For instance, he acknowledged the existence of corruptive behaviors in the government, but he asked: "If you are a student on Liberian government scholarship in America, but fail to attend school yet at the same time receiving stipends monthly, will your behavior be considered corruptive or patriotic?" We the crowd overwhelmingly answered, "CORRUPTIVE"! Doe had our complete attention. He spoke forcefully with logic and intelligence. Dr. H. Boima Fabbulleh, Jr., then foreign minister, was sitting on stage taking note as Doe spoke. We were stunned of Doe's intelligence, logic, and eloquence. We stood and clasped our hands when he ended. We did so not just because he was our president, but mainly because he spoke well and made us proud. Here was a man considered stupid and uneducated, but tore apart the speech of a Ph.D. holder and won the "debate". He proved us wrong of our perception and judgment of him.

My last meeting with him was at the ambassador's residence in DC. Ambassador Dr. Joseph Guannu, whom I privately served as an advisor on American affairs, had kindly arranged for me to meet with Doe. The president was humble, not pompous and asked my views on matters. He did not pretend to know it all. I left with a positive opinion of him.

Doe's determination to learn and better himself as head of state led him to return to school, becoming a classroom student at the University of Liberia. Some of his former classmates pointed out that the president was like an ordinary pupil, serious and answering questions and sometimes taking leadership in class discussion. He graduated with high marks.

President Weah, as a young man in Liberia, had a good relationship with Doe. A New Times writer details Doe's help and kindness to Weah. Additional information states that Weah on most Saturdays visited Doe at the mansion. The president was an inspiration to Weah, and reportedly gave Weah "US\$200K" for Cameron and later for travel and expense money to Europe for professional soccer. In Cameron, Weah stayed with Liberian Ambassador Carlton Karpeh, a fellow Kruman. Doe was a lover of soccer and promoted the sport well in Liberia. He intervened in a problem which Weah faced in Cameron and acted as Weah's older brother.

Weah followed Doe's footsteps. After a heartfelt loss in the 2005 election, in which he was labeled uneducated, Weah went back to school earning a Bachelor's and Masters' degrees. He won the senatorial election in 2014 preparing his way to national politics.

Sirleaf's seemingly influence on Weah and his administration is surprising to some observers. Not only was she able to recommend some of her favorites to cabinet positions, but it also appears that she gets her way and desires. She had had a personal issue with President Doe and has not gotten over it. Though Doe died from the civil war which she was accused of financing, Doe's family suffered financially after his death and Sirleaf became president. Doe was a silent partner to many businesses, but after his demise, the other partners kept quiet of his profit share from his family. Madam Sirleaf kept an anti-Doe sentiment with her in her presidency and tried to destroy any image of him. During her administration, the Liberian Supreme Court awarded Doe's Widow Nancy Doe about US\$6M for money legally belonged to Doe. But the Sirleaf administration failed to pay the money forcing the family to take the matter to the ECOWAS Court. A credible report states that she is influencing the Weah administration "to waste the case" by offering "bribe" to and encouraging the lawyer "to take the case from ECOWAS" and remove from the suit so the family would forget the matter discouragingly. But "the lawyer refused".

What next?

By Winston W. Parley

Amid ongoing investigation by the Government of Liberia about missing billions of Liberian banknotes, the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) says there is no 16 billion Liberian Dollars missing, as has been reported in the media here, calling on the Government to vacate its writ and remove the travel restriction placed on CBL staff “so as not to interrupt the smooth operations of the CBL.”

The current probe have seen several employees of the CBL called in for questioning, including former executive governor J. Milton Weeks and incumbent deputy governor Charles Sirleaf.

“The Central Bank of Liberia wants to clarify to the general public and our partners in progress that there is no 16 billion Liberian Dollars missing as has been erroneously reported in the media,” the CBL says in a press statement Tuesday, 2 October.

The CBL’s statement comes just after President George Manneh Weah on Monday, 1 October ruled out any possibility of money being



missing under his regime, ahead of findings from an independent investigation for which the government says it was inviting international reputable institutions to help with investigation.

Instead, President Weah says if any money went missing as reported, it may be during the regime of his predecessor, former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf.

According to the CBL, its records show that the total money that was printed and

placed in its reserve vaults was L\$15.5 billion for the period of 2016 to 2018.

The Bank says this amount was verified from its internal documents and documents received from the Crane Currency of Sweden, the contracted printer of the money in question.

It continues that it has concluded its internal assessment on monies printed and brought in Liberia between 2016 and 2018.

The Bank says it has no

records showing that monies printed under its authority have not yet been delivered into its reserve vaults.

The Bank further says that records from Crane Currency of Sweden which was contracted to print the money show that Crane delivered L\$15.5 billion through the Freeport of Monrovia and the Roberts International Airport between 2016 and 2018.

According to the CBL, it logged all these monies and delivered them into the reserve vaults.

The CBL statement raises eye brows here, coming over three weeks after news of missing “containers and bags of moneys” broke, and subsequently confirmed by the Minister of Information Lenn Eugene Nagbe, putting the figure at 16 billion Liberian Dollars.

However, the Bank says it welcomes the expansion of the investigative team by including local institutions and international institutions including the US Government, the African Union, EU, ECOWAS, UN and the IMF.

CBL says it is its latest information that based on engagement, the Liberian Government and partners are in the process of securing the services of a reputable international forensic audit firm to conduct a forensic audit of all flows of printed money between 2016 and 2018.

The Central Bank promises to cooperate with this investigation and avail all records in its possession to such probe.

The Bank further confirms that all employees of CBL are committed to cooperating fully with the investigation and will continue to make themselves to the Special Investigative Team whenever they are called upon.

Opposition rejects CBL’s claims

By Winston W. Parley

Opposition Liberty Party (LP) stalwart Darrius Dillon has rejected claims by the Central Bank of Liberia that no money is missing here, demanding the bank to “show us the records.”

“We will demand to know what happened to our money. The Liberian people need answers,” he said Tuesday, 2 October on local broadcaster OK FM, adding that the money was not printed for political parties including UP, LP, CDC, ANC, ALP or an individual.

Mr. Dillon’s comments were provoked by a statement released by the CBL on Tuesday, 2 October informing Liberians and partners in progress that there is no L\$16 billion Liberian Dollars missing, as has been reported in the media here.

The Central Bank says according to its records, the total money that was printed and placed in the vault of the CBL was L\$15.5 billion for the period of 2016 to 2018.

In its statement, the Bank says it has concluded its internal assessment on monies printed and brought in Liberia between 2016 and 2018.

But Mr. Dillon notes that based on the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) Chair Mulbah Morlu’s alleged account that there were loads of pickups “with our money

from the Central Bank,” he believes that some people were feasting on the country’s money and infusing it into the economy so that they can own the US Dollars.

Mr. Dillon argues that if no money was missing, Central Bank would have indicated it the moment reports of alleged missing money came about.

The LP stalwart argues that it should not have taken the Central Bank almost two months to come back to the public to say all its records were in tight.

“Your records in tight and they’re placing people on restriction? Your records in tight ... the conflicting statements coming out of the one Central Bank and the Government as a whole? It’s not true. It can’t be true,” Mr. Dillon argues.

Besides, Mr. Dillon notes that the first statement that came out of the Ministry of Justice on 17 September surrounding this money issue was that the Government through President George Manneh Weah had constituted an investigative board on 8 August.

“From the 8th of August while you were doing in-house investigation, if there was any, Central Bank didn’t know that no money missing to tell them so that when it comes to the public already they’ll be

prepared to say this information is false?” he wonders.

He demands the CBL to “show us the record” or the investigation, the serial number of the money that was brought into the country, how it entered the vault, how it was infused into the economy and what the balance is today.

Mr. Dillon alleges that the CBL went in panic mood the first time the information was revealed to the public that money was missing or diverted.

He says the Bank gave Liberians the impression and the reason to believe that something had gone wrong.

He maintains that a credible independent investigation will produce a credible outcome with the involvement of the international partners.

But he is concerned that the FBI hasn’t even come yet for the purpose of this investigation, and President George Manneh Weah and the Central Bank are saying no money is missing.

He was buttressed by Bomi County Senator Sando Johnson who says he is totally disappointed and down-hearted for the Central Bank to make such pronouncement that no money got missing.

“So it means that they know what happened with the

University of Liberia
Republic of Liberia
Fendall Campus
Louisiana, Liberia

Section I: INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF GOODS (Printing and Delivery of Souvenir Items)
IFB No.: UL/NCB/017/18/19

- The University of Liberia has allotted portion of its internally generated revenue for Fiscal Year 2018/2019 and intends to apply it towards the printing and delivery of souvenir items for its 99th Commencement Convocation in Louisiana, Fendall Campus, University of Liberia.
- The University of Liberia now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the printing and delivery of the souvenir items.
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the Public Procurement & Concessions Act (PPCA), 2010 and approved by the Public Procurement and Concessions Commission (PPCC), and is open to all eligible bidders in the Country.
- Specifications and quantity:

Item No.	Description	Quantity	Unit of Measure
1.	Printing and Delivery of Souvenir Items	Assorted	pieces
- Eligibility and Qualification requirements include:
 - Valid Government of Liberia Business Registration
 - Valid Government of Liberia Tax Clearance
 - Must be registered with the PPCC Vendor Registrar
 - Past performance records in the last 4 years for similar job including the names and contact details of at least three (3) clients
 - Bids must be duly signed by the bidder or person authorized on behalf of the bidder.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain copy of the bidding document from the Procurement Department, Administrative Complex Building, Fendall Campus, AC1-09, University of Liberia for a non-refundable fee of US\$50.00 (Fifty United States Dollars) beginning September 17 - October 10, 2018, between the hours 10:00 a.m. to 4:00p.m. Mondays to Fridays and inspect sample of the souvenir items.
- All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security valid for 90 days in the form of a bank guarantee in the amount of US\$2,000.00 (Two Thousand United States Dollars) from a reputable commercial bank operating under the laws of Liberia.
- Sealed bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 2:00 p.m., October 10, 2018, and bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders or representatives who choose to attend on October 10, 2018, at the hour of 2:00 p.m. in the Administrative Conference Room, Room # AC1-01, Administrative Complex Building, Fendall Campus, University of Liberia. All bids should be addressed as follows: in the upper left corner of the envelope, print: "SEALED BID FOR THE PRINTING AND DELIVERY OF SOUVENIR ITEMS" RFP: IFB No.: UL/NCB/017/18/19. Below the bid reference number, print the bidder's address. In the middle of the envelope, print the address below: Procurement Department, Administrative Complex Building, Fendall Campus, Louisiana, Liberia.
- Note that Electronic bids will not be accepted, and that late bids will be rejected and returned unopened.

Signed: Faru Yashu Tinsah (Mrs.) DIRECTOR, Procurement Department, UL

Approved: Samuel Tweah (Mr.) Vice President, UL Relations

money. It means that they know who took the money,” Sen. Johnson says.

President Weah on Monday, 1 October ruled out the possibility of money being missing under his regime, saying maybe it was during former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf’s administration.

The media reported the disappearance of alleged nine billion Liberian Dollars, but Mr. Weah’s government chief spokesman Information Minister Eugene Nagbe said the money in question was about

L\$16 billion.

Further Mr. Weah’s Finance Minister Samuel Tweah argued that no money went missing, but noted that the money printed was L\$15 billion and brought into the country.

This new regime has persistently cast blames on Mrs. Sirleaf’s government for the alleged missing money, compelling the former President to demand the Weah regime to release a Justice Ministry mandated - internal investigation from the CBL to the public.

Real Madrid suffer shock defeat



Nikola Vlasic struck after 65 seconds at the Luzhnik Stadium to give CSKA Moscow a famous win against Champions League holders Real Madrid. Real Madrid's poor form continued as the Champions League holders, shorn of star names, fell to a 1-0 loss away to an organised CSKA Moscow side in Group G. Nikola Vlasic, on loan from Everton, gave CSKA a second-minute lead at the Luzhnik Stadium, profiting

from diabolical defending to rifle home from the edge of the Madrid penalty area.

Casemiro and Karim Benzema both hit the woodwork before half-time in Tuesday's tie, with coach Julen Lopetegui turning to Luka Modric and Mariano Diaz - who headed against the post late on - from the bench.

But with key men including Isco and Gareth Bale absent due to injury and captain Sergio Ramos rested, Madrid

fell to defeat at the Luzhnik Stadium and have now failed to score in three consecutive matches, with CSKA celebrating a famous win despite Igor Akinfeev's 96th-minute red card.

Kroos attempts to half-volley a pass back to Navas from just inside his own half and Varane and Navas make a mess of it, allowing Nikola Vlasic to nip in and slot home past the goalkeeper! What an unexpected start! 1-0 to the home side!

The Brazil midfielder wins possession near the halfway line and races towards the opposing penalty area, where he slows down and shoots before entering the 18, smacking his effort against the bottom of the post and out.

The delivery comes in from the right and the French striker is in a perfect spot as he meets it with a powerful header which evades Akinfeev's hand but smashes off the crossbar and pops up - allowing CSKA to clear the rebound out of their area.



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David Silva's late winner seals tough victory

After losing their first Group F match, Manchester City got off the mark at the second attempt in this season's Champions League.

Manchester City recovered from an abysmal start to end a run of four consecutive Champions League defeats with a 2-1 victory at Hoffenheim.

Pep Guardiola's side, who suffered a 2-1 loss at home to

Lyon in their Group F opener, fell behind inside 44 seconds on Tuesday.

But the Premier League champions bounced back to end the longest losing streak of an English side in the competition's history.

City, who were beaten in their last-16 second-leg clash with Basel before losing twice to Liverpool in the quarter-finals last season, quickly levelled through Sergio

Aguero.

And the turnaround was completed late on courtesy of David Silva's opportunistic strike just three minutes from time.

They go a goal up within 60 seconds as the midfielder breaks free of the defensive trap to latch onto a throughball from Demirbay on the right side of the box, which he duly slots past Ederson into the bottom-right corner.



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