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# The New Dawn

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## TRULY INDEPENDENT

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# Update on 16bn probe today



Mr. Cyril Allen

Ex-Pres. Sirleaf

# Cyril Allen receives lashes



# Continental News

## Melania Trump, US first lady, visits Ghana slave fort

**U**S First Lady Melania Trump has visited a former slave fort in Ghana on the second day of her solo trip to Africa.

She said the "dungeon is really something that people should see and experience" and "what happened so many years ago is really a tragedy".

People were kept naked and chained in the 17th Century Cape Coast Castle, waiting to be shipped as slaves.

Mrs Trump's African tour will include Kenya, Malawi and Egypt and is intended to promote children's welfare.

President Donald Trump has not visited Africa since taking office in January 2017.

In February, a row broke out after he allegedly used "shithole" to describe some African nations.

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

What has Mrs Trump been doing in Ghana?

The highlight on Wednesday was her tour of Cape Coast Castle, a major outpost on the Atlantic slave trading route.

She first paid a courtesy

visit to a local traditional ruler, Osabarimba Kwesi Atta II, meeting him in Obama Hall, named after former US President Barack Obama.

Mr Obama, the first African American president, visited the castle in 2009,

with his wife, Michelle, a descendant of African slaves, and their two daughters.

After being shown around the castle and given a history lesson about it, Mrs Trump said: "It's very emotional. I will never forget [the] incredible experience and the stories that I heard."

On Tuesday, Mrs Trump

visited, alongside Ghana's First Lady Rebecca Akufo-Addo, the Ridge Hospital in the capital, Accra.

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.-BBC



Image copyright DAILY GRAPHIC: Melania Trump paid a courtesy call on the local chief Osabarimba Kwesi Atta II before visiting the fort

## Sixty missing' after boat sinks near Guinea-Bissau

**U**p to 60 people, suspected to be migrants, are missing after the wooden fishing boat they were travelling in sunk during a storm off the coast of Guinea-Bissau, the authorities there say.

fuel, AFP news agency reports, quoting a naval officer.

The boat, which had a capacity of about 60 people, has been recovered, but none of the passengers have been found, the authorities say.



The navy was unable to help when the boat went down on Monday as it lacked the resources, national ports head Felix Siga told the BBC.

The coastguard has two speedboats, but they are often unable to leave the port because of a lack of

Guinea-Bissau has sometimes been used as a departure port for migrants trying to reach Europe, reports the BBC's Khady Lo.-BBC

## Cameroon's displaced thousands fear disenfranchisement

**I**f you have the polling card, you go and vote, but it's complicated once you're there," said Yagana Adi, 55, who wants to vote in Cameroon's presidential election on Sunday.

Her identity papers were

lost when she fled an attack on her village by Boko Haram jihadists in 2014.

The raid happened in Djakana in Cameroon's far north near the Nigerian border and forced her to abandon her home along with her 13 children.

"I said to the children that we were leaving, we walked for hours, days, and we arrived in Maroua," the regional capital, she said.

Two of her daughters did not manage to flee in time and were picked up by jihadists.

Nearly one in 10 people in the far north have followed a similar path to Yagana, fleeing repeated attacks by Boko Haram which is based in neighbouring Nigeria.

Roughly 80,000 have since returned home but 238,000 remain displaced, according to the International Organization for Migration.

Many have sought refuge with friends and family in the region's towns like Maroua.

"If you go into a Maroua neighbourhood, they're everywhere," said a humanitarian source on the ground.

"The problem is that they don't have their papers anymore and so can't register on the voter roll." - 'Challenges for displaced people?'

The electoral commission



The far north is Cameroon's most populous and poorest region and has previously voted overwhelmingly for President Paul Biya The far north is Cameroon's most populous and poorest region and has previously voted overwhelmingly for President Paul Biya (AFP Photo/ALEXIS HUGUET)

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[www.thenewdawnliberia.com](http://www.thenewdawnliberia.com)

Elecam has vowed that those who have been "displaced will be able to vote," according to the organising body's regional director Amadou Ali.

"They're not just displaced people -- they are voters. The

fact that they've been displaced will not have any impact on the election."

He added that people without their documents will be able to register to vote in the towns where they have sought refuge.-AFP

# 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.

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# COMMENTARY

By Helmut K. Anheier

## One Hundred Years of Ineptitude

*The 2008 crisis will most likely be remembered as a watershed moment - and not because it served as an effective wake-up call for policymakers. On the contrary, that crisis - and the failure of leaders to discern, much less act on, its lessons - may well open the way for many more crises in the coming decades.*

**B**ERLIN - The global financial and economic crisis that began in 2008 was the greatest economic stress-test since the Great Depression, and the greatest challenge to social and political systems since World War II. It not only put financial markets and currencies at risk; it also exposed serious regulatory and governance shortcomings that have yet to be fully addressed.

In fact, the 2008 crisis will most likely be remembered as a watershed moment, but not because it led to reforms that strengthened economic resilience and removed vulnerabilities. On the contrary, leaders' failure to discern, much less act on, the lessons of the Great Recession may open the way for a series of fresh crises, economic and otherwise, in the coming decades.

However serious those crises turn out to be, historians a century from now will likely despair at our shortsightedness. They will note that analysts and regulators were narrowly focused on fixing the financial system by strengthening national oversight regimes. While this was a worthy goal, historians will point out, it was far from the only imperative.

To prepare the world to confront the challenges posed by globalization and technological development in a way that supports sustainable and equitable growth, governance institutions and regulations at both the national and international levels must be drastically improved. Yet not nearly enough has been invested in this effort. Beyond regional bodies like the European Union, international financial governance has remained largely untouched.

Worse, because the partial fixes to the financial system will enable even more globalization, they will end up making matters worse, as strain on already-inadequate governance and regulatory frameworks increases, not only in finance, but also in other economic and technological fields. Meanwhile, enormous financial investments focused on securing a higher rate of return are likely to fuel technological innovation, further stressing regulatory systems in finance and beyond.

Major technological advances fueled by cheap money can cause markets to change so fast that policy and institutional change cannot keep up. And new markets can emerge that offer huge payoffs for early adopters or investors, who benefit from remaining several steps ahead of national and international regulators.

This is what happened in the run-up to the 2008 crisis. New technology-enabled financial instruments created opportunities for some to

make huge amounts of money. But regulators were unable to keep up with the innovations, which ended up generating risks that affected the entire economy.

This points to a fundamental difference between global crises of the twenty-first century and, say, the Great Depression in the 1930s or, indeed, any past stock-market crashes. Because of the financial sector's growth, more actors benefit from under-regulation and weak governance in the short term, making today's crises more difficult to prevent.

Complicating matters further, the systems affected by today's crises extend well beyond any one regulatory body's jurisdiction. That makes crises far unrulier, and their consequences - including their long-term influence on societies and politics - more difficult to predict.

The next crises - made more likely by rising nationalism and a growing disregard for science and fact-based policymaking - may be financial, but they could also implicate realms as varied as migration, trade, cyberspace, pollution, and climate change. In all of these areas, national and international governance institutions are weak or incomplete, and there are few independent actors, such as watchdog groups, demanding transparency and accountability.

This makes it harder not only to prevent crises - not least because it creates opportunities for actors to game the system and shirk responsibility - but also to respond to them. The 2008 crisis cast a harsh spotlight on just how bad we are at responding quickly to disasters, especially those fueled by fragmented governance.

To be sure, as the Hertie School's 2018 Governance Report shows, there have been some improvements in preparing for and managing crises. But we must become more alert to how developments in a wide range of fields - from finance to digital technologies and climate change - can elude the governance capacities of national and international institutions. We should be running crisis scenarios and preparing emergency plans for upheaval in all of these fields, and taking stronger steps to mitigate risks, including by managing debt levels, which today remain much higher in the advanced economies than they were before the 2008 crisis.

Moreover, we should ensure that we provide international institutions with the needed resources and responsibilities. And by punishing those who exacerbate risks for the sake of their own interests, we would strengthen the legitimacy of global governance and the institutions that are meant to conduct it.

As it stands, inadequate cross-border

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## O-PED

By William White

## Bad Financial Moon Rising

**B**ASEL - No one should overestimate economists' powers of understanding. Just as the magnitude of the global downturn that began in mid-2008 took most economists completely by surprise, so did the sclerotic nature of the recovery. Similarly, economic forecasts today appear to be nothing more than hopeful extrapolations of recent growth.

In reality, all is not well beneath the surface. Should another financial crisis materialize, the subsequent recession might be even costlier than the last one, not least because policymakers will face unprecedented economic and political constraints in responding to it.

Some take comfort in post-crisis improvements to global financial regulation, on the assumption that these measures will prevent financial distress from spilling over into the real economy. This is an ill-advised stance. The analytical foundations of many of these "improvements" appear shaky, and the challenges of implementing the new regulatory regime have proven formidable.

Perhaps most important, ultra-easy monetary policies have encouraged precisely the risky financial behavior that regulations were supposed to limit. With monetary policy firmly on the accelerator, and regulatory policies firmly on the brake, the likeliest result is heightened instability.

The most worrisome side effect of recent monetary policies has been a continuous increase in the ratio of non-financial debt to global GDP. Though the 2008 crisis offered an opportunity for deleveraging, the opposite has happened. Debt has piled up worldwide, with the biggest increases found in emerging-market private sectors.

The recovery in emerging-market economies was supposed to be part of the post-crisis solution. Now, these economies are part of the problem. The fact that much of this dollar-denominated debt has been issued by non-US residents means that another costly currency-mismatch crisis could be in store.

In addition to ballooning global debt levels, sky-high property prices seem to be heading for a turn, and "risk-free" long-term rates remain unusually low in many countries. Very low credit risk and term spreads, along with record-low measures of volatility, have invited still more risky behavior. Should these spreads normalize, the risks would come home to roost.

The record-high percentage of "covenant-lite" new loans (lacking many basic protections for the lender) further attests to excessive risk-taking. Of course, it also implies that recovery rates on bad loans (and associated collateralized loan obligations) could be unexpectedly high. The fact that asset-management companies and private-equity firms have increasingly displaced regulation-constrained banks as lenders has made it increasingly difficult to see what is actually going on, and to anticipate how future financial retrenchment might play out, particularly with respect to emerging markets.

Should financial markets begin to tighten, either spontaneously or in response to tighter monetary conditions, there is good reason to worry about overshooting. Owing to the major central banks' unconventional monetary policies over the past decade, the process of "price discovery" in financial markets has long been curtailed.

At this point, even "efficient" financial markets would struggle to adapt to normalization. And there have been many indications of financial-market inefficiency in recent years, including continuing anomalies such as the violation of covered interest parity conditions in foreign-exchange markets, bouts of reduced liquidity (partly owing to new regulations), and recurrent flash crashes. And to these "known knowns" we must add the "known unknowns" associated with algorithmic trading and passive investing.

A final major risk to the global economy is US President Donald Trump's administration, whose protectionist policies are threatening to slow real (inflation-adjusted) growth and drive up inflation. And while fiscal expansion in the United States might temporarily offset growth impediments, it, too, will exacerbate inflationary pressures and undermine longer-term debt sustainability. Moreover, both protectionism and fiscal expansion are strengthening the dollar, and thus squeezing US exporters and foreigners who have borrowed in dollars.

Complicating matters further, Trump's statement that he is not "thrilled" at the prospect of higher interest rates points to the risk of a too-compliant Federal Reserve ending up behind the inflationary curveball. When that happens, a recession typically follows.

Lastly, the Trump administration is increasingly using the dollar - and access to dollar clearing and funding - as a geopolitical weapon, risking retaliation and perhaps even jeopardizing the future of the dollar-based global monetary system.

All of these risks are raising the likelihood of a mass "hunkering down" in the face of future shocks. Worse, should the global economy experience another significant downturn, policymakers will find it much harder to respond than they did before. Initially low policy rates mean that central banks will have very little room for traditional monetary easing.

As for unconventional monetary policies, there is still much disagreement about their effectiveness. At any rate, new measures would imply further increasing central banks' balance sheets, which many (not least in Central Europe) already consider to be a potential source of future inflation.

Likewise, regardless of their merits, fiscal policies will almost certainly be constrained by leaders' fears of rapidly rising sovereign debt, especially in the major advanced economies. Another bank bailout would of course produce a severe political backlash. But even if the Fed was willing to risk it, provisions in the 2010 US Dodd-Frank financial reform legislation explicitly limit its discretion in such matters. Whether those provisions apply to the Fed's technical capacity to provide dollars to foreign central banks - as it did on a massive scale in late 2008 - remains to be seen.

An even bigger political constraint has emerged in the last decade. Whereas the 2008 crisis was a global phenomenon that elicited a global response, the growth of nationalist sentiment in many countries would likely impede similar cooperation. Would the US Congress now allow the Fed to lend trillions of dollars to "freeloading foreigners"?

Add to that the rise of China and India, and the US role in global leadership is less clear-cut than it was a decade ago. If another economic downturn were to fuel further nationalist gains and faster erosion of international cooperation, we could find ourselves on an old, familiar, and extremely dangerous path.

## OPINION

By Guy Verhofstadt

## Drain the EU Swamp

**S**TRASBOURG - Populist leaders have long made gains by posing as the alternative to a "corrupt elite" that enriches itself at the expense of "the people." According to the populists, only they can restore decency to governance. Or, as Donald Trump put it during the 2016 US presidential campaign, "I alone can fix it."

Trump made full use of the populist playbook, from labeling his opponent "Crooked Hillary" to promising that he would "drain the swamp." But it has now been almost two years since Trump's election, his administration is oozing scandals, and the swamp is deeper and murkier than ever.

Populists rarely deliver on their promises to clean up government, for a simple reason: Their real priority is to exploit the system for their own gain. This is clear in Central and Eastern Europe, where the region's mini-Trumpes are presiding over their own bogs of corruption.

In Poland, the de facto leader of the Law and Justice (PiS) party's government, Jarosław Kaczyński, consistently rails against corrupt elites at the same time that he erodes democratic institutions and staffs key positions with political cronies. The government has also taken over the management and distribution of vital funds for non-governmental organizations, increasing the likelihood that grant-making will be politically motivated to punish NGOs that are critical of official policy. The very NGOs that help to uncover corruption now stand to be corrupted.

Corruption withers in environments where journalists and watchdog groups can work without fear and repression. That is why right-wing populists are so bent on undermining, belittling, and censoring the free press. For his part, Trump decries serious journalism as "fake news," and maligns leading media outlets as "enemies of the people." Under Europe's mini-Trumpes, outright censorship and political capture of public-service broadcasting have become de rigueur. Since the PiS came to power, Poland's media ecosystem has been downgraded from "free" to "partly free" in Freedom House's annual rankings, owing to "government intolerance toward independent or critical reporting, excessive political interference in the affairs of public media, and restrictions on speech regarding Polish history and identity."

Similarly, in Hungary under Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's government, NGOs that receive foreign funding are stigmatized, obliged to follow burdensome reporting restrictions, and categorized as "foreign agents." These are measures that one would expect to find in Russia under President Vladimir Putin.

Moreover, as in Poland, the neutering of Hungarian civil society has created a fertile environment for corruption. Hungary's clean-government score on Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index slipped from 55 in 2012 to 45 in 2017, putting it below countries such as Saudi Arabia and Malaysia.

Once a champion of democracy, Orbán is now mired in corruption scandals stemming from his alleged acceptance of various in-kind contributions from a close circle of suspiciously successful entrepreneurs. Members of Orbán's government now routinely travel on private jets to attend soccer matches and all-inclusive hunting trips around Europe, and they are known to accompany the country's oligarchs on luxury yacht cruises. Public procurement contracts tend to be 25% above the market price, on average.

For the first time since its founding, the European Parliament recently voted to pursue sanctions against a European Union member state under Article 7 of the Lisbon Treaty, following the release of a damning report detailing the scale of illiberalism and corruption in Hungary. For all the populists' talk about the state being under siege by corrupt elites, it is they who are undermining their countries' reputations. Their hunger for power and personal enrichment, often born of a deep-seated authoritarianism, consistently trumps their supposed desire to deliver genuine reforms for the common good. And, as a practical matter, populists have a terrible track record on inequality, corruption, and criminality.

Unsurprisingly, many of the MEPs who still refuse to endorse formal action against Orbán's government happen to be embroiled in expense scandals of their own. For example, Europe of Nations and Freedom, the far-right parliamentary group comprising France's National Rally (formerly the National Front), Italy's League party, the Freedom Party of Austria, and the Dutch Party for Freedom, is alleged to have received €427,000 (\$493,000) in compensation for "unreasonable" and "noncompliant" expenses in 2016.

If we are going to stem the tide of corruption in Europe, it is imperative that EU institutions respond to breaches of the bloc's foundational values, starting with the attempts to stifle NGOs and the free press.

Ideally, Europol, the EU Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation, should be upgraded so that it has powers similar to those of the FBI in the United States. That means it would have the authority to initiate investigations anywhere in the EU, and to require that national-level law-enforcement agencies cooperate with its efforts.

Instead of protecting populist governments that are enabling corruption and, in some cases, looting EU funds, the EU should be using the mechanisms available under its treaties to ensure that all member-state governments are held to account. The defense of European values demands nothing less.

SEPTEMBER 24, 2018

**INVITATION FOR BIDS**

Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA)  
Menetamba Road, Cooper's Beach Community  
Payneville, Liberia

**Supply of Goods & Provision of Non-Consultancy Services**

Contract Identification No: **IFB No. LTA/SBA/NCB/002/18/19 (Vehicles Rental & Lease)**  
**IFB No. LTA/SBA/NCB/003/18/19(Printing & Binding Services)**  
**IFB No. LTA/NCB/004/18/19 (Office Furniture & Fixtures)**  
**IFB No. LTA/NCB/007/18/19 (Supply of WLAN Equipment and Installation)**

- The Government of Liberia, through the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA), has apportioned funds from its budget towards the cost of procuring assorted goods and services in different categories as stated in Lots.
- The Liberia Telecommunications Authority now invites qualified firms to submit sealed bids for the supply/provision of the below mentioned items/services. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) in keeping with procedures specified in the Amended and Restated Public Procurement and Concessions Act (PPC Act) of September 2010.  
The supply of these items, as per LTA's needs, in quantities and requirements are included in various Bid documents as per the packages below:


Ref: No	Procurement Package Description	Description of Lot	Quantity	Bid Security (USD)
IFB LTA/NCB/007/18/19	No. Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN)	N/A	Assorted	300.00
IFB LTA/NCB/007/18/19	No. Printing & Binding Services	N/A	Assorted	400.00
IFB LTA/SBA/NCB/002/18/19	No. Vehicle Rental & Lease	Lot 1 SUVs	Assorted	200.00
		Lot 2 Sedan	Assorted	200.00
IFB LTA/NCB/004/18/19	No. Office Furniture & Fixture	Lot 1 Furniture	Assorted	300.00
		Lot 2 Fixtures	Assorted	300.00

- Complete sets of soft copy of bidding documents can be obtained **free of charge** at the below address. Bid security and all requirements must be submitted together with bid document, and **must be per the amount stated in each lot above in Manager's Check or Bank Guarantee. Bids submitted electronically will not be accepted.**

**Qualification requirements include the following:**

- **Current Business Registration Certificate (Liberia Business Registry);**
  - **Current Tax Clearance Certificate (Liberia Revenue Authority);**
  - **Two (2) references of previous or current clients over the last two (2) years;**
  - **Proof of being registered with the Public Procurement & Concessions Commission (PPCC);**
  - **Company's profile**
  - **Availability of supply (ies)/preparedness to provide services upon the issuance of an approved Local Purchase Order (LPO) and within a minimum period of 10 days goods shall be delivered**
  - **Ability to pre-finance on an approved local purchase order after which payment will be made in two (2) weeks**
  - **All bids must be signed and sealed in an envelope before submission**
- You may obtain the soft copy of the bidding documents and further information from the Procurement & Logistics Section, Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA), 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Room # 029, from Monday- Friday ( 9:00 A.M- 5:00 P.M) daily.
  - Submission must be clearly marked, signed and sealed in an envelope, including other requested information as follows: For Example: **(IFB No: LTA/NCB/007/18/19)CONFIDENTIAL BID- for the Supply and Installation of Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN) Equipment to the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA) for Fiscal Year 2018/2019** and addressed to:

Procurement & Logistics Section  
Liberia Telecommunications Authority  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Room # 029  
Menetamba Road, Cooper's Beach  
ELWA Community, RIA Highway  
Paynesville, Liberia  
Mobile number: +231-886591857/777591857  
Web address: [www.lta.gov.lr](http://www.lta.gov.lr)

Signed:   
Prince G. Guah, Jr.  
Procurement & Logistics Manager

Approved:   
S. Blijah Elliott  
Director of Administration

# Police arrest 2 for attempted kidnap in Bong

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

Police in Bong County have arrested two suspects for allegedly attempting to kidnap a daycare student in Gbarnga, Bong County.

According to the regional commander of the Women and Children Protection Section (WACPS) of the Liberian National Police (LNP) in Bong County Jerri Holder, suspects

Suspect Kollie, believed to be 18 years old, notes that he was in route to the LPMC Community when he was asked by Andrew Paye to get Courage Flomo from the Daycare.

Instructors at the daycare discovered it when they interrogated suspect Kollie during his alleged attempt kidnap little Courage.

"He came and asked us to allow



Peter Kollie was arrested on Monday, 1 October when he went to kidnap little Courage Flomo from the New Born Christian Daycare School.

Peter Kollie, a resident of Gbalatuah, Zota District allegedly admitted of going for little Courage Flomo, but says he was sent by a man identified as Andrew Paye, who is commonly known as "Kermue Jaie".

student Courage to go with him. But because he appeared strange, we were eager to have asked him. But his explanation was not interesting and that's how we got to know," Nancy Korkollie, the proprietress of the School told our Bong County correspondent.--**Edited by Winston W. Parley**



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 99<sup>th</sup> 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 follow:  
In the upper left corner of the envelop, print:  
"SEALED BID FOR THE PRINTING AND DELIVERY OF SOUVENIR ITEMS"  
REF: 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

9. Note that Electronic bids will not be accepted, and that late bids will be rejected and returned unopened.  
Signed:   
Fatu Bath Tipoteh (Mrs.)  
DIRECTOR  
Procurement Department, UL

Approved:   
Vice President, UL Relations

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Liberia will not be worst under my regime

**-President Weah**

President George Manneh Weah is not mincing his words in assuring Liberians that during his administration, he would settle down for nothing less than transforming their standard of life.

President Weah vows that Liberia would not go down the pit or become worse under his regime.

Speaking Monday, October

ensure the achievement of national development and economic growth.

President Weah however adds that the country would not achieve its potential in development in the absence of sustained peace, reconciliation and unity amongst Liberians.

“Let bygone be bygone,” President Weah entreats Liberians, and reiterates, “Let us reconcile among ourselves and together we can build a

or retard development and growth in the country. Under my leadership, Liberia will not be a worse place, as I am very committed to my country’s development.”

He expresses gratitude to Liberians for demonstrating love and support for his administration.

The birthday gathering at which he made the assertions was the first since his ascendancy to the Presidency.

It was graced by a horde of Liberians, including partisans of the governing Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC), officials of government and members of the diplomatic corps.

Meanwhile, the government discloses plan to construct 87 kilometers of roads in Montserrado, Grand Bassa and Bong Counties.

Earlier in the day, President Weah broke grounds for the Dry Rice Market-Johnsonville-Mount Barclay road project to kick-start massive feeder road pavement projects in Montserrado, Bong and Grand Bassa Counties.

The groundbreaking ceremony preceded a tour of the ongoing coastal defense project in the Borough of New Kru Town, on Bushrod Island.

According to President Weah, the ongoing project will help save public institutions in the community, mainly the D. Twe High School which is hard hit by erosion.

“The project is not to just block the sea but to create the facility that will equally serve as a means for economic empowerment in the community”, President Weah concludes. **-Press Release**



1, during celebration of his 52nd birth anniversary in Monrovia, the President continues that his government would exert every effort necessary to explore and make use of all available means capable of creating a conducive environment for national development.

He maintains that his administration has the potential and willpower to

Liberia in which our people will prosper.”

The President notes that he carries a heart of deep love for Liberia and would do nothing wrong that will negatively affect or dissatisfy Liberians for whom he took risk to join politics.

“I love my country and I love you,” he says to jubilant supporters at his birthday party. “I will do nothing to tie

# Pres. Weah extols Germany

President George Manneh Weah congratulates the Government and people of the Federal Republic of Germany, on the occasion commemorating German Unity Day.

The Federal Republic of Germany Wednesday, October 3, commemorated German Unity Day, a Public holiday that commemorates the anniversary of German reunification in 1990, when the goal of the United Germany, which originated in the middle of the 19TH

join the people of Germany in this memorable celebration, the two leaders will reflect on the resilience of the human spirit demonstrated by the German people as they withstood the aftermath of World War II, which separated families and friends and artificially divided Germany.

The Liberian leader further recounts that despite the historical calamities, the world witnessed the restoration of a unified Germany, the landmark event of November 9, 1989, “which brought down the Berlin Wall and subsequently led to the Unification of Germany”.



Century, was fulfilled again.

In his message to Frank-Walter Steinmeier, President of the Federal Republic of Germany, President George Manneh Weah, on behalf of Liberia, extends heartfelt congratulations to the German leader, and through him, to the Government and people of Germany, as they commemorate this historic landmark in their national existence.

According to a Foreign Ministry release, President Weah also expresses confidence that as Liberians

Furthermore, President Weah says as the people of Germany celebrate this auspicious occasion, his Government will work closely with the Federal Republic of Germany in renewing cooperation in several fields including agriculture, science and technology, education amongst others.

President Weah then wishes for President Steinmeier good health and for the people of Germany joyful celebration. **- Press Release**

# Locals alarm over illegal crossing points

By Bridgett Milton

Bo Waterside Town Chief Zuannan Cole is alarming here that more has to be done to enhance security at three recognized and legal crossing points along the Liberia-Sierra Leone borders.

Speaking over the weekend in Grand Cape Mount County, Western Liberia, Mr. Cole alarmed that there are 53 illegal crossing points between Liberia and Sierra Leone, and only three recognized crossing points.

According to him there is lack of manpower in term of security in that part of the country as the ECOWAS Protocol seeks to enhance



trade and economic activities.

He notes that there are only two police officers in that

area, but they do not have means of transportation.

The local authority says this

causing the criminal rate to be on the increase there. He laments that the entire Grand Cape Mount County has only one police car assigned to convey officers.

He also complains of the lack of electricity as a social factor among several problems there.

Residents on both the

Liberian side of the border and Sierra Leonean side have spoken out at the occasion.

The residents called for the need to increase security, the provision of logistics, respect for the rights of citizens and the prevention of corruption at the border. **--Edited by Winston W. Parley**

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# MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Govt. needs synchronized communication strategy

### -Former Minister Bropleh

By Winston W. Parley

In the wake of continued blame games among current and past officials over alleged missing 16 billion Liberian Dollars, former Information Minister Rev. Dr. Lawrence Bropleh is recommending the need for well coordinated and synchronized government communication strategy here.

"The first thing is there need to be a coordinated and synchronized government communication strategy," Dr. Bropleh told local broadcaster OK FM Wednesday morning, 3 October.

The former minister who served former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf's regime as chief spokesperson, suggests that politics should be removed from governance, in direct response to varieties of defense coming from numerous unofficial government spokespersons in the current administration of President George Manneh Weah.

"You can't be reactionary, we must be able to respond," he says, adding that the goal as media people or government

communication people is to be able to allay the situation to rest but not to heap up the matter.

Instead, he observes "the uncoordinated, unsynchronized statements from various sectors of the government" including the unofficial spokespersons of government who go on radio almost every day to lend credence to the allegation of

missing billions Liberian Dollars.

According to him, this issue has hurt the image of the country and people have got erroneous perception about President Weah already.

Bropleh expresses his love for the country and his wishes for this government's success, thus advising that "when we slip, we need to regroup."

Dr. Bropleh maintains that this administration is "playing into the erroneous perception

..." that something indeed went wrong, especially by even holding a report from an internal investigation reportedly conducted at the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) which former President Sirleaf continuously spoke about.

According to Dr. Bropleh, Mrs. Sirleaf in fact made reference to a Central Bank report and pondered why the Weah regime wouldn't release it to the public.

For Dr. Bropleh, it doesn't matter who broke the news in this alleged L\$15.5 billion matter, but he says "the reaction when the news is broken has got us to where we are."

The former Information Minister places special emphasis on the depth of government responses to this matter, saying they gave credence that something has happened.

In spite of this, ex-minister Bropleh however says he does not believe that it is the reality when people go on social media to question President Weah on why he is undertaking personal projects at this time, noting that it is about perception.

In addition to a Justice Ministry statement announcing a probe into information surrounding the money being brought into the country, current Information Minister Eugene Nagbe told the BBC that there were no records that the banknotes in question were delivered to the central bank or had been put into circulation.

But Finance Minister Samuel Tweah subsequently differed with the government chief spokesperson and announced that no money was missing.

The current regime rather suggested that ahead of its inception on 22 January this year, the money was brought into the country in November 2017 during former President Sirleaf's rule and President George Manneh Weah's administration was not informed about it.

Responses from the various government officials here pushed former President Sirleaf to speak out, saying no money was missing.

This money matter led the Weah regime to place several persons of interest under investigation including travel restriction which affect ex-President Sirleaf's son Charles

Sirleaf and ex-bank governor Milton Weeks.

But ex - minister Bropleh indicates that Mr. Weah's newly appointed Central Bank Governor Nathaniel Patray has always been a senior executive at the CBL.

While Patray sits as Governor at the CBL, Dr. Bropleh is left to ponder if the new governor is not in the know of a report laying at the Bank when somebody comes out and says a container and some money [that came] through the Roberts International Airport (RIA) didn't land at the CBL.

"Are you not in the know of that? You're now the governor. Do you not know that there's this report that's been laying there? So the governor says nothing to that effect," Bropleh continues.

According to Dr. Bropleh, Governor Patray's silence and support to the investigation further contributes to the perception of missing moneys here, especially when Patray ordered at one point that no CBL staff would go home until they find the money.

While Dr. Bropleh supports a thorough and detailed investigation, he however expresses hope that there is no missing money.

Reacting to Dr. Bropleh's comments, ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) Rep. Acarous Gray agrees with Dr. Bropleh that not too many persons should be speaking for the government.

However, Rep. Gray argues that there will be zealous whether in government or outside the government that will support the administration.

He notes that the issuance of a statement by the CBL that no money is missing does not undermine ongoing investigation.

However, Rep. Gray says lawmakers will most likely hold a public hearing with the CBL because surrounding the printing of additional 10 billion.

At the same time, Rep. Gray accuses former President Sirleaf of being very derogatory and demeaning in her interview when she questioned whether they even understood the GDP of the country or what they had placed the country through.

Rep. Gray says he agrees with Dr. Bropleh that the country should be run under a peaceful and cordial atmosphere.

He clarifies that Minister Nagbe had said the money printed was 16 billion, but he didn't say it got missing.



## "Growth in Sub-saharan Africa slower than expected"

### --Chief Economist for Africa

By Ethel A. Tweh

The Chief Economist for Africa Albert Zeufack says the growth in Sub Saharan Africa is slower than expected.

According to a release, Mr. Zeufack notes that the Sub Saharan economies are still recovering from the slowdown in 2015/16.

According to the October 2018 Issue of Africa's Pulse launched Wednesday, 3 October, the average growth rate in the region is estimated at 2.7% in 2018, which represents a slight increase from 2.3% in 2017.

Speaking at the launch of the 18th Edition of the Africa's Pulse at their World Bank Office in Monrovia, Albert Zeufack says in order to accelerate and sustain an inclusive growth momentum, policy makers must continue to focus on investments that foster human capital, reduce resource misallocation and

boost productivity.

"Policymakers in the region must equip themselves to manage new risks arising from changes in the composition of capital flows and debt," he says.

Mr. Zeufack furthers that slow growth is partially a reflection of a less favorable external environment for the region.

According to him, global trade and industrial activity lost momentum as metals and agriculture prices fell due to concerns about trade tariffs and weakening demand prospects.

Mr. Zeufack discloses that growth in the three largest countries including Nigeria, Angola and South Africa is sluggish, saying lower oil production in Angola offset higher oil prices and in South Africa, weak household consumption growth was compounded by a contraction in agriculture.

He adds that growth in the region excluding the three largest countries is steady.

According to Mr. Zeufack, several oil exports in Central Africa were helped by higher oil prices and increase in oil production.

He observes that economic activity remained solid in the fast growing non resource rich countries, such as Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya and Rwanda, supported by agricultural production and services on the production side, and household consumption and public investment on the demand side.

The Lead Economist and lead author of the report Cesar Calderon says public debt continues to rise in African countries, exposing the countries to risk.

According to Mr. Calderon, vulnerability to weaker currencies and rising interest rates associated with the changing composition of debt may put the region's public debt sustainability further at risk.

He adds that the domestic risk includes fiscal slippage, conflicts and weather shocks.

According to the Lead Economists, the issue of Africa's Pulse highlights sub-Saharan Africa's lower labor

productivity and potentials for improvement.

He recommends that reforms should include policies which encourage investments

in non resource sectors, generate jobs and improve the efficiency of firms and workers.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

# Français

## Fausse alerte ! « Pas d'argent disparu ! »

**A** lors que l'enquête sur la disparition présumée de 16 milliards de dollars libériens est encore en cours, la Banque centrale du Libéria (CBL) a déclaré qu'il n'y a pas d'argent perdu, appelant le gouvernement à lever les restrictions imposées sur son personnel « afin de ne pas interrompre le bon fonctionnement de la banque ».

Plusieurs cadres de la CBL, dont l'ancien gouverneur exécutif, J. Milton Weeks, et le gouverneur adjoint, Charles Sirleaf, ont été mis en examen.

"La Banque centrale du Libéria tient à préciser au grand public et à ses partenaires qu'il ne manque pas de 16 milliards de dollars libériens, contrairement à ce que disent les médias", a déclaré la CBL dans un communiqué de presse publié le mardi 2 octobre.

La déclaration de la CBL intervient juste après que le



président George Manneh Weah a écarté toute possibilité de la disparition de l'argent sous son régime, bien avant les conclusions de l'enquête indépendante à laquelle le gouvernement a affirmé avoir invité des institutions internationales réputées à contribuer.

Le président Weah a déclaré

que si de l'argent est perdu, ça ne peut être que sous le régime de son prédécesseur, l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf.

Selon la CBL, ses archives indiquent que la somme totale qui a été imprimée et placée dans ses réserves s'est élevée à 15,5 milliards de libériens au cours de la période 2016-2018.

La Banque indique que ce montant a été vérifié à partir de ses documents internes et des documents reçus de Crane Currency of Sweden, l'imprimeur sous contrat de la monnaie en question.

Elle ajoute que son évaluation interne des sommes imprimées et importées au Libéria entre 2016 et 2018 est terminée.

La Banque affirme ne disposer d'aucun document montrant que les fonds imprimés sous son autorité n'ont pas encore été livrés dans ses coffres de réserve.

La banque ajoute en outre que les archives de Crane Currency of Sweden montrent que la société a livré 15,5 milliards de dollars libériens par l'intermédiaire du port de Monrovia et de l'aéroport international Roberts entre 2016 et 2018. La CBL a dit avoir

enregistré toutes ces sommes et les avoir livrées dans ses coffres-forts.

La déclaration de la CBL suscite des interrogations. Pourquoi il lui a fallu plus de trois semaines après l'annonce de la disparition des conteneurs et des sacs d'argent, confirmée par la suite par le ministre de l'Information, Lenn Eugene Nagbe, pour apporter ce démenti.

La Banque Centrale se félicite toutefois de l'élargissement de l'équipe d'enquête avec l'inclusion des institutions locales et des institutions internationales telles que le gouvernement des États-Unis, l'Union africaine, l'Union européenne, la CEDEAO, les Nations Unies et le FMI.

Selon la CBL, le gouvernement libérien et ses partenaires s'emploient actuellement à faire appel aux services d'un cabinet international d'experts réputé pour mener un audit de tous les flux d'argent imprimé entre 2016 et 2018.

La Banque centrale s'est engagée à coopérer avec l'enquête et à mettre à disposition tous les documents en sa possession pour faciliter ladite enquête.

La Banque confirme en outre que tous les employés de la CBL s'engagent à coopérer pleinement avec l'enquête et continueront à se mettre à la disposition de la commission d'enquête chaque fois qu'ils seront sollicités.

## Procès Gbagbo et Blé Goudé: l'accusation en difficulté

**A** La Haye, au procès de Laurent Gbagbo et Charles Blé Goudé, la parole est depuis deux jours à l'accusation, qui a répété mardi qu'un plan commun, destiné à Laurent Gbagbo, avait été mis en place pour éliminer des civils pro-Ouattara. Mais l'accusation se heurte à une difficulté : parvenir à prouver que les exactions commises sont un crime contre l'humanité.

Avec notre envoyé spécial à La Haye, Pierre Firton

Le substitut du procureur avait certes marqué des points

mardi matin, lorsqu'il avait lu un extrait du discours prononcé à Divo par Laurent Gbagbo le 27 août 2010. Discours dans lequel le président ivoirien en exercice avait lancé aux CRS, « s'il y a des dégâts, les juges après rétabliront ».

« Laurent Gbagbo a incité les forces qui lui étaient loyales à commettre des crimes », en a alors conclu Eric MacDonald. Mais malgré cela les éléments mis en avant par l'accusation pour tenter de prouver le crime contre l'humanité sont apparus plus fragiles. Car, pour caractériser un

tel crime, il faut démontrer l'existence d'un plan concerté du pouvoir pour éliminer les civils pro-Ouattara.

Or, sur ce dernier point, Eric MacDonald est en apparu en difficulté, ayant du mal à démontrer que ces éliminations de civils avaient un caractère systématique. Quant à une présumée planification de ces exactions, le substitut du procureur a admis qu'il n'existait pas de preuve écrite de son existence. Et l'argument selon lequel ce plan aurait été concocté lors de réunions régulières entre Laurent Gbagbo et son entourage immédiat est apparu pour le moins léger.

La défense avait d'ailleurs répondu il y a quelques mois qu'il était normal que le président ivoirien réunisse ses proches en période d'instabilité.

L'accusation maintient ses accusations envers Charles Blé Goudé

Le substitut du procureur a confirmé qu'il retirait ses accusations contre Charles Blé Goudé pour les crimes commis à Abobo en mars 2011, à savoir la répression d'une manifestation de femmes et le bombardement d'un marché. Mais Eric MacDonald a aussitôt ajouté que cela ne modifiait pas de façon substantielle les crimes reprochés à l'ancien ministre de

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Laurent Gbagbo.

Aux yeux de l'accusation, ce dernier s'est non seulement engagé dans un effort soutenu pour mobiliser les jeunes afin qu'ils commettent des actes violents, mais les instructions qu'il leur a données avant plusieurs incidents ont eu un effet direct sur la commission des crimes.

« Le 24 février 2011, monsieur Blé Goudé prononce un discours pour les jeunes, sur la télévision nationale, à 20h. Dans ce discours, il appelle tous les jeunes de la Côte d'Ivoire d'empêcher les convois des Nations unies de sortir de la commune d'Abidjan », rappelle Eric MacDonald. « Puis, le 25 février 2011, monsieur Blé Goudé, sur la RTI, exhorte les jeunes pro-Gbagbo à monter sur

des barricades et à commettre des actes de violence. On note que monsieur Blé Goudé demande aux jeunes de contrôler les allées et venues dans leur quartier. Ils ont pour mission de rapporter toute présence ou arrivée d'étrangers. »

Pour le substitut du procureur, Charles Blé Goudé était un intermédiaire essentiel entre le président ivoirien de l'époque et les jeunes pro-Gbagbo. Mais, là encore, la démonstration de l'accusation s'est fragilisée au moment de prouver que les exactions commises contre les civils pro-Ouattara étaient systématiques et qu'elles résultaient d'un plan concerté.

L'accusation avancera ses derniers arguments ce mercredi matin, avant que n'interviennent les représentants des victimes.





# Français

## Éditorial

### Les Libériens ont de quoi être inquiets

Le président George Manneh Weah a semblé non seulement furieux, mais aussi agressif le dimanche 30 septembre dès son retour de New York. Il a proféré des menaces et même des invectives contre les Libériens pour avoir protesté et appelé la communauté internationale à aider son gouvernement à l'enquête sur la disparition présumée des 16 milliards de dollars libériens.

Prenant la parole à l'église Dominion Christian Fellowship, le long du boulevard Tubman, lors d'un culte d'action de grâce organisé pour lui dire bonne arrivée de la 73e Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, le président Weah s'en est pris aux citoyens pour n'avoir pas fait preuve de patience dans le cadre des enquêtes en cours.

«La campagne est terminée. Que ce soit le parti de la liberté, le parti de l'unité ou encore des gens qui pensent que cet argent a disparu qui soient descendus dans la rue, et bien ils ont mal fait, car ils mettaient la vie des enfants des autres en danger », a-t-il dit.

Pourtant, avant que le président ne monte sur la chaire pour prendre la parole, même l'archevêque Isaac S. Winker de l'Église Dominion Christian Fellowship l'a exhorté brièvement à accélérer l'enquête et à faire part de ses découvertes au peuple libérien, en avertissant : « Cette question d'argent, Monsieur le Président, ne doit pas être prise à la légère, le peuple libérien veut savoir ce qui en est de l'argent. »

Quand un problème d'une ampleur aussi grande que l'affaire des 16 milliards de dollars libériens portés disparus touche le pays, les citoyens ont le droit de faire part de leurs inquiétudes, tout comme d'ailleurs le reste du monde entier, car c'est bien leur bien-être social et leur joie de vivre qui sont ici en jeu.

Et comment auraient-ils pu exprimer leur inquiétude autrement à part manifester pacifiquement comme ils l'ont fait le lundi 24 septembre ? Devraient-ils ignorer une question aussi grave qui affecte leur destin en tant que nation ? Non !

La Sainte Bible à laquelle tous les chrétiens souscrivent nous rappelle que la voix de l'homme est la voix de Dieu, ce qui signifie que lorsque les gens se lèvent pour des questions qui menacent leur survie, c'est Dieu qui parle ; par conséquent, le chef doit écouter avec humilité et agir en conséquence.

Même l'archevêque Winker a fait part de son inquiétude lorsqu'il dit devant le président, lors du culte d'action de grâce, que l'enquête sur la disparition présumée des 16 milliards de dollars libériens ne devrait pas être prise à légère comme ça a été le cas pour la subvention japonaise et l'apparition d'un étrange navire sur les côtes du Libéria, entre autres.

Il convient donc de rappeler au président Weah que personne ne l'accuse personnellement d'être impliqué dans la disparition présumée des « conteneurs et des sacs d'argent », mais en tant que chef de l'État, il doit rendre des comptes à son pays, car il s'agit bien des fonds publics. Et c'est la demande du peuple libérien telle qu'elle a été exprimée lors de sa récente marche pacifique.

Les Libériens, qu'ils appartiennent ou non à des partis politiques de l'opposition, demandent pacifiquement à leur gouvernement de rendre des comptes pour les sommes d'argent imprimées à l'étranger, introduites dans le pays et qui auraient été portées disparues. Que cela ne soit interprété comme une inimitié à l'égard du président ou de son gouvernement. C'est leur droit.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Helmut K. Anheier

### Un siècle d'incompétence

**B**ERLIN - La crise financière et économique survenue en 2008 a constitué la plus grande mise à l'épreuve économique depuis la Grande Dépression, ainsi que le plus important défi auquel ont été confrontés le système social et le système politique depuis la Seconde Guerre mondiale. Elle a non seulement mis en péril les marchés financiers et les monnaies, mais également exposé un certain nombre de défaillances réglementaires et de gouvernance, qui ne sont encore aujourd'hui pas entièrement résolues.

En effet, la crise de 2008 laissera certainement derrière elle le souvenir d'un moment charnière, mais pas parce qu'elle aura conduit à des réformes permettant de renforcer la résilience économiques et de mettre un terme aux vulnérabilités. Au contraire, l'incapacité des dirigeants à tirer les leçons de la Grande Récession, et à agir en conséquence, risque d'ouvrir la voie à une série de nouvelles crises, économiques ou autres, au cours des prochaines décennies.

Quel que soit le degré de gravité des crises qui nous attendent, les historiens du siècle prochain observeront sans doute avec désolation notre manque de vision à long terme. Ils raconteront comment les analystes et régulateurs se sont étroitement concentrés sur la réparation du système financier en renforçant les programmes nationaux de courte vue. Les historiens y verront certes une démarche compréhensible, mais certainement pas constitutive de l'unique impératif.

Pour préparer le monde à affronter les défis engendrés par la mondialisation et le développement technologique, dans une démarche de durabilité et de croissance équitable, les institutions de gouvernance et les réglementations au niveau national et international devront être radicalement améliorées. Or, les efforts investis à cet égard se révèlent bien insuffisants. Au-delà d'organes régionaux tels que l'Union européenne, la gouvernance financière internationale demeure largement inchangée.

Pire encore, dans la mesure où les correctifs partiels apportés au système financier permettront encore davantage de mondialisation, ils finiront par aggraver la situation, à mesure qu'augmentera la pression sur une gouvernance et des cadres réglementaires déjà inadéquats, pas seulement dans le domaine de la finance, mais également en matière économique et technologique. Dans le même temps, il faut s'attendre à ce que les investissements colossaux consacrés à la sécurisation de taux de rendement supérieurs alimentent l'innovation technologique, éprouvant encore davantage les systèmes réglementaires dans le domaine de la finance et au-delà.

Les avancées technologiques majeures appuyées par l'argent bon marché peuvent conduire les marchés à évoluer si rapidement que le changement politique et institutionnel ne peut suivre le rythme. De nouveaux marchés peuvent par ailleurs émerger, et conférer des gains considérables aux adopteurs et investisseurs précoces, qui bénéficient de leurs quelques pas d'avance restante par rapport aux régulateurs nationaux et internationaux.

C'est ce qu'il s'est produit à l'approche de la crise de 2008. De nouveaux instruments financiers nés de la technologie ont créé des opportunités permettant à quelques-uns d'amasser des sommes considérables. Or, les régulateurs ne sont pas parvenus à suivre le rythme des innovations, ce qui a fini par générer des risques qui ont affecté

l'économie entière.

Intervient ici une différence fondamentale entre les crises mondiales du XXIe siècle et par exemple la Grande Dépression des années 1930, ou en réalité n'importe quel krach boursier passé. Compte tenu de la croissance du secteur financier, davantage d'acteurs bénéficient d'une sous-réglementation et d'une faible gouvernance à court terme, ce qui rend les crises d'aujourd'hui plus difficile à prévenir.

Ajoutant à cette complexité, les systèmes affectés par les crises contemporaines s'étendent au-delà de la compétence de n'importe quel organe réglementaire. Les crises se révèlent ainsi encore plus ingérables, et leurs conséquences - y compris leur influence sur les sociétés et les politiques - plus difficiles à prédire.

Les prochaines crises - qui découleront probablement d'un nationalisme grandissant, ainsi que d'une absence croissante de prise en compte des sciences et prises de décisions politiques basées sur les faits - seront peut-être financières, mais elles pourraient impliquer également des aspects aussi divers que les migrations, le commerce, le cyberspace, la pollution et le changement climatique. Dans tous ces domaines, les institutions de gouvernance nationales et internationales sont faibles ou incomplètes, et rares sont les acteurs indépendants, tels que les groupes de vigilance, à exiger transparence et responsabilité.

Ceci rend plus difficile non seulement la prévention des crises - notamment parce qu'apparaissent des opportunités permettant aux acteurs de se jouer du système et de fuir leur responsabilité - mais également la réponse aux crises. Celle de 2008 a violemment mis en lumière combien nous échouons à répondre rapidement aux catastrophes, notamment à celles engendrées par une gouvernance fragmentée.

Bien entendu, comme le démontre le rapport 2018 de la Hertie School sur la gouvernance, des progrès ont été accomplis dans la prévention et la gestion des crises. Nous devons cependant nous montrer plus vigilants face au risque de voir des événements survenant dans des domaines très divers - de la finance aux technologies numériques en passant par le changement climatique - échapper aux capacités de gouvernance des institutions nationales et internationales. Nous devons dresser des scénarios de crise, élaborer des plans d'urgence face aux éventualités de bouleversement dans tous les domaines, et prendre des mesures plus fortes pour atténuer les risques, notamment en gérant les niveaux de dette, qui demeurent aujourd'hui encore plus élevés qu'avant la crise de 2008 dans les économies développées.

Il nous faut par ailleurs veiller à conférer aux institutions internationales les ressources et les responsabilités nécessaires. De même, en sanctionnant ceux qui accentuent les risques pour servir leurs propres intérêts, nous pourrions renforcer la légitimité de la gouvernance mondiale et des institutions censées la conduire.

En l'état actuel des choses, une mauvaise coordination transfrontalière et une mise en application insuffisante des accords internationaux font considérablement obstacle à la prévention et gestion des crises. Or, loin de remédier à cette fragilité, le monde renoue avec un modèle obsolète de souveraineté nationale qui plus probables encore les crises de différents types. À moins que nous changions rapidement de cap, le monde de 2118 aura toutes les raisons de nous regarder avec condescendance.

# LIBERIANS DEBATE

With Sally H. Gaye Cell#: 0886726282 Email:sh0770291004@gmail.com



**A**mid ongoing investigation by the Government of Liberia into the alleged missing 16 billion Liberian banknotes, the Central Bank of Liberia says no 16 billion LRD is missing, disclosing that all moneys printed abroad and brought into the country are in its reserve vaults. The Bank is therefore, calling on the Government to vacate its writ and remove travel restriction placed on CBL staff “so as not to interrupt the smooth operations of the CBL.”  
 The New Dawn randomly samples views of some Liberians in Monrovia, what they make of the statement from the Central Bank, and how could it impact the current probe.



**Junior Gaye**

“But why the Central Bank did not tell the Liberian people for over 2 months? Why now my dear? They were here when some Liberians took the street and protested in the name of missing money and there was risk of people losing their lives in the process. It’s better we keep the information and communication going well from the government to the people to stop misunderstanding, because some Liberians believe this is government is [not] the best to run the country and they will do anything to cause problem.”



**Dennis Kromah**

“Not as we insinuate. We all made grave allegation which didn't point fingers at few people but all of us as a nation and spread across the globe. By the CBL stating that no money got missing does not suggest it is the official statement of the govt. The fact that we have already convicted some people even before arrest and trial with a mindset, no amount of information provided even if it is true will ever convince us. The only way out is for an int'l team of experts to do what we can't do for ourselves and thanks to the EU which has hired KMPG, an int'l auditing firm to be in Liberia to either authenticate our claims or prove us wrong. What a national embarrassment! The CBL communication team blundered. In Crisis Communication, you cannot play ostrich and expect the crisis to go away.”

**Joseline Thomas**

“I left money in the Cupboard. I met the Country completely broke; it is not \$9 billion LRD, but 15.5LRD or something around \$16 billion LRD. No money is missing. Others should have been studying or doing more research but are around here, causing noise that money is missing. Presently, no money is missing; it is in the vaults of the Central Bank. Who is telling the true? So your want dilute our heart concerning our money issue? Let this government do something for the people to show the difference between them and other governments.”



**Princess Zeogar**

“After the very first newspaper reported about the missing billions, they should have immediately reacted in a robust manner in presenting the facts. Any further newspaper's report would be viewed as their voices versus that of the CBL, which is the legal custodian of the money. Public believability in newspapers' reports about the disappearance of 16 billion LRD would not have reached the level it has reached. Anyway, they need to clean up the mess.”



**Robert Kparsuah**

“I can imagine what the President went through at the UNGA. While maneuvering to ask his colleagues for assistance on the sideline of the Assembly to build his country, it is all on the news that the equivalence of US\$ 100 million disappeared under his watch. And to add insult to injury, other people calling



themselves Liberians did not just exercise their right to protest, but appeal to the international community not to send a dime to Liberia when the government has already commenced an investigation to establish the facts. Hope the CBL will not cause more problems for us by this statement, because some Liberians are just willing to get in the streets and spoil government name.

# Update on 16bn probe today

By Winston W. Parley

The Liberian Government announces that it will provide update to the public today, Thursday, 4 October from ongoing investigation surrounding alleged missing 16 billion Liberian Dollars.

The pronouncement via mobile on OK Fm Wednesday afternoon, 3 October comes after both President George Manneh Weah and his newly appointed Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) Governor Nathaniel Patray announced this week that no money went missing ahead of the outcome of the investigation.

Mr. Weah on Monday ruled out the possibility of money being missing under his regime, but suggested it may be during former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf's regime.

Subsequently, the CBL on Tuesday announced that no money was missing, telling the public that L\$15.5 billion printed and brought into the country between 2016 and 2018 were all delivered in CBL vaults.

But the Bank's account is receiving mixed - reactions here, with some wondering as



to why it took over a month for the Bank to establish that it had the money in its vaults while current and past officials continue to trade blames over who was responsible for the alleged missing money.

However some people are saying it is highly unlikely that today's update from the special investigative team set up by President Weah will contradict the president and the CBL's conclusions that no money is missing.

According to Deputy Information Minister Eugene Fahngon, all journalists are invited to today's update from

the investigation at the Ministry of Information on Capitol Hill.

Beside a Justice Ministry statement in September that investigation was being conducted surrounding this matter, current Information Minister Eugene Nagbe told the BBC that there were no records that the banknotes in question were delivered to the central bank or had been put into circulation.

The current regime suggested that ahead of its inception on 22 January this year, the money was brought into the country in November

2017 during former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf's rule and President George Manneh Weah's administration was not informed about it.

Responses from the various government officials here pushed former President Sirleaf to speak out, saying no money was missing and challenged the Justice Ministry to release the CBL report.

In the wake of unfolding events here, Mrs. Sirleaf's former Information Minister Dr. Lawrence Bropleh proffered some advices to the Weah regime Wednesday, 3 October to have a well coordinated and synchronized government communication strategy.

Provoked by the alleged missing billions issue, Mr. Weah vowed this week that whoever took the money would be made to return it or face the weight of law. In case the investigation establishes that there is no missing money, Mr. Weah also threatens to get journalists who reported such story to come forward to answer questions as to why they made such statement that "can bring war."

"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.

## Cyril Allen receives lashes

The head of the Governing Council of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change Chief Cyril Allen receives public condemnation here for derogatory comments made against former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf in a recent post on social media.

Chief Allen recently posted a strongly-worded letter on social media, cautioning former president Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to be mindful of her utterances in the wake of the missing 16 billion Liberian dollars quagmire.

He spoke with a local radio

station in Monrovia Wednesday, defending his comments against former President Sirleaf.

"Let her be aware of the fact that her utterances could affect the country and undermine the government. You should not think that we are weak", he warns.

But no sooner had he left the line when callers damned him and dismissed his comments, describing them as too harsh for a former stateswoman.

They note that Chief Allen's posture was not helping the process, but bent on seeking favor from President George

Manneh Weah.

One caller specifically demands that Chief Allen issue an apology to Madam Sirleaf for his derogatory letter posted on social media.

"He should have engaged Madam Sirleaf, rather than behaving like a person going to rebel war", the caller points out.

Chief Allen's post was subsequently followed by emotional outbursts spewed by President George Manneh Weah during an intercessory service on Sunday, 30 September held at the Dominion Christian Fellowship Central Church along Tubman Boulevard for his safe return home after addressing the 73rd General Assembly of the United Nations.

In an apparent reaction to ex-president Sirleaf President Weah roared, "...You know GDP, but for 12 years you could not connect Doe Community with paved road; with all your GDP, you could not pay WASSCE fees for students; my government came to power and paid."

In an interview with the BBC recently following reports of the missing moneys, the former president refuted the figure 16 billion LRD, and asked whether the current administration knew the Gross Development Product (GDP) of Liberia, and level of harm done

## Liberians voice

Starts from back page

did mention LD600 million was left in the reserve vaults, wondering how it could be possible now for the Central Bank governor to tell the public that LD15 billion is in the vaults.

"In the interview with former President Sirleaf, when she was asked in respect to the missing LD16 billion, she said look at the capacity of our GDP, that is far beyond the line, and the Finance Minister said 1.5 billion, so that is two different things: the Information Minister did mention between LD15 and 16 billion, so much contradiction that give clue that something is wrong somewhere," Sarnor narrates.

He continues that the government in collaboration with the Central Bank came up with that statement just to gain national and international credibility, pointing out if Central Bank says nothing is missing, that's far from the truth.

"You see what this

government has done? People coming up to say money is not missing, money is missing and the people know that something is going on; you remember when the president came on the radio the last time and said the Liberian people should hold their heart small because there is no money, and I came on the radio and said money in this country because if the president want us to hold our heart, he should stop building houses and focus on the people who elected him," argues Montserrado County district#10 Representative Yekeh Kolubah.

Representative Kolubah notes that now the President has come back with GDP, noting that it is good the words of war is between President Weah and former President Sirleaf because either President Weah exposes former President Sirleaf or former President Sirleaf will expose President Weah.

- Editing by Jonathan Browne



Mr. Cyril Allen

Ex-Pres. Sirleaf

to the country's reputation as a result of releasing the alarming figure.

But Chief Allen notes in his post that Madam Sirleaf has demonstrated, a characteristic of her, the unchanging attitude of ingratitude, total and complete disregard for friendship, loyalty and mutual respect.

"My candid advice to you can only be said in a few words. Never you step on the tail of a loin whether it is living or

dead", said Mr. Allen, also chairman emeritus of jailed ex-president Charles Taylor's former ruling National Patriotic Party (NPP). The NPP is member of the three-party ruling Coalition for Democratic Change that brings together President Weah's Congress for Democratic Change (CDC), the National Patriotic Party (NPP) and the Liberian People Democratic Party (LPDP) of indicted ex-speaker Alex Tyler.

Story by Jonathan Browne

# Liberians voice frustrations

## -Over CBL's denial



By Ben P. Wese

Barely a day after the Central Bank of Liberia categorically denied here that 16 billion Liberian dollars went missing, as was reported in the media, Liberians at home and abroad seem divided over response coming from the CBL.

Expressing outrage on the missing moneys saga via mobile phone on a live talk show hosted by a local radio station in Monrovia

Wednesday, 03 October, a resident of Paynesville James Kamara squarely blames the Central Bank for the misunderstanding and confusion, questioning why all this while the CBL kept silent, if there were no money missing, causing the country's image to be tainted black, particularly in the international community.

"CBL should have come up long time and tell the Liberian people this is what unfolding;

they just make people to feel bad about their own country; you see how were going now, how things looking in the country now? The Central Bank is causing more problems and among the government officials, no communication, anybody can just come up speak on behalf of the government," James angrily expresses.

"Why you guys contradicting yourselves, now you are praising former President Sirleaf; are you guys serious? Even if fifteen billion in the vault, who authorized the other 10.5 billion LRD? The only legal money is the 5 billion LRD that was approved. The 10.5 billion LRD is illegal; the former president is still involved," asserts Quincy T, a talk show host from Truth Fm 96.1.

Civic society activist Archie Sarnor notes that when Deputy Finance Minister for Fiscal Affairs Samora Wolokolie appeared before the Legislature, he



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# Croatia court rejects false testimony charge against Modric

A Croatian court has rejected a charge against Croatia international and Real Madrid midfielder Luka Modric of giving false testimony in a criminal trial, the court said on Wednesday.

An email to Reuters by the Zagreb municipal criminal court said the court rejected the charge, made by the Croatia state attorney in March, but gave no

explanation for its ruling.

The state attorney's office can appeal against the decision.

Modric testified last year at the trial of a tax official and three former senior officials from the soccer club Dinamo Zagreb, including its former chief executive Zdravko Mamic, about the dates of signing the annexes to his professional contracts which regulated transfer fees.

The state attorney's office said in June 2017 it was investigating allegations that Modric, awarded Best FIFA men's player of the year 2018 last month, had given false testimony at the trial.

In June, Mamic was sentenced to six-and-a-half years in prison, shortly after he left for Bosnia where he lives now. Other two Dinamo officials and the tax official were also sentenced to jail. All



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