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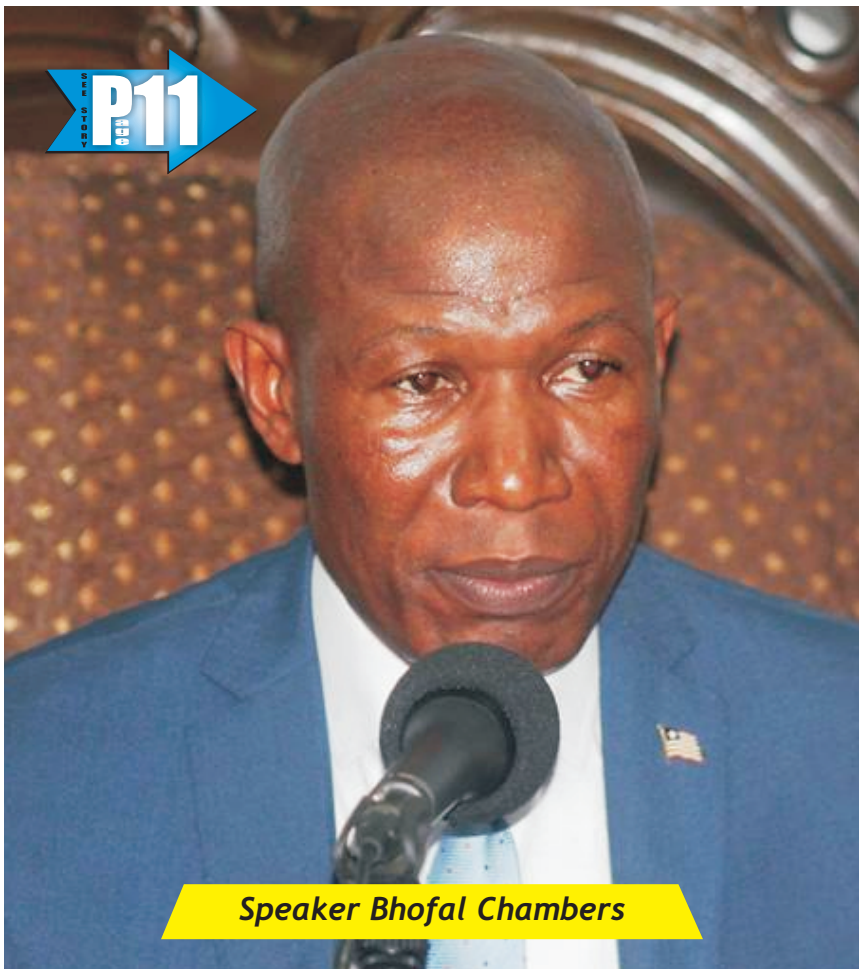
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VOL. 8 NO. 188

MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2018

PRICE LD\$40.00



Speaker Bhofal Chambers

“Grossly defiant posture”

-Lawmakers describe Speaker Chambers

“Rebel lawmakers”



Rep. Acarous Gray

-Rep. Gray describes colleagues who oppose Speaker's anti - probe sentiments



Continental News

Libya opposes EU plan for centres, says minister

Libya's foreign minister says his country opposes a European Union plan to set up assessment centres for migrants outside the EU.

The plan was drawn up by EU leaders in June as Italy called for more controls on migration.

But Mohamed al-Taher Siala told an Austrian newspaper that all North African countries reject the idea.

Instead, he said, Libya was working with its southern neighbours to reinforce their common borders.

Mr Siala is foreign minister for Libya's UN-backed Government of National Accord (GNA). The GNA is nominally in power in the capital, Tripoli, but rival political factions and militias occupy much of the rest of the country.

Who is responsible for migrants at sea?

Med migrant crisis: A mess - or cynical politics?

Libya has been mired in political chaos since Nato-

backed forces overthrew long-serving ruler Col Muammar Gaddafi in 2011.

What is the EU plan?

In June, the EU proposed "regional disembarkation platforms" in North Africa, where the UN and other agencies could screen those

who have a genuine claim to asylum in Europe.

Those not eligible would be offered help to resettle in their home countries.

The plan was to break the business model of people-smuggling gangs by processing refugees and migrants outside

the EU.

The move followed complaints from Italy, which has long been the main arrival point for boatloads of migrants from African countries fleeing poverty and violence. According to the United Nations, more than 1,700 migrants have died trying to cross to Europe in 2018. What has Libya said?

"All North African countries reject this proposal - Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Libya, as well," Mr Siala told the Austrian newspaper Die Presse. Image copyright EPA/Almage

He estimated that about 30,000 illegal migrants were

being detained in centres in Libya. He said his government was working with the EU to return migrants to their home countries, but added: "Unfortunately, some of these countries - many west African countries - refuse to take them back. Mr Siala said Libya was trying to improve security along its southern border by striking agreements with Chad, Niger and Sudan.

He said the EU could also help protect that border by providing technical support such as patrol vehicles, "drones, helicopters and perhaps a few light weapons". -BBC



Image copyright EPA: Many of those who risk the journey across the Mediterranean have to be rescued

Clashes at market kill 55 in Nigeria

Sectarian violence sparked by a spat at a market has left 55 people dead in Nigeria's northern Kaduna state, President Muhammadu Buhari has said.

Muslim and Christian youths reportedly clashed after a row between

outbreaks of sectarian violence.

Official presidential spokesperson Garba Shehu tweeted that Mr Buhari found the country's frequent use of violence in such disputes "worrisome".

Without harmony



wheelbarrow porters in the town of Kasuwan Magani.

The state police commissioner said 22 people were arrested after the unrest.

Authorities also imposed a round-the-clock curfew in the town. Nigeria often sees

between different groups, "our everyday businesses would be impossible to achieve," the president said.

He called on community leaders to encourage tolerance and stop such discord before it could develop into violence. -BBC

Tanzania kidnapped billionaire 'home safely'

Kidnapped Tanzanian billionaire Mohammed Dewji has been released, 10 days after he was seized by armed men in the city of Dar es Salaam.

"I have returned home safely," he said in a tweet

from his company METL Group's account.

The businessman, known locally as Mo, thanked Tanzania's police "and everyone around the world for their prayers".

It is not clear how Mr Dewji, 43, was freed or

whether a ransom was paid.

Forbes places Mr Dewji's net worth at around \$1.5bn (£980m), which would make him Africa's youngest billionaire.

Mr Dewji was abducted by gunmen at the Colosseum Hotel early on 11 October, as he arrived for a morning workout.

His family had offered a 1bn Tanzania shilling (\$440,000; £330,000) reward for information leading to his rescue.

Tanzania's environment minister January Makamba, a close friend of the industrialist, tweeted on Saturday morning that he had spoken to Mr Dewji and his father.

He said the kidnappers had abandoned Mr Dewji at a field near the Gymkhana club in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania's commercial capital.

The billionaire is reported to be in good health, but with bruises on his hands and legs due to handcuffing.

Mr Dewji served as an MP in Tanzania's ruling party for a decade until 2015.

He is credited with turning his family business from a wholesale and retail enterprise into a pan-African conglomerate.

His company, MeTL, has

interests in textile manufacturing, flour milling, beverages and edible oils in at least six African states.

In 2016, the tycoon had promised to donate at least half his fortune to philanthropic causes. -BBC



Image copyright AFP: Financial magazine Forbes says Mohammed Dewji is worth \$1.5bn (£980m)

EDITORIAL

What is Speaker Chambers hiding?

HOUSE SPEAKER BHOFAL Chambers took the entire nation by surprise last week when he publicly declared here that the 54th Legislature would not submit to investigation in the alleged missing 15.5 billion or 16 billion Liberians banknotes printed abroad and brought into the country.

ADDRESSING A NEWS conference last week at the Capitol in Monrovia, Speaker Chambers said lawmakers would not submit to any investigative committee, not even the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation for interrogation in connection with the missing billions, preaching constitutional sovereignty.

“THE PEOPLE FROM the FBI know contemporary Democracy; they know contemporary constitution. They will never think of inviting the House of Representative for an investigation; doing so will be a failure on their part,” the Speaker argue, and maintained, “The House Representative is the fulcrum of democracy. Any other institution cannot invite this legislature; this legislature is under constitutional obligation to call anybody for questioning. The Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) told us there is no missing money so how the transaction and authorization was done in my view will be the point of investigation.”

INSTEAD, HE EMBARKED on the usual blame game and figure-pointing, taking on former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and excesses of her administration for the current economic and financial woes the country is faced with.

BUT THE RECORDS are available. It is the 53rd Legislature under ex-President Sirleaf of which Speaker Chambers was a member that mandated or authorized the Executive branch of government in accordance with the constitution to print new banknotes, stipulating specific amount.

ONE OF THE key issues in the ongoing investigation is how much local currency was actually printed. Some lawmakers on Capitol Hill say the Central Bank of Liberia was authorized to print five billion Liberian banknotes, not 10 billion Liberian dollars. So how did the money printed jump from five, 10 to 16 billion Liberian banknotes?

THERE HAS BEEN sustained controversy over how much money was printed and brought into the country. The Minister of Information Lenn Eugene Nagbe disclosed 16 billion LRD, but Finance Minister Samuel Tweah, debunked Nagbe, putting the figure at 15.5 billion, and even clarifying that no money went missing as reported.

WE ARE DISAPPOINTED and Liberians are totally shocked by the utterances coming from the Speaker, particularly where there are sincere and concerted efforts by Liberia's traditional partner, the United States of America to help us get to the bottom of this money saga.

SPEAKER CHAMBERS' DECLARATION is in sharp contradiction to earlier assurances by the Weah administration to probe the matter and dig out the facts so that anyone found liable would face the law. Let us be reminded that the legislature (53rd Legislature) played a very crucial role in the printing of the new Liberian banknotes that were brought into the country.

HOW COULD THE first branch of government now have the audacity to announce it is washing its hands off a matter that it initiated in the first place? The Speaker should be reminded in clear terms that government is continuity, particularly when Speaker Chambers himself and other members of the current 54th Legislature were part of the 53rd that authorized the printing of the money. Wouldn't they be helpful in the ongoing investigation? Does the Speaker have something to hide? We don't understand why this sudden grandstanding.

The New Dawn
FULLY INDEPENDENT

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

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

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

COMMENTARY

By Hilal Elver & Melissa Shapiro

When Agricultural Workers Go Hungry

The story of our food is much more than a combination of nutritional values, costs, and tastes; it is also a tale of globalization, poverty, and exploitation. If we consider how little has been done to protect the world's agricultural workforce, what we eat should make us feel sick.

GENEVA - Food is a powerful storyteller. Our diet signals whether we cook at home, shop locally, prefer inexpensive dishes, or even think about what we eat. But the consumer side of mealtime is just one of food's many plot lines. Food has backstories, too, none more unsavory than this one: agricultural workers - the people who make dinner possible - are also the most likely to go to bed hungry.

Every day, some 1.1 billion people - one-third of the global workforce - go to work at the world's farms. And, every night, many of them return home - having suffered countless violations of their human rights - without enough money to feed themselves or their families.

Farm work is one of the only professions in which national legal protections are regularly ignored. Minimum wage standards endorsed by the International Labor Organization (ILO), and adopted by many industries around the world, remain either unenforced in the agriculture sector or do not extend to informal farm workers. But, because migrant labor makes up the bulk of the agricultural workforce, this gap in coverage has become a canyon.

In rural parts of developing countries, 80% of farm workers earn less than \$1.25 per day, trapping them in poverty. Additionally, piece-rate pay schemes force workers to spend hours in extreme weather to meet demanding quotas.

Worst of all, those working on unethical farms do so at high risk. According to the ILO, dangerous machinery, long working hours, and exposure to toxic pesticides makes farm work one of the world's deadliest jobs; more than 170,000 agricultural workers are killed every year on unsafe farms, twice the mortality rate of any other industry.

And yet, agricultural work is typically excluded from occupational health and safety rules in most countries. Even in the United States, there is no federal law mandating that employers give farm workers breaks for water and shade, even though heatstroke remains a leading cause of work-related farm deaths in the US.

The recent death of Fabián Tomasi, an Argentine farm worker and critic of the agrochemical industry in his country, was a reminder of the hazards of industrialized agriculture. While companies like Monsanto argue that pesticides are necessary to ensure food security, the consequences of

chemical exposure to workers like Tomasi - whose body was left twisted and mangled after years of handling chemicals without protection - reveal the human cost of their use. Even in developed countries, acute pesticide poisoning affects one in every 5,000 agricultural workers, and countless more employees are exposed to toxins on a daily basis.

Unfortunately, few agricultural workers are in a position to advocate for their rights. Seasonal and rural workers lack access to collective bargaining, and undocumented migrant workers avoid unions for fear that employers will retaliate by calling the immigration authorities. Moreover, basic benefits such as social security, health care, and workers' compensation are typically nonexistent. Exempt from much workplace regulation, this is an industry that can afford to put cost-savings and profits above the wellbeing of employees.

It is time for us to stop passively sticking a fork into what lands on our plates, and use our purchasing power to resist paying the cheapest price for food. Holding people accountable for mistreating farm workers will be challenging, but not impossible. We can begin by calling on governments to spend more time protecting farm workers than investigating their immigration status.

Of course, for this to be possible, we need more information about where our food comes from. Nowadays, we tend to rely on informational labels and certifications to tell us that. But the story they tell is fragmented, incomplete, and at times even misleading. We need to take the extra steps to learn the full story. This means moving beyond voluntary labels declaring that food is produced fairly and humanely to demand mandatory labels that expose non-compliance with these norms.

Worldwide, some 821 million people are undernourished - a figure that continues to increase. This is a tragedy; no one anywhere should have their rights, including the right to food, violated; yet that is exactly what so many farm workers and food-chain workers endure every day.

Fighting for their rights has always been difficult, but if we continue the battle, the story of the global food system may lose some of its bitterness.

You can learn more about the work of the Special Rapporteur, and access her official report on agricultural workers and the right to food at HilalElver.org.

O-PED

By Yanis Varoufakis

What Has Google Ever Done for Us?

ATHENS - Even Google's fiercest critics use its technologies to research their fiery tirades against it or, more mundanely, to find their way around a foreign city. Let's be honest: life without Google would be awfully more tedious in a variety of important ways. But that is not a good reason to leave Google and the other tech giants alone. On the contrary, the nature and importance of their contribution make it imperative that they be placed under democratic control - and not just because of the well appreciated need to protect individual privacy.

In recent years, Big Tech companies have been subjected to scrutiny for perfecting a dark art pioneered by commercial newspapers, radio, and television: attracting and holding our attention, in order to sell access to our senses to paying advertisers. Whereas readers, listeners, and viewers were customers paying for some commodity, commercial electronic media learned how to profit by transacting directly with vendors while reducing us, and our data, to a passive commodity at the heart of the transaction.

Google, Facebook, and others were able to take this odd production process, where our attention is the traded commodity, to a different level, thanks to their stupendous capacity to personalize our screens. Unlike their forebears, they can capture the attention of each one of us with person-specific (or even mood-specific) attractors, before selling to the highest bidder access both to our data and to our senses.

Underlying the backlash against Big Tech has been the sense that we are all becoming proletarianized users. In the 1970s and 1980s, we were annoyed when commercial channels ambushed us with advertisements seconds before the end of a cliff-hanger movie or basketball match. Now, we can no longer even recognize the tricks used in real time to hold and sell our attention. Alienated from a market trading in us, we have become cogs in a production process that excludes us as anything but its product.

Data protection and privacy regulations are meant to return to us some of our lost autonomy regarding what we see, what guides our choices, and who knows what we choose. But regulating Big Tech to protect our data and restore "consumer sovereignty" is not enough. Against a background of automation and labor casualization, these firms' monopoly profits boost inequality, fuel discontent, undermine aggregate demand for goods and services, and further destabilize capitalism.

The problem is that traditional government interventions are an exercise in futility: Taxing free services is pointless. Taxing robots, to fund humans, is as impossible as it is to define them. And while taxing Big Tech's profits is essential, these firms' skilled accountants and abundant opportunities to shift profits to different jurisdictions makes this difficult.

A simple solution exists, if we look beyond taxation. But it requires accepting that capital is no longer privately produced, as least not in the case of Google et al.

When James Watt built one of his famed steam engines, it was his creation, his product. A buyer who put the engine to work in, say, a textile factory could think of his profit stream as a just reward for having taken the risk of purchasing the machine and for the innovation of coupling it to a spinning jenny or a mechanical loom.

By contrast, Google cannot credibly argue that the capital generating its profit stream was produced entirely privately. Every time you use Google's search engine to look up a phrase, concept, or product, or visit a place via Google Maps, you enrich Google's capital. While the servers and software design, for example, have been produced capitalistically, a large part of Google's capital is produced by almost everyone. Every user, in principle, has a legitimate claim to being a de facto shareholder.

Of course, while a substantial part of Big Tech's capital is produced by the public, there is no sensible way to compute personal contributions, which makes it impossible to calculate what our individual shares ought to be. But this impossibility can be turned into a virtue, by creating a public trust fund to which companies like Google transfer a percentage - say, 10% - of their shares. Suddenly, every child has a trust fund, with the accumulating dividends providing a universal basic income (UBI) that grows in proportion to automation and in a manner that limits inequality and stabilizes the macro-economy.

This attractive solution must overcome two obstacles. First, we tend to think of taxation as a panacea. But a UBI funded via taxation is sure to trigger a backlash among struggling working people who cannot see the logic of subsidizing the idle, rich or poor. Second, corporate shares are typically given to employees only.

To be sure, there are excellent reasons for taxing profits in order to fund benefits for the poor, and for worker-ownership schemes. But these are separate issues from the one at hand: how to stabilize society by granting property rights over Google's capital to everyone who helped create it, including unwaged carers, the precariously employed, and society's dropouts.

And then, as one would expect, there is the motivated fallacy peddled by the defenders of the status quo. The Financial Times' Alphaville column recently dismissed the case for transferring a block of shares from Big Tech corporations, like Google, to a public trust fund by misrepresenting the underlying argument as a failure to appreciate what Google has done for us. To repudiate society's property rights over the returns to capital that we, as users, have created, Big Tech's defenders invoke users' large consumer surplus (the sum we would be prepared to pay for access to free services such as Gmail and Google Maps).

This is a little like justifying the confiscation of your shares in a company with the argument that the company is providing valuable services to you and others. In using Big Tech's services, we manufacture a portion of its capital in real time. Property rights over that portion - for all of us, rather than for any of us - must follow.

OPINION

By José Antonio Ocampo

The Economics of the Climate Crisis

BOGOTÁ - Two major events last week bear directly on global debates about climate change and how to address it. The first was the release of a report from the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which sets out precisely what must be done to achieve the objectives of the 2015 Paris climate agreement. The second was the announcement that Yale University economist William Nordhaus will share this year's Nobel Prize in economics for his work "integrating climate change into long-run macroeconomic analysis."

The first event should serve as a wake-up call for the international community. The IPCC report appeals to governments to take urgent action to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions significantly within the next decade. It warns that if average global temperatures are allowed to exceed 1.5°C - or, at worst, 2°C - above pre-industrial levels, the consequences could be catastrophic, and they will be felt as soon as 2040.

Worse, the report shows that the Nationally Determined Contributions set voluntarily by signatories to the Paris accord are vastly insufficient. Even if they are met, the increase in average global temperature will surpass 3°C by 2100, and will continue to rise still further after that. Clearly, when policymakers revise their countries' NDCs, they must raise them significantly.

But substantive action needs to come well before 2030. Otherwise, the world will suffer irreversible damage in the form of rising sea levels, loss of biodiversity, and deterioration of both land and marine ecosystems, including the potential extinction of the world's coral reefs. These developments will have far-reaching implications for water supplies and the health and living standards of the global population. And, needless to say, the greater the warming, the more severe these effects will be.

The selection of Nordhaus for the Nobel Prize is a more welcome development. Even so, it is worth noting that his approach to addressing climate change tends to be rather conservative, which is to say gradualist. Nordhaus relies on traditional economic analysis, which "discounts" the present value of future consumption by the return on capital, or interest rates. In other words, \$100 a half-century from now is worth \$15, \$10, or even less today, depending on the assumed interest rate. But, because the costs of any initiative to combat climate change must be borne in the present, they are necessarily higher at present values. The implication is that they must be incurred slowly.

The problem with this approach is that it is inequitable toward future generations, which, of course, have no say in decisions that we make today. By definition, their welfare is being discounted. Yet were we to take intergenerational equity seriously, the leading factor to consider is that future generations will have better technologies than what we have today. Therefore, the appropriate social rate of discount should be equal to the rate of technological change, which is much lower than market interest rates.

One could also argue that the traditional economic analysis is even inequitable toward individuals, in addition to future generations. Just ask an older person with an inadequate (or nonexistent) pension whether his present welfare is worth less than his past consumption.

A much better approach has been developed by Nicholas Stern of the London School of Economics. In his now-famous "Review on the Economics of Climate Change," Stern was calling for accelerated action to combat climate change as early as 2006. In his view, the costs of dealing with runaway global warming would far exceed the expense of addressing it early.

Another alternative has been developed by Martin Weitzman of Harvard University. Weitzman relies on analytical tools similar to those used by Nordhaus, but his work also accounts for the catastrophic risks associated with climate change. As such, his approach is also similar to that of the IPCC and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), both of which have concluded that global warming above a certain level will have truly disastrous effects.

To my mind, the Nobel Committee should have recognized not just Nordhaus but also some of these other economists of climate change, particularly Stern. The fact is that humanity cannot afford to act gradually on this issue. The Stern Review, the latest IPCC report, and the UNEP have all concluded that current efforts to reduce emissions must be stepped up substantially. That means accelerating the global transition to clean-energy technologies (including in transportation), improving the efficiency of energy production/consumption, reversing deforestation, improving land use, and promoting technological innovation to facilitate all of these processes.

The message from the IPCC report is clear. All countries must raise their emissions-reduction targets and strengthen their commitments under the Paris agreement. And the country that is historically responsible for the largest share of greenhouse-gas emissions - the United States - must return to the agreement and show leadership on this issue once again.

Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA)
 20th Street Sinkor, Monrovia, Liberia
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING - NCB
Invitation for Air Ticketing
IFB NO.: LiMA/SBA/NCB/005/18/19



The Liberia Maritime Authority has allocated a portion of its Corporate Funding from 2018-2019 budget towards Air Ticketing Service. The Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA) now wishes to invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Air Travel Tickets Service.

Interested firms that are fully qualified and capacitated to perform this service are required to obtain Bid Document at no cost from the Procurement Section of the Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA), 20th Street, Sinkor between the hours of 10:00a.m., through 4:00p.m. Friday, September 14, to Tuesday, October 16, 2018.

All qualified bidders should have a Current Business Registration, Current Tax Clearance, Business Profile and a list of previous clients and their contacts, a clearance from Social Security (NASSCORP), a Permit from the Ministry of Transport And The Liberia Aviation Authority, must have evidence of PPCC Vendor Registry while a discount and pre-finance will be an added advantage.

Final submission date is 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 16, 2018. Subsequently followed by the bid opening ceremony at 2:00 p.m. on the same date.

All would be interested entities should submit sealed bid to the Procurement Section Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA), located on 20th Street, Sinkor Monrovia.

Signed: _____
 PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE

Liberia Maritime Authority
 20th Street, Sinkor Monrovia, Liberia
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING – RB
Invitation for bids
Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA)
IFB NO.: LiMA/SBA/NCB/002/18/19



The Liberia Maritime Authority anticipates funding from the Government of Liberia through its 2018-2019 Corporate Core budgets for the procurement of the following budgetary line items (herein referred to as goods). The Authority wishes to solicit sealed bids from reputable, eligible, and qualified suppliers for the supply of Stationery Supplies.

#	IFB NO.	Items	Quantity	Description
Lot 1	IFB NO. LiMA/SBA/NCB/002/18/19	Stationery Supply		A4 Sheets, Pens, Pencils, Staple Pins, Glue, Note Pals, Etc.
Lot 2		Printer Cartridges		HP, Dell, Canon

Interested Bidders that are fully qualified and capacitated to deliver these stationery supplies are required to obtain a Bid Document (NO CHARGED) at the Procurement section of the Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA) head office, 20th Street, Sinkor, Monrovia, You can obtain the Standard Bidding Document between the hours of 10:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. from Friday September 14, 2018 to Monday, October 22, 2018.

All would be interested supplier should submit sealed bid labeled to.

Stationery Supplies
 IFB NO. LiMA/SBA/NCB/002/18/19
 The Procurement Committee
 Liberia Maritime Authority P.O.Box 10 -9042.
 20th Street, Sinkor
 1000Monrovia10 Liberia

Requirement

All Bidders should have a Current Business Registration Certificate, Current Tax Clearance, Profile, A list of current client and their immediate contacts, the ability to supply at all time as the need be, discount and capacity to pre-finance could be an added advantage. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of at least (2%) of the total bid cost. Electronic bid will not be accepted. Final submission date for bid (Stationery Supply) is 1:30 p.m. on Monday, October 22, 2018, subsequently followed by the bid opening ceremony on the same day of submission. All bids will be opened in the presence of bidder representatives who choose to attend the opening ceremony at 2:00 p.m. In the training conference Room of LiMA's Head Office Compound.

Signed: _____
 PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE



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 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

- Note that Electronic bids will not be accepted, and that late bids will be rejected and returned unopened.

Signed: _____
 Fatu Ruth Tipoteh (Mrs.)
 DIRECTOR
 Procurement Department, UL

Approved: _____
 Mrs. Norris Owen
 Vice President, UL Relations

Senate rubbishes \$10m allegation

In the wake of media reports that Senators are demanding US\$10,000.00 each from President George Manneh Weah for the resumption of an extraordinary session, a Statement from the Senate has rubbished the information and terms it as untrue and completely misleading.

The Senate's statement out-rightly denies the report and stresses that the

Since then, the Senate argues that there has been no discussion concerning any US\$10,000.00 payment for another extraordinary session.

The Press and Public Affairs Department at the Liberian Senate says the public will be informed at the appropriate time should there be a certificate signed calling for an extraordinary session.



Senate has no intention and will not demand the President to pay senators US\$10,000.00 each to return for an extraordinary session.

"It is highly unthinkable and unpatriotic," the Senate says, further noting that on August 31, 2018, the Body adjourned for its Constitutional Annual Break and extended for an extraordinary session that lasted for two weeks in September 2018.

Article 32 (b) of the Liberian Constitution gives the Legislature the constitutional mandate to call itself upon a certificate signed by one-fourth of its total membership for a "special or extraordinary session to discuss or act upon matters of national emergency and concern," the Senate concludes.--
Statement

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Col. Lemuel E.A. Reeves takes final journey

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Hundreds of Liberians from across the country jam-packed the edifice of the Sacred Heart Cathedral on Ashuman Street in Monrovia on Saturday, 20 October 2018 to bid farewell to the fallen Commissioner of the Liberia Immigration Service (LIS) Col. Lemuel E. A. Reeves, who died on 30 September following a brief illness.

President George M. Weah and First Lady Clar Weah joined the thousands of mourners over the weekend for the wake-keeping and funeral rites held at the Cathliolic Church.

Other government officials in attendance were Justice Minister and Attorney-General, Musa Dean, Police Director Patrick Sudue, members of the Liberian Judiciary, the Liberia Bar Association, retired police officers, staff of the Ministry of State for Presidential Affairs, the Legislature, Knights of St. John International, family and friends, among others.

Justice Minister Dean describes the late immigration boss as a devoted, respectful, and career officer, who dedicated his life to working

for his country and fellow human beings.

He recalls that the late Commissioner Revees was the brain behind the transitioning of the Bureau of Immigration and Natrualization (BIN) to the

personnel of the national security apparatus.

In its tribute, the Liberia Immigration Service through its Deputy Commissioner says the demise of Col. Reeves has left a big vaccum in the

behind by his passing specifically at a time the security sector is transitioning, adding that it is her prayer that God will send a replacement who will always be remembered for his

government official whose contributions to society would be seriously missed, praying that he will rest in the good hands of Alnighy God.

Meanwhile, in an acknowledgement, a sister of the deceased, Counselor Joyce Reeves Woods, notes that the family is gratified for the state honor bestowed on their fallen brother, father and uncle, who served as Commissioner of the BIN, former CID Director, former Counselor-At-Law, former executive committee member of the Liberia National Bar Association.

Counselor Woods continues that as Christians, the Revees Family is grateful for the many expressions of sympathy and gestures of concerns, kindness, and love shown.

She then extends thanks and appreciation to the many friends, including Friends of Lemuel, neighbors, government officials, business people especially, the Fula, Lebanese and Indian communities, including telephone calls, emotional and moral support especially, from the Ambassador of the United States of America here, Madam Christine Elder, among others.

The late Col. Lemuel E.A. Reeves was a member of the Ancient and Noble Order of the Knights of St. John International. He was born on 19 October 1956 and died on 30 September 2018. -Editing by Jonathan Browne



Personnel of the LIS parade with the coffin of Col Reeves

Liberia Immigration Service (LIS).

He admits that Liberia will ever remember the late Col Lemuel Reeves because of his love and concern for the welfare of others, including

Liberian Security Sector especially, in planning and executing security measures that brought the LIS to where it is today.

She wonders who would close the big security gape left

concern for the welbeing of LIS personnel assigned throughout the country.

A Government of Liberia Offical Gazette read by the Chief of Protocol of Liberia describes the late Commissioner Lemuel Reeves as a dedicated public servant, who served the state in several capacities with distinctions.

The tribute also highlights that the late Col. Reeves was a very respectful and trusted

MOH staff stresses infection prevention and control

An official of the Ministry of Health Garrison Kerrwillian, says the provision of quality healthcare through Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) is paramount for health

person to another.

According to him, the need to create awareness for both stakeholders and end users on quality healthcare services for individuals or patients and their families to understand

which brought together mainly health practitioners and international partners.

“It is important to wash our hands properly with soap every time before eating and after defecating so as to kill the disease-causing germs that sometimes make us sick. Hand washing is the act of cleaning to remove soil, dirt, and/or germs from one hands,” Kerrwillian explains.

He also underscores the importance of waste management and admonishes health workers to make sure their facilities are always clean. “The re-use of sharp equipment is not permissible because it has the potential to spread infection among patients.”

Kerrwillian warns that disposing used instruments (gloves, needles, etc.) on waste land could sometimes lead to the spread of toxic metals in the environment.

He notes that not all countries have appropriate regulations or can enforce them to the letter, saying, “With this, primarily, disposing of infectious waste must be done properly and carefully.”

He continues that it is the responsibility of healthcare providers to enact principles of prevention which is patient



Mr. Garrison Kerrwillian

practitioners globally.

He emphasizes that quality healthcare services are important in maintaining safe environment for patient(s) which reduces risk of potential spread of disease from one

the control and prevention measures cannot be overemphasized.

He spoke recently at the close of a Global Infection Prevention and Control conference held in Monrovia,

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safety as it is evidence-based in the handbook of nurses.

“Severe paresis or fear of urinating in public can sometimes affect one’s life in similar way to symptoms, similarities to agoraphobia and the cause of psychological at public urinal. You may find that he/she is unable to

urinate when flanked by other men,” Kerrwillian noted.

“It is always advisable to wash all fruit and vegetables before eating them to ensure that they are clean to help remove bacteria from the outside,” Kerrwillian cautions. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

“Rebel lawmakers”

By Winston W. Parley

Ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) Rep. Moses Acarus Gray says lawmakers who detached themselves from House Speaker Bhofal Chambers’ refusal to avail the Legislature to the alleged missing \$15.5 billion Liberian Dollars investigation are “rebel lawmakers.”

“... Yekeh Kolubah called ...[on the talk show], that’s one of the rebel lawmakers that I’m talking about. Oh definitely he’s a rebel lawmaker in the context of legislative politics. You know I’m a veteran in the Legislature,” Rep. Gray told local broadcaster OK FM Friday, 19 October.

Following a backlash against Speaker Chambers and his legislative supporters’ decision last week, the Legislature on Friday made sudden clarity that it was not going to shield anyone involved in the scandal, but it would require that the proper authority be written if documents or lawmakers are needed from the Legislature.

Speaker Chambers had announced on Thursday, 18 October that the Legislature cannot be invited by any institution [for inquiry], a day after U.S. investigative



Rep. Moses Acarus Gray

experts charged to probe Liberia’s alleged missing \$15.5 billion met him and other key persons at the Capitol last Wednesday.

“This Legislature cannot be invited by any institution. This Legislature brings checks and balances. This Legislature is under constitutional obligation to call anybody for questioning,” Speaker Chambers said on Thursday.

But several lawmakers including Montserrado County Rep. Yekeh Kolubah, Margibi County Rep. Ivar Jones, and Nimba County Rep. Larry

Younquoi disagreed with him on Friday, 19 October.

In his reaction, Rep. Gray specifically attacks Reps. Kolubah and Jones who were the first to air their disagreements on radio, saying one or two of his colleagues had their own issues with the Speaker ... and will want to manipulate a political statement to suit and satisfy their own desire.

According to him, an official statement had been issued by the Legislature in furtherance of clarification on the Speaker’s statement.

Gray claims that anybody who is involved into this money issue, the Speaker is not going to shield them, but he is demanding that proper authority be written for whoever that is needed.

“...Because it’s clear that anybody who is involved into this money issue, the Speaker is not going to shield you, he is very clear about that. He’s only saying look, write ... the proper authority, which the LACC [Liberia Anti - Corruption Commission] has agreed to do,” says Rep. Gray.

He says they are not talking about the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) [in terms of not availing themselves to probe], adding if documents are needed from the Legislature, the proper authority must be written.

“If they need a lawmaker to appear before them through the plenary, they will submit that lawmaker to the investigation team and there will be nothing to hide. Absolutely nothing to hide, Gray concludes.

Earlier on Friday, Rep. Kolubah said he was not consulted [on the decision to put the Legislature above the investigation], saying Speaker Chambers spoke on his own.

“...But this money issue should be investigated, we’ll appear there when the people need us,” Kolubah says.

He argues that [if] somebody has personal problem with the FBI and don’t want to face the U.S. investigators in Liberia, they will handle that problem when they reach America.

“Because we were not consulted, if he ask us for our view we will tell him say we want [to] appear there,” Kolubah states, and adds that he wants this money issue to be laid to rest.

“So he can’t just get on radio because he’s Speaker, we elected him. And I told him before the confidence that I reposed in him he no more enjoys it,” Kolubah asserts.

Also adding his voice, Rep. Ivar Jones says Speaker Chambers spoke as an individual and not for the body.

Basing his argument on Article 1 of the Constitution of Liberia, Rep. Jones says all power is inherent in the people, and the people have petitioned the government and the international community to look into a matter of an alleged missing billions dollars.

He thinks as direct representatives of the people, it’s just prudent that the matter under discussion is fully handled to the satisfaction of the people.

In spite of providing clarity on what “rebel lawmaker” meant, Gray received lashes

from numerous callers for labelling his colleagues as rebels because they distanced themselves from Speaker Chambers’ defiance against the alleged \$15.5 billion dollars probe.

Later appearing on OK FM on Friday, Nimba County Rep. Larry Nyonquoi said he wished that Rep. Gray had not labelled his colleagues as rebels.

Rep. Nyonquoi also says he disagrees with Speaker Chambers’ statement defying the probe, and he is happy that it was clarified on Friday morning, 19 October that nobody involved would be shielded.

“There are certain things that are better not said under certain condition,” Rep. Younquoi says, adding: “the money business in this country is so explosive” and lawmakers cannot afford to leave any ambiguity in this matter.

Rep. Younquoi fears that this money issue is almost making Liberia to lose its sovereignty like the Charles D.B. King scenario and the Fernando Po situation where the country lost it’s currency and be placed under trusteeship.

He says the Speaker’s statement is unfortunate, informing Liberians that if there is anyone stopping the Legislature from being cited he is “not one of those.”

Rep. Younquoi argues that you can’t have a situation where members of the Legislature are accused of using money during the campaign and yet you say they cannot be cited.

Opposed to Chambers’ claim that the Legislature cannot be cited, Rep. Younquoi says he knows of many occasions when the Supreme Court of Liberia has cited the Legislature, like in former Speakers Alex Tyler and Edwin Snowe’s cases during which the Legislature appeared before the Supreme Court.

He wonders how Speaker Chambers reached the conclusion that the Legislature cannot be cited.

Citing Article 42 of the Constitution, Rep. Younquoi says they cannot be cited when they are in session, but right now he says they are on break.

The Nimba County lawmaker indicates that it’s a grave situation when it is being alleged here that the Legislature ordered the printing of money or when someone else is alleged to have taken upon themselves lawmakers’ responsibility and printed \$10.5 billion dollars.

Given the gravity of this case at hand, Rep. Younquoi says he signed a resolution ever since for lawmakers “to be invited to come.”

Liberian farmer appeals for tax relief

A nonprofit organization “Kesseh Foundation INC” appeals to government to grant tax break on its two farm tractors imported into country.

Mr. Kesseh Yeleboe, head of the Foundation, laments that he finds it very difficult to clear the tractors from the Freeport of Monrovia due to tax rate imposed by the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA).

He claims the entity is a nonprofit organization; established in January 2016 to

help smallholder farmers increase productivity in Boinsen District, Bong County.

According to him, he has spoken with the LRA on the matter but has since been denied.

“The authorities at the LRA do not believe my testimony. They are saying that I am not telling the truth,” he says.

Yeleboe says he has raised money over the years in the United States of America for the purpose of helping poor farmers in his home town.

He explains the intention is

to enable smallholder farmers move to mechanized crop production.

“We cannot become self-sufficient in food production through ‘manual’ labor. Liberia must prioritize using modern equipment to become food secure. This is why I bought the tractors to buttress government’s efforts,” he adds.

According to him, the tractors in question cost US\$ 6000, and the LRA is imposing a tax of US\$ 6000.

“I do not have the fund that the LRA is requesting. I am appealing that they relieve the tax for the farmers to access the tractors to expand their farms,” he pleads.

Yeleboe says he is working with more than 100 farmers from five villages in the district to cultivate large area of land that will be developed with different crop varieties, and that proceeds from the farm will benefit individual farmers.

“Farmers are working harder every year and not producing enough to support their families. Many years ago, people in this district never bought imported rice on the market as compared to today. The



Mr. Kesseh Yeleboe



Français

Affaire 16 milliards disparus : Les législateurs refusent d'être interrogés

Le président de la Chambre des Représentants, Bhofal Chambers, a déclaré que l'Assemblée Législative ne se soumettra pas à l'enquête qui vise à faire la lumière sur la disparition présumée de plus d'une quinzaine de milliards de dollars libériens. Sa déclaration fait suite à une visite que des experts américains chargés de l'enquête ont rendue au parlement il y a quelques jours.

« Cette Assemblée ne peut être invitée par aucune institution. Cette législature est là pour apporter des vérifications et du contre-poids. La présente législature a l'obligation constitutionnelle de convoquer quiconque pour comparaître devant elle et de poser des questions », a déclaré le Président Chambers lors d'une conférence de presse qu'il a aminée le jeudi 18 octobre à Monrovia.

Les enquêteurs américains sont ici pour aider le Libéria à faire la lumière sur le plus grand scandale financier de



l'histoire du pays, à la demande du gouvernement, sur fond de protestations massives en faveur de la restitution de l'argent disparu.

Selon les médias nationaux, un conteneur rempli de plusieurs milliards de dollars libériens imprimés à l'étranger a disparu après avoir été sorti

du port de Monrovia. L'argent avait pourtant pris la direction de la Banque centrale du Libéria (CBL) sous escorte policière.

Il est dit que l'enquête visera les membres de la 53ème législature, dont certains sont également membres de la 54ème

législature, et d'autres hauts responsables du pouvoir exécutif. Mais le président de la Chambre basse a fait comprendre au peuple du Libéria que l'Assemblée législative du Libéria ne peut en aucun cas être soumise à une quelconque enquête que ce soit.

D'après lui, la Chambre des représentants est le pivot de la démocratie libérienne, ainsi, lui soumettre à une telle enquête serait une violation de la démocratie et une atteinte à l'intégrité et à la souveraineté de l'État du Libéria.

« Les membres du FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) connaissent la constitution, en particulier, ils connaissent la constitution contemporaine et la démocratie et, ce faisant, il serait un échec de leur part d'inviter cet organe pour l'interroger. Vous pouvez venir et la Chambre décidera. Je n'ai pas créé ça, c'est comme ça », a-t-il dit.

Selon la Constitution libérienne, les législateurs ne peuvent être tenus responsables d'aucun acte en

cours de session, sauf en cas de meurtre, de trahison et de violation de la paix.

Mais certains Libériens estiment que si la disparition présumée des 15,5 milliards de dollars libériens est avérée, alors cela peut être assimilé à une violation de la paix, d'autant plus que son annonce a déjà créé de graves tensions dans le pays.

Cependant, le président de la Chambre des représentants a insisté que toute personne ou tout groupe souhaitant faire comparaître la Chambre des représentants lui adresse une demande formelle et c'est à la Chambre basse d'accepter ou non d'assister à la réunion.

Réagissant à un article de ce quotidien contenu dans son édition de jeudi, selon lequel les enquêteurs ont visité le bureau du secrétaire du parlement, le Président Chambers a déclaré que « si c'est le cas, alors c'était un oubli, et cela ne se reproduira plus jamais ».

Par ailleurs, le président de la chambre des représentants s'en est pris à l'ancienne Présidente Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf et ses enfants, et les a accusés de népotisme.

Le Président Chambers s'est dit convaincu que c'est le fils de l'ancienne présidente, à savoir Charles Sirleaf, gouverneur adjoint de la Banque centrale, qui aurait pris la décision d'imprimer des billets de banque additionnels à l'insu du pouvoir législatif. « C'est la raison pour laquelle nous disons que le népotisme n'est pas une bonne chose. Il ne faut pas l'encourager ou le soutenir », a-t-il déclaré.

Pour le président Chambers, l'ancienne présidente Sirleaf ne devrait pas employer ses enfants quoiqu'ils aient les compétences requises pour servir le pays. Ils devraient être mis en chômage pour la simple raison qu'ils sont les enfants de la chef de l'Etat.

BURKINA : « Des amis en Côte d'Ivoire » ont financé « nos actions politiques », affirme Léonce Koné

Mis en cause pour son implication présumée dans le coup d'État manqué de septembre 2015, Léonce Koné, l'un des poids lourds du CDP, l'ancien parti au pouvoir, a affirmé à la barre que de l'argent « collecté auprès d'amis en Côte d'Ivoire et dans la sous-région » lui avait

seulement été remis pour soutenir les « actions politiques » de son parti.

En septembre 2015, Léonce Koné, deuxième vice-président du Congrès pour la démocratie et le progrès (CDP, l'ex-parti au pouvoir) avait implicitement apporté son soutien aux putschistes.

Mercredi 17 octobre, trois ans plus tard, celui qui a dirigé le directoire du CDP au lendemain de la chute de Blaise Compaoré, en octobre 2014, a comparu - libre - à la barre du tribunal militaire devant lequel se déroule le procès des auteurs présumés de la tentative de déstabilisation de la Transition. L'ancien banquier doit y répondre des charges de « complicité d'attentat à la sûreté de l'État » et de « coups et blessures volontaires ».

« Nous avons approuvé le changement de régime car la Transition était arrivée à des dérives en nous empêchant de participer aux élections », a-t-il d'abord déclaré.

Mais l'intéressé a nié, en revanche, toute responsabilité dans le déclenchement du putsch : « Rien dans ce dossier ne m'ébranle », a-t-il affirmé.

Au fil de son témoignage, la version livrée par Léonce Koné tranche avec celle défendue par les sous-officiers du RSP, l'ex-garde prétorienne de Blaise Compaoré. Là où ces derniers affirment avoir agi sur

instructions du général Gilbert Diendéré, lui affirme au contraire que l'ancien chef d'état-major de Blaise Compaoré n'a pas été à l'origine du putsch.

« Le général [Diendéré] nous a dit qu'il s'agissait d'une initiative des jeunes soldats pour provoquer un changement de régime et qu'il

les a relayés en prenant la direction [du mouvement] », assure Léonce Koné devant ses juges. À la même barre, en juillet dernier, l'adjutant Jean-Florent Non avait, lui, directement mis en cause le général Diendéré, affirmant qu'il les avait « instruits de faire le coup d'État ».



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

Français

Un projet de loi contre la sorcellerie en préparation

Par Valery Guhena

Le représentant du district 8 du comté de Nimba, l'honorable Larry Younquoi, a annoncé la préparation d'un projet de loi intitulé "Projet de loi sur la sorcellerie" qui, une fois adopté, supprimera la sorcellerie au Libéria et punira les personnes qui y participent.

L'honorable Younquoi a affirmé que ses électeurs lui ont confié le mandat de faire de la sorcellerie une infraction pénale en vertu des lois du Libéria. « Je parle au nom des citoyens du district 8 qui m'ont dit de faire adopter un projet de loi sur la sorcellerie qui touche notre peuple dans ce pays », a-t-il déclaré.

S'exprimant vendredi 19 octobre lors d'une émission-débat animée par la radio publique ELBC, l'honorable a souligné la nécessité pour le peuple libérien de défendre la valeur positive de sa culture.

Il se propose de présenter ce projet de loi afin qu'il soit débattu et adopté par la 54^{ème} législature, car la sorcellerie affecte négativement le pays. Il a en outre fait savoir qu'il a fait des recherches sur la constitution et y a vu des sources fiables qui lui permettent de mettre ce projet de loi sur la table.

La sorcellerie est considérée comme une activité spirituelle, complexe et secrète qui ne peut être surveillée, prouvée ou évaluée par des méthodes scientifiques. La sorcellerie a fait vivre de nombreuses personnes dans la peur et les soupçons pervers. La plupart des décès de nourrissons et la mort d'adultes décédés mystérieusement sont attribués à des attaques de sorcellerie. On pense que de nombreuses maladies chroniques sont dues aux œuvres des sorcières.

Certains tiennent les sorciers pour responsables d'actes de mauvaise gestion ou de négligence. Toutes sortes de mauvaises pratiques comportementales sont attribuées aux stratagèmes des sorcières. Les parents des bonnes sorcières prospèrent, vraisemblablement grâce aux opérations spirituelles bienveillantes des bonnes sorcières dans leurs familles. On pense que les parents des mauvaises sorcières

souffrent de pauvreté, de maladies, d'échecs, de déshonneur et de toutes sortes d'afflictions résultant des opérations spirituelles diaboliques des mauvaises sorcières dans leurs familles.

Bien que la méthode scientifique ne permette pas de prouver la sorcellerie, il s'agit d'une activité connue dans le monde entier, même depuis l'Antiquité. La Sainte Bible, dans Exode 22:18, dit: «Tu ne feras pas vivre une sorcière».

Le Libéria ne sera pas le premier pays à avoir adopté une telle loi dans le monde. Un acte similaire existait en Grande-Bretagne et en Afrique du Sud, pour ne nommer que ces pays. Les tensions religieuses en Angleterre aux 16^e et 17^e siècles ont entraîné l'introduction de sanctions sévères pour la sorcellerie. L'acte de Henri VIII de 1542 (33 Hen. VIII c. 8) fut le premier à définir la sorcellerie comme un crime, un crime passible de la peine de mort et de la confiscation des biens et des biens du criminel condamné. Mais cette loi a été abolie en 1957 par le Witchcraft Suppression Act 3.

S'assurer que quelqu'un est impliqué dans des activités de sorcière reste un défi, car cela ne peut pas être prouvé par une méthode scientifique et la seule méthode appelée « Sassywood » connue au Libéria est maintenant interdite, mais le législateur de Nimba pourrait avoir une solution.

Selon lui, ceux qui confessent volontairement qu'ils sont responsables des souffrances qui affectent les membres de leur famille, leurs communautés ou le pays en général doivent être punis.

« Mes électeurs m'ont confié ce mandat lors d'une des réunions publiques que nous avons eues récemment. Et nous sommes des gens traditionnels, donc cela ne fait aucun doute », a-t-il déclaré.

Il est convaincu que si ce projet de loi est présenté, il sera adopté car il s'agit d'un problème national que personne ne peut nier, ajoutant que « le Libéria a déjà établi le conseil traditionnel pour lequel nous déboursions soixante-quinze à cent mille dollars américains par an pour gouverner ce pays.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Hilal Elver & Melissa Shapiro

Des ouvriers agricoles encore affamés

GENEVA – L'alimentation est au cœur de toutes les conversations. Nos habitudes alimentaires déterminent si l'on fait la cuisine chez soi, les emplettes localement, préfère des mets peu chers ou même penser à ce que l'on mange. Mais le volet consommateur de l'heure du repas n'est qu'un des nombreux chapitres du scénario. L'alimentation comporte également d'autres narratifs en filigrane, aucune aussi triste que celui-ci : les ouvriers agricoles – ceux qui amènent la nourriture dans l'assiette – sont aussi ceux qui risquent de se coucher le ventre creux.

Chaque jour, environ 1,3 milliard de personnes – un tiers de la main-d'œuvre mondiale – travaillent dans les exploitations agricoles du monde. Et, chaque soir, beaucoup d'entre eux reviennent au foyer – après avoir subi d'innombrables violations de leurs droits individuels – sans même assez d'argent dans leurs goussets pour nourrir leur famille ou eux-mêmes.

Le métier de travailleurs agricole est l'un des seuls où les protections juridiques nationales sont régulièrement éludées. Les normes minimales de salaire cautionnées par l'Organisation internationale du travail (OIT) et adoptées par beaucoup de secteurs dans le monde entier sont soit inappliquées au secteur agriculture ou n'englobent pas les travailleurs agricoles hors du marché officiel. Or, la main-d'œuvre migrante constituant l'essentiel de la main-d'œuvre agricole, les lacunes dans la couverture sont devenues des gouffres.

Dans les régions rurales des pays en développement, 80 % des ouvriers agricoles gagnent moins de 1,25 \$ par jour, les enfermant dans le carcan de la pauvreté. En plus, les ouvriers étant payés à la pièce les obligent à travailler des heures durant dans des chaleurs extrêmes pour atteindre les quantités exigeantes.

Pire encore, ceux qui travaillent dans des exploitations aux pratiques douteuses le font à leur risque. Selon l'OIT, la machinerie dangereuse, les longues heures de travail et l'exposition à la toxicité des pesticides rend le travail agricole l'une des occupations les plus meurtrières; plus de 170 000 ouvriers agricoles meurent chaque année sur des exploitations non sécuritaires, un taux de mortalité du double de tout autre secteur.

Et pourtant, le travail agricole est normalement exclu des normes de santé et de sécurité au travail dans la plupart des pays. Même aux États-Unis, aucune Loi fédérale n'oblige les employeurs à accorder des pauses aux ouvriers agricoles pour boire de l'eau et se mettre à l'abri du soleil, même si l'insolation y demeure la principale cause de décès des ouvriers agricoles.

La mort récente de Fabián Tomasi, un ouvrier agricole argentin et critique de l'industrie agrochimique dans ce pays, nous a rappelé les dangers de l'agriculture industrialisée. Même si des entreprises comme Monsanto font valoir que les pesticides sont nécessaires pour atteindre la sécurité alimentaire, les conséquences de

l'exposition aux produits chimiques d'ouvriers comme Tomasi – dont le corps déformé et mutilé après des années de manutention de produits chimiques sans protection – révèle le coût humain de leur utilisation. Même en pays développé, un ouvrier agricole sur 5 000 est atteint d'une intoxication aiguë due aux pesticides et de nombreux autres sont exposés aux toxines sur une base quotidienne.

Hélas, peu d'ouvriers agricoles sont en position de faire valoir leurs droits. Les travailleurs saisonniers et ruraux n'ont pas accès à la négociation collective et les travailleurs migrants sans-papiers évitent de parler aux représentants syndicaux de peur que les employeurs ripostent en appelant les autorités de l'immigration. De plus, les avantages de base comme la sécurité sociale, l'assurance médicale et l'indemnisation des accidents au travail sont habituellement inexistantes. Échappant à la plupart des réglementations sur les lieux de travail, ce secteur peut se permettre de mettre les économies de coûts et les bénéfices au-dessus du bien-être des travailleurs.

Il est grand temps pour nous tous de cesser de planter passivement notre fourchette dans ce qui arrive dans notre assiette et d'utiliser notre pouvoir d'achat pour résister de payer le plus bas prix pour la nourriture. Il ne sera pas facile de tenir les employeurs pour responsables des mauvais traitements infligés aux ouvriers agricoles, mais ce n'est pas impossible. Nous pouvons commencer par exiger de l'État qu'il passe plus de temps à protéger les ouvriers agricoles qu'à vérifier leurs papiers d'immigration.

Évidemment, pour que ce soit possible, nous devons être mieux renseignés sur la provenance de nos aliments. De nos jours, nous avons tendance à nous en remettre aux étiquettes des produits et aux sceaux d'attestation pour nous renseigner. Mais l'information y est fragmentée, incomplète et parfois source de méprise. Il faut faire d'autres démarches pour connaître tout l'historique d'un produit. Ceci se traduirait par une transition de l'étiquetage facultatif des déclarations que les aliments sont produits dans conditions équitables et humaines en mode obligatoire qui expose le non-respect de ces normes.

Mondialement, plus de 821 millions de personnes souffrent de malnutrition – un chiffre qui ne cesse d'augmenter. C'est une tragédie; nul ne doit voir ses droits bafoués où qu'il soit, surtout le droit à l'alimentation; pourtant c'est exactement ce qu'un grand nombre d'ouvriers agricoles et de travailleurs de la chaîne alimentaire endure chaque jour.

Faire respecter leurs droits a toujours été un dur combat, mais si nous continuons la lutte, l'histoire du système mondial de l'alimentation perdra peut-être un peu de son amertume.

Vous pouvez en savoir plus sur le travail du Rapporteur spécial et accéder à son rapport officiel sur les ouvriers agricoles et le droit à l'alimentation sur le site HilalElver.org.

PERSPECTIVES

With Bai M. Gbala, Sr.
October 19, 2018

Public Policy . Economics . Democratic Politics . Political/Economic Decentralization . Public Dishonesty . Dual Citizenship

WAR AND ECONOMIC CRIMES COURT REPORTED “MISSING BILLIONS OF LIBERIAN BANKNOTES” THE CASE FOR TRIAL OF WAR AND ECONOMIC CRIME SUSPECTS AND THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

According to the History of humankind, men & women in society were, and are, born free but were, and are, held in chains and human servitude with injustice and degradation everywhere characterized by racism, ethnic/tribal bigotry deeply-rooted in religious, economic and political jealousy/rivalry; war, destruction, human suffering and death; and that these historical conditions were, and are, motivated by or were the causes of some of the world's past and recent-past Revolutions, notably, the American (1775), French (1789) and the Chinese (1946).

The African Problem

We, the Africans, still live in the ancient world of political tyranny of systemic destruction and death with modern weapons of mass destruction (Boko Haram, the religious, political jihadist and related extremist groups on the Continent come to mind). Indeed, that Africa and Liberia have a serious, deadly socio-economic and political problems of profound abuse of political power, especially, human rights violations *is so obvious and so self-evident that it needs no analysis or lecture, but serious political/economic treatment.*

to help themselves” with reasonable “costs conditions”. It is well-known that in every undertaking, no matter how successful, there is room for improvement that comes with the desired “benefits” and associated “costs”.

The International Criminal Court (ICC)

At the end of 19th century, the international community took the first steps towards the establishment of permanent courts with supranational jurisdiction. Representatives of the most powerful nations made attempts to harmonize laws of war and to limit the use of technologically-developed, advanced weapons of mass destruction. The Nuremberg trials marked a crucial moment in legal history and, after that, some treaties, including the Rome Statute, were signed by representatives of member-states of the United Nations (UN).

The UN Resolution No. 260 of December 9, 1948 by the General Assembly *Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide* was the first step towards establishment of an international, permanent criminal tribunal with jurisdiction for crimes yet to be

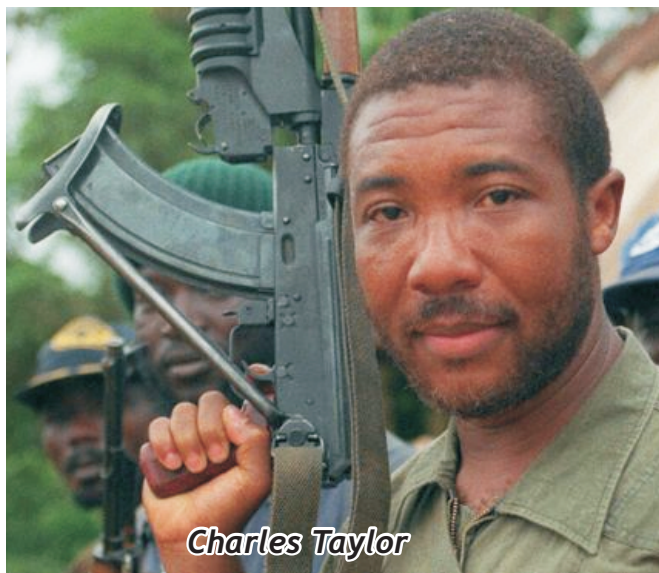
inter-governmental, International Tribunal with jurisdiction and authority to prosecute individuals, including Heads of State and other prominent political personalities for national and international war crimes of genocide. The Tribunal has been, and is, domiciled at The Hague in the Netherlands, designed to complement existing national judicial systems and may, therefore, exercise jurisdiction only where and when national courts are unwilling (as in the cases of Liberia and a majority of African states) or unable to prosecute suspects when the UN Security Council or individual states refer cases to the Court. It began operations on July 1, 2002, the date on which the Rome Statute, a multilateral treaty which serves as the ICC's legal authority and governing document, came into force. States become supporters and members of the International Criminal Court by ratification of the Rome Statute. Presently, there are 124 states which are signatories to the Rome Statute and, therefore, members of the ICC.

Opposition to the Court and withdrawal Movement

However, there had been, and is, fierce opposition to the



Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf



Charles Taylor



Prince Johnson

Crucial, critical examples have been and are that African Heads of state or Presidents having achieved political power and tasted the “benefits” thereof, refuse to surrender the “Presidential Palace”, consistent with lawful rules of peaceful transfer of power. They employ all sorts of treachery designed to hold on to political power at all costs indefinitely - bribes, threats, brute force, arrests, detentions, kangaroo courts imprisonment and executions, including economic crimes, ethnic-cleansing, genocide and war crimes against humanity upon their own people. In the case of Liberia, the recent civil war nightmare of human rights violations and the corruption or economic crimes, plunder, destruction, death and, now, the new and most recent reported “missing billions of Liberian banknotes speak volumes of Liberian public dishonesty and decadent moral behavior.

The systematic abuse of political power in Liberia and its contribution to graft/greed or corruption, the universal vice found on all continents, in every country and society, irrespective of the level of socio-economic, political development and affluence, has now been, and is, the monopoly in Liberia by massive introduction in government of highly-educated MBAs, MSCs, LLMS, PhDs, etc. These Aristotelians developed corruption into a thriving, big business - of Corruption, Inc. - financed, partly, by government successful public policy of Salary/Wage Allowances. Corruption, Inc. may be likened to the great Mafia!!

But in any democratic political community committed to the rule of law and in which atrocious criminal acts of atrocious were committed, as was the case in the Republic of Liberia, a legal house-cleaning effort for the arrest, trial of the suspected and punishment of the guilty are required, indeed mandated. This effort sends out the message that there will and shall be, no preferential treatment or immunity, given to anyone, irrespective of position and standing in the community.

Given this condition - of profound criminal, political acts and its widespread negative impact on the developing nations of Africa and, particularly, Liberia - the United Nations came up with the idea of the International Criminal Court, designed “to help Africans & Liberians

defined in international treaties. After the considerations expressed from the commission, the General Assembly established a committee to draft a statute and study the related legal issues. In 1951 a first draft was presented; a second followed in 1955, but there were a number of delays due to the difficulties in the definition of the term “aggression” but these difficulties were resolved by diplomatic assemblies in the years following the Rome Statute's coming into force. The Statute was, and is, the result of several, serious attempts for the creation of a supra-national and international tribunal.

Thus, this UN action provided the legal basis for the operation of the International Criminal Court within reformed democratic process under law and supported the world court consistently, persistently since its founding and establishment.

The International Criminal Court is, then organized as an

Court with threat of withdrawal by some member-states who are signatories to the Rome Statute. The Statute established four core international crimes - genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and crime of aggression. The Statute was adopted on July 17, 1998 by a vote of 120 to 7, with 21 countries abstaining. Because the manner in which each delegation voted was officially not-recorded; there had been, and is, dispute about the identity of the seven countries that voted against the Statute.

But, it is certain that the People's Republic of China, Israel, and the United States were three of the seven because they have publicly confirmed their negative votes. Also, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Libya, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and Yemen have been identified by various UN observers and commentators as possible sources for the other four negative votes, with Iraq, Libya, Qatar, and Yemen being the four most commonly identified.



Alhaji Kromah & Others

TO BE CONT'D

“Grossly defiant posture”

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Some members of the House of Representatives say House Speaker Bhofal Chambers has used his office to paint a controversial picture of defiance and non-cooperation of the 54th Liberian Legislature against ongoing investigation into alleged missing \$16 billion Liberian Dollars.

U.S. investigative experts from USAID are here to help Liberia probe claims of missing \$15.5 billion Liberian Dollars, but Speaker Chambers insisted last Thursday that the Legislature cannot be invited by any institution for questioning.

But he comes under serious attack from a group of seven lawmakers for his recent statement, with claims that he is putting on a grossly controversial defiant posture for saying he not avail the Legislature to an ongoing



investigation.

Growing opposition to Speaker Chambers' comment has pushed the Legislature to make clarity on Friday, 19 October that Chambers will not shield anyone involved in the

scandal, but he would require that the proper authority be written for any lawmaker or document that is needed.

Reading a statement on behalf of the seven representatives on Saturday,

20 October in Monrovia, River Gee County Rep. Francis Dopoh said Speaker Chambers used the platform of the Speaker's Office to launch a stinking attack on former officials of government.

According to Rep. Dopoh, Speaker Chambers paints a controversial picture of defiance and non-cooperation of the 54th Liberian Legislature regarding the ongoing investigation on the alleged missing money issue.

The seven lawmakers, mostly from the former ruling Unity Party (UP) point out that the integrity of the 54th Liberian Legislature matters.

They include Francis Dopoh (River Gee, District 3); Thomas Goshua, (Grand Bassa District 5); Dowoin T. Gleekia, (Nimba District 6); Richard N. Koon, (Montserrado District 11); Hanson S. Kiazolu,

(Montserrado District 17); and Yekeh Y. Kolubah, (Montserrado District 10).

Speaker Bhofal Chambers announced on Thursday, 18 October that the House of Representatives will never allow itself to be 'invited' to an investigation from any institution including the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). But Rep. Dopoh says this unilateral and personalized comment emanating from the Speaker is a lone statement and position that does not represent the condensed decision of the House's plenary and the leadership of the House.

"As members of the 54th National Legislature, we welcome the investigation on the current 16-billion Liberian dollars, and remain cooperative to ensuring a logical conclusion in the interest of the Liberian people," Rep. Dopoh announces.

According to them, any or all members of the Legislature who for any reason are to be subject of investigation should comply to the extent provided for in the law, and in the interest of the Liberian people.

They warn Speaker Chambers to refrain from the use of the House's platform in launching his attack on former officials of government.

The group note that doing so will sway the debate in a non-productive manner to the detriment of the Liberian people.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

Liberian Artist wants Katie Meyler prosecuted

By Lewis S. Teh

Liberian musical artist Kobazzi, born Kotie D. Bazzi, is urging government to quickly prosecute U.S. charity More Than founder Mrs. Katie Meyler.

In an interview with reporters over the weekend, Kobazzie expressed disappointment in the founder of More Than Me School for the high level of embarrassment put on innocent girls in the country.

"Today is one of the saddest days in my life. I'm sad after reading the full report by ProPublica about the systematic sexual abuse of poor and helpless teenage girls at More Than Me, which were covered up by Katie Meyler, the organization's founder,"

says Kobazzie.

According to him, those girls' lives were upended, their futures clouded and worst of all, the pains they went through and are going through were kept under wraps by those they loved and trusted.

Kobazzi laments that Katie Meyler's action was inhumane and neglectful, adding that it is also an unacceptable and unforgivable act.

The Liberian musical star says these girls might be poor, but they do not deserve what they went through.

"It is against this backdrop that I'm calling on the government through the Ministry of Justice and Gender, Children and Social Protection to seek justice for these young girls," Kobazzie continues.

According to him, Katie

Meyler's alleged neglectful action without delay has ruin the future of these victims.

He pleads with government needs to take this situation seriously, warning that if it does not do so, this will be the order of the day.

"This is the time for the Government of Liberia to prove that it remains committed to ending all forms of abuse against children," Kobazzie says.

He says while the perpetrator of this immoral and deadly act is dead, Katie needs to be prosecuted for covering up the scandal at the organization and later influencing the trial of the accused rapist just to save the institution's imagine.

The fact that Katie was allegedly aware of the situation and did nothing, Kobazzie says it makes her a party to the crime.

"Meyler did nothing because the man in question who raped these girls was her boyfriend," Kobazzie charges.

According to him, More Than Me founder Katie and her organization failed these unprivileged kids who needed their help.

He says Katie willfully neglected her responsibility to put into place systems and mechanisms to prevent such a situation. Kobazzi observes that Mrs. Meyler's organization built its foundation and fundraising appeal on the poor living condition of these girls and created an environment where the very abuse they claimed to protect the girls against became widespread within the organization.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

Liberian farmer appeals

Cont'd on page 7

villagers are lacking food most often because the Government has failed to support them."

Moses D. Semineh, a farmer says farmers in the district are finding it difficult to produce more food for their families, noting that with the provision of a farm tractor they are able to increase production.

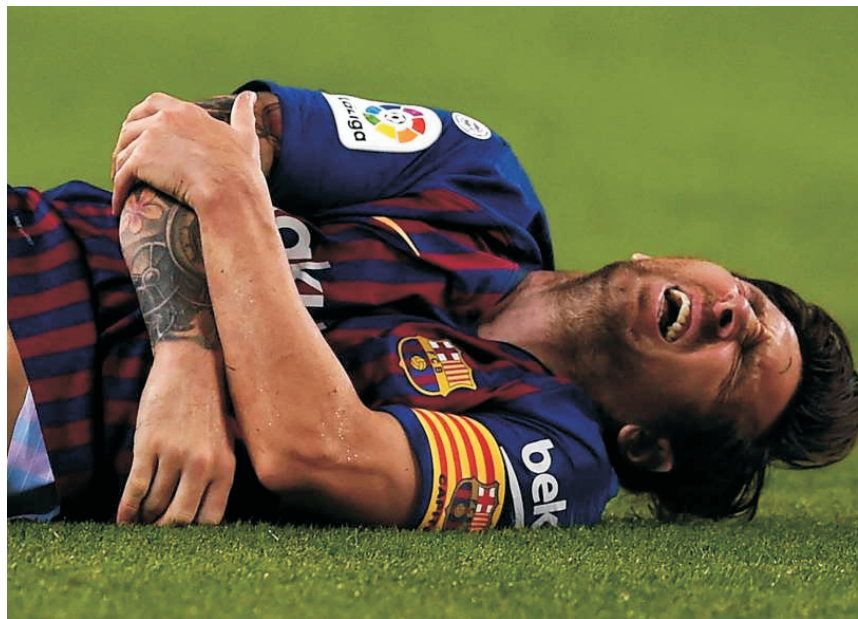
"We are lacking the necessary supports from the

Government to feed the nation. The initiative taken by our son "Kesseh" is laudable. We are cultivating large area of land with cutlasses and we really need the tractor to enable us de-stump and plough the land. We want to appeal to the Government to release the tractors," he said. -*Editing by Jonathan Browne*



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Messi to miss Clasico with fractured arm



Barcelona's all-time record goalscorer Lionel Messi will miss next weekend's El Clasico against Real Madrid after suffering a broken arm. The five-time Ballon d'Or winner fell awkwardly on his right arm in the 17th minute of the La Liga clash with Sevilla at the Camp Nou on Saturday and was immediately in visible pain. He underwent treatment as

the game continued with his arm being wrapped by trainers while he laid on the sidelines. However, he remained down after treatment in obvious discomfort and was unable to continue, eventually being replaced by Ousmane Dembele after 26 minutes. The club have now confirmed he has fractured a bone in his right arm, ruling him out for the next three weeks including the visit of

their arch rivals, along with a crucial Champions League tie against Serie A side Inter. Messi had already left his mark on the game as he helped Barcelona into a 2-0 lead, teeing up Philippe Coutinho for the opener before netting his 32nd career goal against Sevilla inside the opening 12 minutes. Ernesto Valverde's side went on to win 4-2. But that cameo display has been overshadowed by an injury which will see him miss the club's next five games. Barca face Inter Milan in the Champions League on Wednesday, before hosting Real next Sunday. The Catalans then face three away games in a row against Cultural Leonesa in the Copa del Rey, Rayo Vallecano in La Liga and the return game with Inter. The three-week injury assessment means Messi will likely return in time for the club's clash with Atletico Madrid at the end of November, which follows an international break.

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Ts & Cs apply

David Beckham admits marriage to Victoria Beckham is "hard work"

David Beckham has opened up about his marriage to Victoria, admitting their union can be "hard work" and has grown more complicated over time. The former Manchester United player and Spice Girl turned fashion designer, who have been married for 19 years, have regularly been the target of split speculation.

But while they recently hit back at reports claiming they were on the verge of divorce, David - who shares four children with Victoria - has admitted their marriage hasn't always been easy. Speaking to Australian TV show The Sunday Project, Becks, 43, remarked: "To have been married for the amount of time that we have, it's always hard work. "It becomes a little more

complicated," he added in the teaser trailer. The dad-of-four also talked about fatherhood, telling host Lisa Wilkinson: "Sometimes it's the little things that make the biggest difference. "I've noticed that with my children." He also reveals he has only "one regret in life", though fans will have to tune into the show to find out what it is.



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