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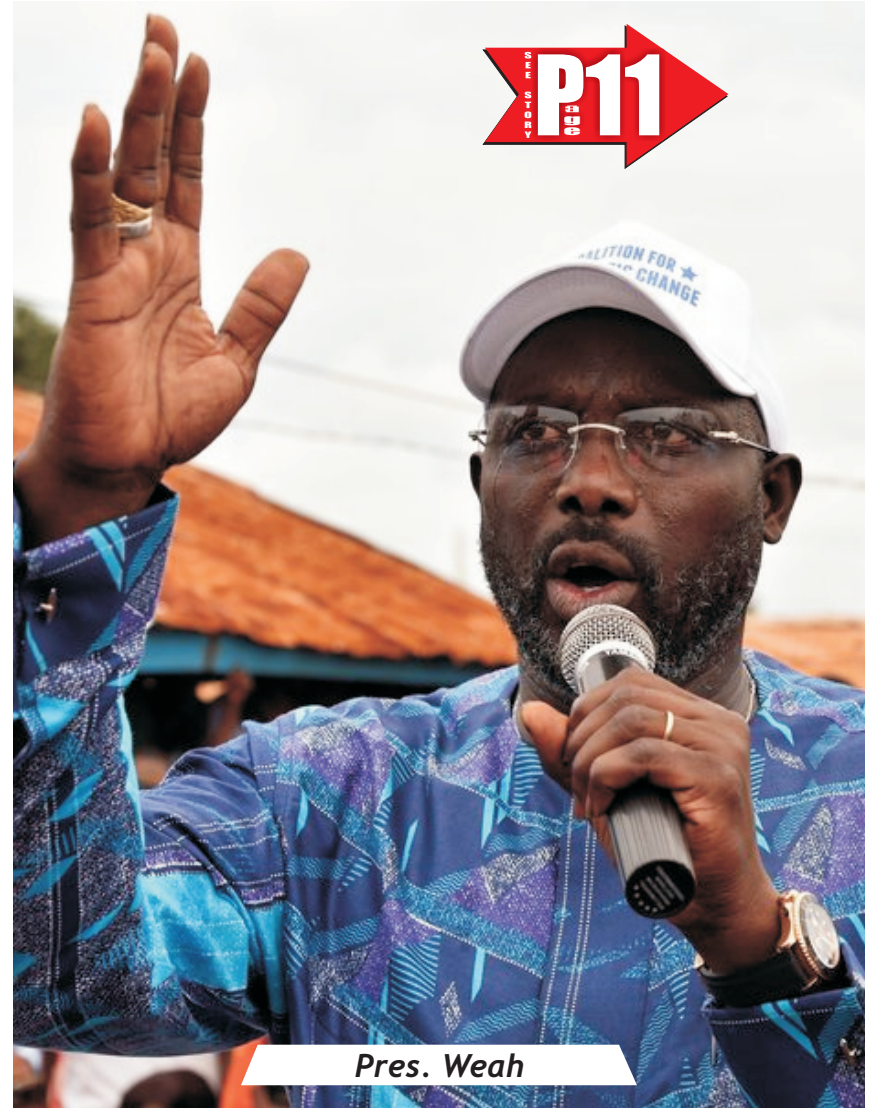
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VOL. 8 NO. 193

MONDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2018

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Weah makes big promises



Pres. Weah



Former Pres. Sirleaf

Elen turns 80 today

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Continental News

Morocco abruptly drops clock change

Morocco has decided to scrap winter time and will instead keep its clocks at summer time, GMT+1, all year around.

The announcement comes less than two days before the clocks would have gone back by one hour on Sunday.

Avoiding the switch would save "an hour of natural light", Administrative Reform Minister Mohammed Ben Abdelkader told Maghreb Arabe Press.

The north African nation joins a number of others, mainly in Africa and Asia, which do not use daylight saving. Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) is the time measured on the Earth's zero degree line of longitude, or meridian

This runs from the North Pole to the South Pole, passing through the Old Royal Observatory in the London suburb of Greenwich

This line has been called the Greenwich Meridian since 1884, and it is from here that all terrestrial longitudes are measured and the world's time zones are calculated

GMT remains constant throughout the year

In the winter months, local time in the UK is the same as GMT, but in March, local time is moved forward one hour to British Summer Time (BST) until the end of October

A number of other countries around the world also use this daylight savings measure and

change their local times to take advantage of earlier sunrises

Co-ordinated Universal Time, or UTC, is essentially the same as GMT, but UTC is measured by an atomic clock and is thus more accurate - by split seconds

Reaction to the change has been mixed on social media,

with one person calling the last-minute decision Kafkaesque: Another questioned how it would affect activities during the holy Muslim month of Ramadan: Others welcomed the decision, like this commentator in Algeria who joked his newly aligned Moroccan neighbours would also be closer to Algerian culture including its square pizzas:

And this social media user is simply relieved that Morocco

will remain at "tea time" time throughout the year: While many people around the world enjoy the extra hour in bed that comes as clocks go back one hour for winter time, there have been prominent campaigns to abolish it.

One UK campaign group even says staying at summer time all year-round would reduce traffic accidents, because road users would be able to see better in the evenings.

The European Union said in August that it would recommend that its member countries scrap the twice-yearly clock change. BBC



The Kenyan school which changed an American boy's life

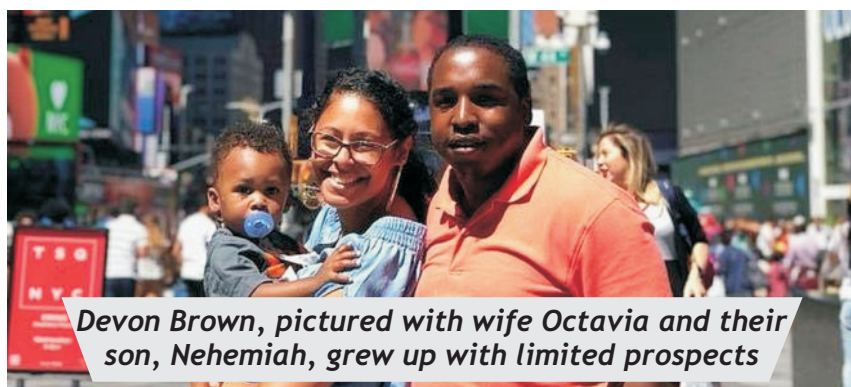
Devon Brown would have been just another statistic - one of the 486,900 black inmates in US state and federal prisons by the end of 2016.

But an academic year in Kenya during his seventh grade changed his life forever.

"Honestly it turned me into the man I am today. From a boy with limited options in inner-city

compounded the situation as drug dealers, addicts, broken families and a crowded school system offered little hope for a better future. By the time his grandparents took over parental duties, Devon was an angry boy, bitter about his circumstances with low self-esteem in tow.

"It was embarrassing to have a mum who was not stable and that



Devon Brown, pictured with wife Octavia and their son, Nehemiah, grew up with limited prospects

Baltimore to a man who has now run an ice-cream company with revenues of \$400,000 (£310,000) as its CEO," he reflects.

Mr Brown's childhood had all the ingredients for failure.

Born on 9 January 1990 in East Baltimore, his late mother was addicted to heroin and cocaine while his father drank too much.

Outside their house, the harsh streets of Baltimore only

was difficult for me to understand. When she was sober it was great but when the drugs took hold of her it was another case altogether," he told the BBC.

His sixth grade was a blur of school suspensions as he constantly found himself on the wrong side of the school administration. BBC

Two fake weddings and a degree

A radio presenter in Uganda is to hold a mock ceremony to marry a friend on Friday - the catch is that guests have to pay to attend.

That is because the wedding is a stunt to raise money for Ugandan writer Lulu

Jemimah to go to Oxford University.

Lulu, 32, hit the headlines recently when she "married herself" in a white dress.

She says, in her mind, it is preferable to further her education rather than settle down into married life.

Why did she marry herself? "As young as 21 or 22, people start asking you when you are getting married," she told BBC Newsday. "For me there is so much more I want to do - like study for this degree.

She says her mother has often prayed for her to find a good husband, while her father went as far as drafting a speech for her future wedding when she was only 16.

Pressure to marry comes from outside the family too, she says.

"A lot of people told me: 'You are going to go abroad [but] what kind of man are you going to meet? Why don't you meet someone here then travel there?'"

So Ms Jemimah took matters into her own hands and made a statement, marrying herself in a wedding that cost just \$1.50 (£2). Ms Jemimah says she wanted to make a comment on the state of marriage, while also raising the \$12,000 she needed to continue her studies in the absence of a scholarship or grant.

So why this second wedding?

News of the singleton's wedding prompted radio show



Lulu Jemimah "married herself" to raise funds - now others are joining in to help

host Siima K K Sabiti to joke with friend Bernard Mukasa that they should marry to get people off their backs too. "When are you going to give your parents a wedding? That's the question that [often] comes along," Ms Sabiti told the BBC. This led to plans for a massive wedding party, with tickets going towards Ms Jemimah's crowdfunding efforts to raise money for her Masters degree in creative writing at Oxford University in the UK. "We're hoping to make a difference - we're in a

Uganda shilling economy, Lulu's got to raise her fees in pounds. I'm feeling positive that we can make some contribution to helping her finish her degree," Ms Sabiti told the BBC.

"Many more young women are not succumbing to the societal pressures. Many like Lulu are pursuing further education, or their careers, starting their own businesses before settling down," she added. "It's happening slowly but more and more people are beginning to accept it." BBC

EDITORIAL

A people-centered development plan matters

PRESIDENT GEORGE MANNEH Weah launched his government's five-year development plan dubbed, Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development or PAPP over the weekend in Ganta, Nimba County, targeting to reduce poverty by 23 percent in five of six regions in Liberia.

THE AMBITIOUS DOCUMENT contains four pillars namely; Power to the People, Economy and Jobs, Sustaining the Peace, and Governance and Transparency. It was crafted by the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning under the auspices of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund or UNICEF.

WE CAN BUT only hope that the plan was truly designed with the Liberian people in mind, because they are supposed to be the ultimate beneficiaries in line with decision made at the ballot box during the December 26, 2017 Runoff Presidential Election. In short, the Liberian people overwhelmingly signed a social contract by electing then Candidate George Manneh Weah and his Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) party to govern the country and better their lives.

TOO OFTEN IN our country's history, we have observed with serious disappointment that politicians come with grandeur agenda and intentions that never see daylight. Instead, they remain mere slogans and blueprint on papers while state resources that should be directed at actual implementation or execution to achieving the dreams are siphoned and misappropriated.

INSTEAD OF LEADERS truly endeavoring to lift their people out of the shackles of illiteracy, ignorance, poverty, disease and misery, they get carried away by extravagant receptions and gifts proffered by executives of investment companies trying to win their hearts and forget about the masses.

HERE ARE A few examples: The late President William V.S. Tubman had the Open Door Policy that left this country bare for foreign investors during his entire 27 years rule with no tangible returns in terms of infrastructural development. His immediate successor President William R. Tolbert launched the similarly ambitious From Mat to Mattress Policy but he and his immediate relatives held the string tightly, directly involving themselves in all of the private investments, and at the same time running the government. Slain President Samuel Kanyon Doe ousted them in a bloody military coup in 1980, charged them with rampant corruption and executed 13 Tolbert officials by firing squad at the Barclay Training Center in Monrovia.

After taking power, Doe himself got entangled by nepotism, tribalism and endemic corruption, placing personal loyalty above national duty, a misrule that led to his government crumble in a rebel invasion on December 24, 1989 and his eventual capture and mutilation to death.

REBEL LEADER CHARLES Taylor preached freedom and patriotism from the bush on his way to Monrovia and launched Vision 2021 after winning election in 1997, but got blurred by power, ill-gotten wealth, women and personal aggrandizement, which led to his eventual downfall in 2003. Immediate former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf came to power on a pendulum of massive international support and launched Poverty Reduction Strategy that was subsequently dubbed, Agenda for Transformation accompanied by Vision 2030. But after serving two consecutive six-year terms, she left office with no running water and electricity still remaining a luxury for most ordinary Liberians.

THEREFORE, WE CAUTIOUSLY welcome the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development, launched on the theme, "Unveiling of an Integrated Five Years Medium-Term National Development Plan towards Accelerated, Inclusive and Sustainable Development." Notwithstanding, we believe the PAPP will only become meaningful if it impacted people's lives rather than just a mere slogan.

FOR INSTANCE, PILLAR One - Power to the People would just become a catch phrase absolutely mean nothing if the nation cannot feed itself, if thousands of our people don't have access to quality health care and shelter, while officials of government buy for themselves houses here and there, at the cost of hundreds of thousands of United States Dollars.

IN SHORT, THE PAPP should be truly people-centered by transforming lives. It shouldn't be a lip-service heralded in public speeches for political gains, for the issues it intends to address have existed for decades, and would only be appreciated for the difference it would make in Liberians' lives.

COMMENTARY

By Michael J. Boskin

Who Deserves Credit for the Strong US Economy?

Although US President Donald Trump is prone to hyperbole, he is not wrong to tout the strength of the US economy on his watch. But while Trump's regulatory and tax policies have been good for growth, his efforts to attach his name to the economy all but ensure that he will bear the blame in the event of a downturn.

STANFORD - US President Donald Trump claims credit for "the greatest ever" economy, and constantly contrasts economic conditions today with the historically weak recovery under President Barack Obama. With growth this year over 3%, unemployment at 3.7%, and more job openings than unemployed people, the economy has greatly improved on Trump's watch. The macroeconomic indicators are the best in decades.

Meanwhile, Obama, too, claims credit for the strong economy, arguing that his policies prevented a far worse downturn following the 2008 financial crisis. Neither Trump's hyperbole nor Obama's selective memory comes as a surprise.

American presidents, like star athletes in team sports, get both too much credit and too much blame from voters and historians for what happens on their watch. Most presidential policies must be enacted by Congress, which often alters or blocks them. And many other factors are constantly at work, not least the US Federal Reserve's monetary policy. So far, the Fed's policies under its new chairman, Jerome Powell, have been spot on; but that hasn't stopped Trump from publicly complaining that interest rates are rising too rapidly. While unusual, Trump's griping pales in comparison to President Jimmy Carter's nationally televised admonition to the Fed to lower interest rates in the midst of the raging inflation of the late 1970s.

Of equal importance are economic and political events in the rest of the world, technological and demographic forces at home and abroad, and the policies of previous administrations, which can expand or constrain a sitting president's options. For example, President Ronald Reagan inherited double-digit inflation from Carter. President George H.W. Bush inherited a Latin American debt crisis and a savings-and-loan disaster that had been brewing for more than a decade. To their credit, Reagan and Bush both saw the problems before them and supported successful responses, despite the predictable political costs of the downturn that followed each episode.

For his part, President Bill Clinton inherited low inflation and a revived financial system. After the Republicans captured both houses of Congress in the 1994 midterm election, Clinton worked with them to balance the budget and reform welfare. Then came President George W. Bush, who inherited a legacy of insufficient national-defense spending. Early in his presidency, the attacks of September 11, 2001, laid bare the need to rebuild the military and improve homeland security. Finally, Obama inherited the financial crisis and the subsequent Great Recession. But he then presided over the weakest economic recovery since World War II, owing partly to his attempts to reengineer vast swaths of the economy.

These American examples are tame compared to others in recent history. In Central and Eastern Europe, post-Cold War reformers had to manage the transition from a decrepit centrally planned socialist system to a free-market economy. Whoever eventually succeeds President Nicolás Maduro in Venezuela will inherit the unmitigated economic and social disaster that is Chavism.

Returning to 2018, the Trump administration's rollback of Obama-era regulations and enactment of corporate-tax reform have both helped to promote growth. Trump's trade policy, however, is risky. If it proves successful in opening up China's market and curtailing technology transfers from US companies, then it will have been constructive. But if it precipitates a long-term trade war, it could do serious damage.

Trump often takes presidential exaggeration to new heights with his common refrain that, "Nobody's ever seen anything like this." But this is not to say that past presidents have eschewed such hyperbole. For example, after repeatedly invoking "shovel-ready" projects to pass his February 2009 stimulus bill, Obama later admitted "...there's no such thing as a shovel-ready project." And his pledge that Obamacare guaranteed that patients could keep their health plan and doctor received "four Pinocchios", the worst possible rating, from the Washington Post fact checker.

Obama has also claimed that nobody knew how bad the Great Recession was going to be. And yet, immediately after his election, I pointed out that, "This recession is the real thing, far worse than the two brief, mild recessions of the last quarter-century." Later, Obama expressed regrets that he had not communicated earlier just how bad the recession would be and that if he had, perhaps he could have made the stimulus bill much larger. But if nobody knew how bad it was going to be, how could it have been communicated earlier?

Obama seems to have conveniently forgotten that his first term budgets repeatedly estimated growth above 4% for the next several years. That is double what was actually achieved. Clearly, his advisers either didn't have an accurate read on the economy, or they were wildly optimistic about the efficacy of his policies. Since then, they have fallen back on a discredited theory of "secular stagnation" to explain the tepid recovery.

As a result, when Trump came to office, he inherited a national debt that had doubled on Obama's watch, rapidly rising interest rates, and unfunded Social Security and Medicare costs. Under these conditions, Trump's biggest and boldest policy proposals will likely run into budgetary constraints. He has already ruled out any changes to Social Security. His and congressional Republicans' attempts to replace the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare), and to curtail the growth in Medicaid spending, have been unsuccessful. And a temporary increase in defense spending will revert back to insufficient levels after this fiscal year.

Although the tax package that Trump signed into law last December front-loaded tax cuts and is now helping the economy to grow, government revenue has yet to respond much to that growth. Unfortunately, growing deficits mean it will be hard to make the legislation's personal tax cuts permanent any time soon.

In the event of a downturn, voters will be quicker to blame Trump than they have been in giving him credit for today's boom. Given all of the president's efforts to attach his name to the current economy, it will not be easy for him to shift the blame to the Fed, Democrats, or anyone else.



O-PED

By Chris Patten

Obama's Letters and Trump's Delusions

TOKYO - When was the last time you sat down and wrote a letter? I don't mean an email or a text message; nor would I count a dictated message to a machine or a personal assistant. No, I mean an old-fashioned "Dear Donald" or "Dear Hillary" letter.

The reason I ask is that 65,000 people actually did write such letters to Barack Obama every week when he was serving as president of the United States. According to a recent feature in The Guardian, a team of White House staffers would select ten letters each day to pass along to the president, who would then respond to them personally that evening.

Was this nightly ritual a waste of time for the most powerful leader in the world? One might think that Obama would have been better served reading policy briefs on Syria or on the implementation of health-care reform. No doubt, he read those, too. But I suspect that he realized the value of a daily encounter with voters. His ritual was a partial solution to a fundamental problem that all political leaders face: keeping in touch with the real world.

Now consider Donald Trump. With a few honorable exceptions such as Secretary of Defense James Mattis, Trump is surrounded by people who will tell him that the world is as he believes it to be, rather than as it actually is. For the lickspittles of Trump's court, dutifully confirming the president's delusions is de rigueur. And the same goes for those on Fox News, who routinely tell their audience exactly what Trump wants to hear.

Of course, even leaders who are more like Obama than Trump struggle to apprise themselves of everything that is going on. Ideally, heads of state will have teams of dedicated public servants to ensure that political decisions are made with a full understanding of their context and consequences. In a democracy, leaders can and often must pursue courses of action that entail some risk. But they should do so only after having considered all of the facts.

Another problem is that the longer leaders are in power, the less they like being told that they are wrong. Political longevity breeds sycophancy. I personally witnessed this with former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who read her policy briefs and knew most of the issues inside out. Thatcher was most successful when she allowed her instincts to be challenged. But the longer she stayed in office, the more she assumed that she knew best.

Eventually, Thatcher's epistemic isolation would bury her. She usually had a strong grasp of issues relating to the standard of living; and yet she failed to comprehend the impact that a new poll tax would have on household budgets. Ultimately, this - not some lofty debate about Britain's place in Europe, as is often suggested - was what brought her down.

Moreover, navigating the demands of parliamentary accountability is not the same thing as engaging with voters. One can master all the political tricks of the trade to survive parliamentary debates or interrogations by committees. And if you are a minister, you should already know more about your subject area than any potential interlocutor. The real challenge comes when you meet your constituents.

To its credit, the British electoral system at least establishes a more or less direct relationship between MPs and the people who vote for them. Each MP represents a particular town, suburb, or stretch of countryside, and most go back each week to listen to voters and hold sessions known as constituency surgeries. On these occasions, people usually come to discuss housing problems, social-security benefits, or schooling; or they just want to grouse about some national controversy.

As a former MP, I can remember times when I had easily convinced Parliament that I was right about some policy decision, only to learn through face-to-face encounters with my constituents that I was not nearly as smart as I thought I was. When someone breaks down crying while trying to explain the impact that your decision has had on their life, you usually think twice about the issue.

Obama didn't need focus groups to tell him that ordinary Americans were struggling to pay their medical bills and being denied treatment for preexisting conditions. He already knew that from reading their letters, some of which he had framed and placed on his wall.

No wonder health care is such a big issue in the US midterm elections this year. Perhaps the results will send a message to Trump. Rather than a letter, he might be handed a string of Republican congressional defeats. If it's any consolation, he can find out about them on Fox News, where nothing is ever his fault.

OPINION

By Jean Pisani-Ferry

The Global Economy's Three Games

PARIS - Chess masters are able to play simultaneously on several boards with several partners. And the more time passes, the more US President Donald Trump's international economic strategy looks like such a match.

There are three major players: the United States, China, and a loose coalition formed by the other members of the G7. And there are three games, each of which involves all three players. Unlike chess, however, these games are interdependent. And no one - perhaps not even Trump - knows which game will take precedence.

On Trump's first board is the break the rules of trade game. Many in his administration regard the World Trade Organization's principles and procedures as an obstacle to bilateral negotiations. They would prefer to clinch deals with partners one by one, without being bound by the obligation to apply liberalization measures across the board and without being forced to abide by the rulings of the WTO's dispute settlement mechanism. Their aim is to restructure the trade relationships along a hub-and-spoke model, with the US at the center.

The underlying reasoning is fairly simple: multilateral rules always protect the weakest players. Why should the US refrain from using its overwhelming bargaining power? The recent United States-Mexico-Canada agreement (USMCA) shows the way, by imposing US-determined national content obligations on the other two countries and restraining their own trade policy options. More such deals should follow.

Europe, Japan, and China have all criticized the US stance and portray themselves as champions of multilateralism. This is only half true: Europe has built its own web of trade agreements, and China, itself a fairly transactional power, regards global rules as an embodiment of yesterday's Western dominance. But on this issue (as on climate change), there is currently more commonality among non-US partners than there is between them and the US.

On the second board is the discipline China game. For a decade or so, many in the US have claimed that China's categorization as a developing country, and the resulting favorable treatment it enjoys at the WTO, do not reflect the true strength of an economy whose goods exports amount to \$2 trillion, or 11% of world trade. As Susan Schwab, President George W. Bush's Trade Representative, put it back in 2011, in trade discussions elephants were hiding behind mice. The Trump administration now wants to trap the Chinese elephant.

The internal heterogeneity of China's economy is indeed exceptionally high for a developing country. Parts of China are poor, and parts wealthy. Some industries are unsophisticated, while others are at the cutting edge of innovation. The latter shouldn't hide behind the former.

America's grievances regarding China's behavior, from its treatment of intellectual property to its implicit and explicit subsidies and policy-motivated takeovers of foreign industrial jewels, are essentially shared by its G7 partners. Many Chinese experts also agree that ending the wholesale subsidization of industrial behemoths and letting market signals play a stronger role in investment choices is in their country's best interest.

More generally, China's partners argue that trade rules conceived for market economies are not adequate when dealing with a centrally-directed economy. This claim is more contentious, because leaders in Beijing regard state ownership of enterprises as a matter of sovereign choice, and do not want to renounce big industrial policy endeavors. But there is room for discussion. All in all, the discipline China game is one in which the US, Europe, Japan, and Canada are largely aligned. All look forward to a robust negotiation with the Chinese.

This makes the discipline China game very different from the third contest, the roll back China game. This game is not about the enforcement of trade rules, or their design, but about the sheer geopolitical rivalry between the incumbent superpower and a rising challenger. As Kevin Rudd, the former Australian prime minister, noted in a remarkable speech a few weeks ago, the US security establishment has become convinced that strategic engagement with China has not paid off and should give way to strategic competition - a stance that would encompass all dimensions of the bilateral relationship. In early October, a particularly harsh speech by US Vice President Mike Pence illustrated Rudd's point.

Europe, Japan, and Canada are not part of this rivalry - they simply do not matter in the same way that the US and China do. But they are inevitably part of its diplomatic, economic, and, for Japan at least, security components. If the tension between the two powers dominates global politics in the decades to come, they won't be able to avoid taking a stance. And, for all their reluctance, they may well end up aligned with the US, for two reasons: a hardening of the rivalry with the US would drive the Chinese leadership further from Western values, and they ultimately depend on the US for their own security.

The problem, however, is that it is still not clear in which game President Trump intends to score a victory. Does he intend to play a long game? And, if so, what are his aims? Nobody really knows.

For the non-US G7 countries, this uncertainty creates a dilemma. Should they engage with China on WTO reform and the strengthening of the associated disciplines? This is a topic on which they could help pave the way for an eventual global compromise. The risk, however, is that if China fears that the US really aims at winning the rollback game, and expects the rest of the West to fall in line eventually, it will refuse to make meaningful concessions.

Alternatively, the rest of the G7 could align with the US, at the risk of antagonizing China and eventually being strategically demoted if Trump ultimately settles on a bilateral deal with Chinese President Xi Jinping. If that game prevails, the non-US G7 will end up being the losers.

Absent a no-risk strategy, Europe, Japan, and Canada might well choose to wait and see. This would be the surest way to be sidelined in all possible circumstances and provide a demonstration that only the US-Chinese "G2" matters. What these countries are facing is a test of leadership, which they may pass or fail. There is no third possibility.

FROM WHERE I SEE PRESIDENT WEAH'S GOVERNMENT

By: Jones Octavious Mallay, Esq.
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President Weah's Tuition Waiver, or a Free Education Fiasco?

24 October 2018, President Weah remarked "I, therefore, declare free tuition for all university students at the University of Liberia as well as all other public universities in Liberia....," President Weah intentions are not good, his body language was deceptive, nevertheless, his inner spirit regarding education are virtually syndical, deceptive, betraying and definitively unbelieving by any stretch of political imagination.

President Weah doesn't believe in the tenet of education values neither has he ever been a champion of education nor has he ever valued or defended education or celebrated educators since his trek to the Presidency, how can he then so suddenly out of the blue becomes the chief champion advocate of education overnight by waiving tuitions for weary students around Liberia who attend broken public schools and Universities with no plans clear plan and focus.

The building of the Liberian educational system is not President Weah's primarily focus, Liberians shouldn't be overzealous over such as a seemingly hopeless promise. There are multiple instances to suggest otherwise that President Weah is betraying the student population in Liberia. For example, when President Weah was worth \$85 millions as a foot football legend in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East, he did not channel a dime to the suffering students of Liberia, neither his own forgetting AL matter Well-Heston? Or his own Kru-community's schools in New-Kru Town.

When he declared himself a CDC's lifetime leader, he never sent any CDCian to elementary school neither did he encouraged CDC's huge school dropout population rate to go back to school, especially, when he became Senator. He used his Senatorial portfolio as a medium to ascend to the Liberian Presidency. He did not one day champion the cause of education of poor students in the House of Senate. He was basically concerned about his personal aggrandizement and personal agenda. Over 90 percent of Cedecians are acutely illiterate, yet President Weah had no immediate educational plan for all CeDecians both old and young.

When President Weah won the presidency in January 2018 his first priority was not to break ground for a new University complex, or send score of students to study abroad in various fields of



interests to reconstruct Liberia, President Weah first priority was basically to strengthen the security apparatus when he willfully launched a less-impressive groundbreaking ceremony for the erection of a military hospital for 4,000 inexperienced armed forces of Liberia, which was just another political disgrace. Why didn't he break grounds for another new University?

President Weah made several international travels to some most wealthy nations including France to lobby for sports development in Liberia. The president did not lobby the French government to support education in Liberia, he lobbied for the development of sports in Liberia. Meanwhile the long years the president spent in sports, he did not develop sports in Liberia he invested in the transport system, when the elections didn't go his way in 2015, he sold all his buses to Ivorians thus leaving his own weary Liberians to get stranded on the streets of Liberia-Is President Weah truly a patriotic Liberian to the broken Liberian educational system?

President Weah's utterance is a huge political hypocrisy to the students of the Republic of Liberia which was vehemently disappointing and disgraceful. President Weah lacks the educational empathy, constituency, seriousness and his untruthfulness to the power of the Liberian

education system which lies in terrible shambles to the insensitivity of President Weah. President Weah is not a fan of education, Liberian students shouldn't be moved by such a cloudy and dark move by the President.

If President Weah was truly committed and sincere to help the deplorable educational system in Liberia, tuition waiver and free education will not be the main approach to the problem. The main approach to the Liberian educational problem is nothing short of educational reform, and not the importation of corrupt Nigerian teachers into the already volatile and rotten Liberian educational system or tuition waiver entertainment fiasco.

It is unfortunate at this time in the history of Liberia's to see scores of Presidents of Liberia from time-to-time who ignored the serious plight of the Liberian educational system since Liberia was established 171-years ago on July 26, 1847. Former President Sirleaf refused to employ UL graduates into her administration on grounds that they were feeble and poor-quality-materials to serve in her administration, as a result, she imported score of corrupt Liberians from the U.S. to serve in her administration which was a disgrace to the Liberian educational system.

To proof that President Weah pronouncement is simply another political joke. President Weah's acting educational minister Latin Da-Thong alarmed that President Weah's pronouncement of tuition-free for undergraduate students at public tertiary institutions does not cover fees for registration of ID card. Handbooks, among other expenses. Students should know that President Weah's statement is not law nor is it an executive order, it is simply another side statement made by a President which cannot be trusted because the Liberian people cannot hold him if he didn't deliver on his promises.

This pronouncement is having no supporting plan, time duration, nature of tuition how long it will last and who all can be covered remain the biggest mysteries in Liberia. President Weah statement is nothing short of a political deception to please the poor students of Liberia for his own political gains that might soon put weary students on the streets of Liberia to demonstrate.



MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Nimbaians boycott Pro-Poor Agenda launch?

By Thomas Domah/Nimba

Nimbaians largely took a back seat at the official launch of the Weah-led government's five years development plan, Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development or PAPP.

President George Manneh Weah led his cabinet and other officials, including international partners to Ganta City, Nimba where he officially launched the PAPP over the weekend, calling on Liberians to join him in taking ownership of national security, as the United Nations Mission in Liberia or UNMIL is no longer in the Country.

He says the government's Pro-Poor Agenda is designed to give power to the people, promote economic diversification, protect sustainable peace and encourage good governance, among others.

But our Nimba County Correspondent observes that while the program was well attended by guests from in and out of Liberia, Nimbaians, who

are the hosts failed to turn out in their numbers for a ceremony held in their back

they were informed thru community radio stations and their Senator Prince Yormie



yard.

Some of them spoken to, including Emmanuel Dolo, Eric Dahn and Saye Dolo, explained

Johnson that President Weah's visit to the county was basically to assess ongoing construction of the Ganta-

Sanniquellie- Yekepa road.

According to them, they were not aware about the launch of the Pro-Poor Agenda in the county.

Chiefs, elders, including young people and women groups were seen outside of the Ganta United Methodist Gymnasium where President Weah performed the official launch.

The President details the Pro-Poor Agenda will be implemented from now to 2023, prioritizing power to the people, rule of law, roads and agriculture, health, education, governance and transparency, and sustaining the peace.

He promises to in the next five years, develop Liberia, unite and reconcile the people, educate and develop the youth, while promoting peace and human rights, among others.

President Weah however, reminds that the country cannot develop in the absence of good quality infrastructure and skilled labor force.

He continues that in the next five years, his government will invest in high quality infrastructure, including roads, affordable

energy, air and seaports, telecommunication and information, housing, water and sanitation to end widespread vulnerability, among others.

The PAPP was initiated by the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning with support from international partners.

Liberia's Minister of Finance and Development Planning Samuel D. Tweah, says the launch by the President will enable citizens to have access to equal right to their national resources for national transformation.

Minister Tweah discloses that government needs US\$1 Billion to combat poverty and help improve the living conditions of the people.

He says to achieve this; funds will be raised with help of both private sector and donors, describing the PAPP as a good document for Liberians.

He also notes that in the plan, power theft would be drastically minimized and the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) will be able to generate needed funds to support government's development programs. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*

World Bank predicts economic recovery here

By Ethel A. Tweh

The medium-term economic outlook of Liberia seems optimistic, despite substantial downside risks, including further slump in commodity prices, incomplete structural and institutional reforms, and risky borrowing, according to the World Bank.

In a new report titled: "Liberia At-A-Glance," the Bank says the emerging recovery is driven largely by increased production of gold and iron ore, following uptick in prices in the international market as non-mining sector Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth remains very low.

However, it further notes that inflation continues to rise

during the year, reaching an all-time high of 24 percent in June 2018 from 10.8 percent, the same period last year, and that this is largely due to a sharp drop in foreign exchange supply following the drop in exports and donor inflows.

The fiscal deficit widened to 5.2 percent of the GDP in fiscal year 2018, compared to 4.8 percent of GDP in FY2017, due to a significant shortfall in revenues and higher than anticipated non-discretionary expenditures, the report continues.

It says shortfall in revenues by 20 percent of the approved budget, is due to the slower than anticipated economic activities in line with prolonged political

uncertainty, tax waiver policies in the run-up to the presidential elections and unsolved court dispute with respect to the collection of petroleum levy and lower than projected donor grants.

"The new administration is expected to mitigate these risks by embarking on policy reforms that will promote economic diversification, improve the investment climate, and promote domestic revenue mobilization and to ensure prudent borrowing strategy," the report says.

In the meantime, it further suggests that Liberia's economy is still struggling to recover from the effects of multiple shocks and others in recent years, such as the Ebola Virus Disease, the collapse of commodity prices, and the draw-down of the UN peacekeeping mission (UNMIL).

The tough economic situation was also attributed to the perception of risk associated with the political transition in January 2018.

The World Bank notes the resultant rise in the cost of living and limited employment opportunities continue to undermine the welfare of Liberians, and the 2016 Household Income and Expenditure Survey suggests that more than half of the country's population lives in poverty.

Small arms rampant in Gbarpolu

-Advocate alarms

By Emmanuel Mondaye

A resident of Gbarpolu County, who identifies himself as an advocate, Jerry Kamara Gono, calls on government to deploy agents in several parts of the county to fight small arms proliferation there.

In an exclusive with this paper in Monrovia recently, he disclosed that small arms such as Guinean-made single-barrel pistols and ammunition are allegedly brought into the county and secretly sold to during market days.

He names the diamond-rich town of Kongbor, Mano River Congo, Camp Alpha, and Smith Camp, among others as areas where small arms transaction goes on.

According to him, most people he has spoken to regarding the issue in the county have confided in him that individuals involved in the

transaction do business between Liberia and the Republic of Guinea.

He said some of these business people openly engage citizens who had gone to these market grounds whether they were interested in buying single-barrel guns and ammunition.

He laments that while government is fighting to stop small arms proliferation in the country, some unscrupulous people are illegally bringing such prohibitive items into Liberia for their self-aggrandizement.

He suggests that government through the small office in Liberia embarks on a vagarious awareness campaign in the county to enlighten inhabitants about the danger of small arms. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*



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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Weah chairs cabinet meeting in Gbarnga

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong County

President George Manneh Weah over the weekend chaired a special cabinet meeting in Gbarnga, Bong County.

The first special cabinet meeting to be held outside of Monrovia was intended to appraise various governance issues towards endorsing the Pro-Poor Agenda for Development and Prosperity (PADP).

The special cabinet meeting was a precursor to the official launch of the much-heralded PADP which was done on Saturday in Ganta, Nimba County.

The Agenda is a national policy document that encapsulates and articulates Government's overall development action plans for the next five years.

At the end of the Gbarnga meeting, President Weah led ministers and other officials of government on a city-wide tour in Gbarnga with an inspection of some incomplete projects in the County.

Our Bong County correspondent says President

Weah inspected the Gbarnga main street project and the Bong County Technical College (BCTC).

President Weah assured citizens of the County that his government will work with the Legislative caucus of Bong County and the Ministry of Public Works to ensure the completion of projects in the County.

During the President's tour

in Gbarnga, he interacted with citizens whose well-being is part of what the PADP seeks to deal with in the next five years.

For their part, Citizens of Bong County lauded President Weah for his government's plan to complete projects in the county.

The Citizens say completing those projects will be a big boost for the county in terms

of development, mainly citing the completion of the BCTC which according to them will help their children to acquire university degree in the county.

The Bong County citizens praised President Weah for his recent free university tuition for undergraduate students in all public universities in the county.

The citizens say they

believe that this will give the masses the opportunity to contribute to the nation building process, describing the free tuition offer as unprecedented for his Pro-poor Agenda.

The citizens, most of whom were market women vowed that they will continue to pray for President Weah for a better Liberia.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



House promises to work in the interest of Liberians

By Bridgett Milton

The Speaker of the House of Representatives Bhofal Chambers says all has been done to ensure that the service of members of the House will be in the best interest of the people of Liberia.

In remarks at a one-day retreat by the House on Sunday, 28 October in Congo Town, Speaker Chambers says members of the House of Representatives held a healthy discussion at the retreat,

The legislative body has been in the news in recent days for all the wrong reasons.

The situation caused Deputy House Speaker Prince K. Moye to call on his colleagues to gather and find a common ground.

Speaking at the start of the retreat, the Chair of the retreat committee Rep. Johnson Gwaikolo welcomed his colleagues to the second retreat of the House.

He says the House of

SDA mission in Nimba abandoned

By Emmanuel Mondaye from Zontuo, Nimba County

Citizens of Zontuo in electoral district#7, Nimba County say they are seriously worried over the abandonment of the Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) Mission School in the county by the SDA Church in Liberia, leaving the entire campus to be consumed by bushes and low land grass.

Our reporter, who visited the SDA Mission School Campus over the weekend, gathers the mission which was prior to the Liberian Civil War opened to the public as a boarding institution for both male and

female students, has been completely abandoned.

Some residents of Zontuo lament they have made frantic efforts aimed at getting the SDA authorities to reopen the school, but to no avail.

They recalled that the mission, which was established in 1976 by missionaries from the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Liberia, provided education to over 500 students, but no longer operates or serves the purpose for which it was founded.

Elder Jerry Dahn, explains the mission accommodated day

students from surrounding towns and villages in the county.

He discloses the land on which the mission operated was given to the SDA Mission Liberia by the people of Zontuo for development purpose free of charge prior to the civil crisis.

Elder Dahn continues that the mission operated both elementary and junior high divisions, was among some of the best SDA Mission schools in Liberia.

He says since the civil crisis ended in the country, they had sought clarification from the SDA Liberia authorities whether the church is still interested in reopening the mission school or not, which would give right to the citizens to seek assistance elsewhere to restart the mission, but are yet to get an official response from SDA Liberia.

He adds that the people of Zontuo want urgent intervention of the Ministry of Education which has oversight of all educational matters in the country to authorize them to administer the affairs of the abandoned mission to meet the educational needs of youth of the area, some of whom are being constrained to travel distances to acquire junior high education.

The campus contains dozens of structures, but they



promising to work in the interest of Liberians.

He expresses hope that at the end of the retreat, Representatives will trash out what is dividing them as a body and will build solidarity and work in the interest of Liberians.

Members of the House of Representatives have gathered at the Millennium Hotel in Congo Town at a one-day retreat to trash out their differences.

need serious repairs, including roofs. The main road leading to the mission is overwhelmed by bushes.

When this paper contacted local officials of the SDA Church in Nimba, they declined to comment, but instead, directed this reporter to seek redress from central

Representatives is a deliberative body of duly elected persons who make, change, or repeal the laws of this Republic.

He notes that the House is a significant part of the first branch of government, the Legislature, adding that the retreat is a period of time used to pray and study quietly or think carefully, away from normal activities and duties.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

office in Monrovia.

Efforts by this paper to get word from authorities of the SDA Liberia offices situated in Old Road proved fruitless as staff there assert their boses were not available to speak to the issue. -*Editing by Jonathan Browne*



Français

Coopération Sud-Sud : Les opportunités d'affaires au Libéria présentées à la Côte d'Ivoire

La Chambre de Commerce et d'industrie de Côte d'Ivoire (Cci-Ci) a abrité le jeudi 25 octobre 2018 un atelier d'informations sur l'investissement intitulé « Le Libéria est ouvert et prêt pour les affaires ».

Organisé en prélude à la mission économique et de prospection économique qu'organise le Mouvement des Pme (Mpme) au Libéria en mars 2019, cet atelier visait à présenter les opportunités d'investissements qu'offre le Libéria aux acteurs du secteur privé ivoirien. Selon Touré Faman, président de la Cci-Ci, au vu des performances économiques du Libéria et des ambitions de développement du secteur privé, il importe pour les entreprises ivoiriennes de s'intéresser à ce marché d'autant plus que, at-il relevé, des liens socio-culturelles et historiques forts lient déjà les deux pays.

Pour sa part, Willye Mai



Tombert King, l'ambassadeur du Libéria en Côte d'Ivoire, a souligné l'intérêt de cet atelier qui devrait à l'en croire, instruire le secteur privé ivoirien sur les potentialités économiques du Libéria. La méconnaissance de ces éléments étant, selon

elle, le principal obstacle à une accélération de la coopération économique entre les deux Etats. Elle a d'ailleurs énuméré quelques points forts de l'économie libérienne notamment les 4 ports maritimes, la forêt (43% de la couverture africaine), ...

en dépit des défis qui se présentent. Lesquels défis, a-t-elle fait savoir constituent de réelles opportunités pour les investisseurs et les entreprises ivoiriennes en l'occurrence. « Nous croyons qu'à côté de ces défis, il y a beaucoup d'opportunités. Si d'autres comme la Chine viennent vers nous pourquoi

pas la Côte d'Ivoire avec qui nous avons beaucoup de liens. (...) On vous attend avec beaucoup d'enthousiasme », a invité l'ambassadrice.

Les représentants des ministres ivoirien et libérien et ivoirien du Commerce, Jessie Jefferson et Ahmed Diomandé se sont accordé sur l'opportunité de la coopération économique entre les deux pays. D'ailleurs, a expliqué le directeur de cabinet adjoint du ministère du commerce, les entreprises ivoiriennes et régionales doivent améliorer leur compétitivité pour répondre à la forte concurrence engendrée par les actions d'ouverture des marchés. D'où l'invitation du président du Mpme, Joseph Amissah « à tirer profit de cette rencontre en recueillant toutes les informations dont elles ont besoin pour apporter leur savoir-faire au Liberia et s'enrichir de l'expérience de ce pays frère à travers des échanges économiques fructueux ».

Côte d'Ivoire : Les tensions entre Ouattara – Bédié et Soro inquiètent Paris

Jean-Yves Le Drian a récemment séjourné en Côte d'Ivoire où le Président Alassane Ouattara est en froid avec Soro Guillaume et Henri Konan Bédié, ses alliés contre Laurent Gbagbo lors de la crise de 2010. Le ministre français de l'Europe et des Affaires

étrangères de la France aurait noté au Quai D'Orsay ses inquiétudes sur la situation du pays.

En effet, le Président Alassane Ouattara ne s'adresse plus la parole avec Henri Konan Bédié, son ancien allié au sein du RHDP. Ces deux

personnalités de la politique ivoirienne se déchirent sur la question de l'alternance à la tête de la Côte d'Ivoire. Alors qu'ils avaient le projet de faire fondre leurs deux partis le RDR et le PDCI au sein du RHDP où ils allaient présenter un candidat commun à la présidentielle de 2020, de graves divergences sur le sujet a provoqué le divorce entre ces deux houphouëtistes.

Le Président Alassane Ouattara souhaite que le PDCI rejoigne le RHDP où dans le cadre d'une primaire, un candidat de cette majorité présidentielle serait désigné pour l'élection présidentielle de 2020. Refus sec et catégorique de Henri Konan Bédié qui dit que le PDCI a assez soutenu le RDR pour son obtention de deux mandats présidentiels à la tête de la Côte d'Ivoire et que ce dernier doit absolument lui renvoyer l'ascenseur.

La situation est depuis bloquée à un point que le PDCI a claqué la porte du RHDP et forme en ce moment même de nouvelles alliances avec des

partis de l'opposition.

Du côté de Guillaume Soro considéré comme dauphin du Président Ouattara au sein du RDR, les choses ne sont pas non plus simples. Depuis les mutineries à l'intérieur du pays et des tonnes d'armes de guerre saisies chez son chef de protocole Soul to Soul, il est tombé en disgrâce auprès de Ouattara et ses proches.

Brillant par son absence, comme Henri Konan Bédié, à l'AG constitutive du parti unifié RHDP, Soro Guillaume ne participe presque plus à la vie de ce nouveau parti qui vient d'absorber le RDR. Il a même défié le RHDP auquel il est censé appartenir en apportant son soutien à des candidats indépendants lors des élections locales du 13 octobre 2018.

Ces tensions entre ces trois

leaders font planer sur la Côte d'Ivoire de fortes tensions qui pourraient se traduire par une prochaine crise en 2020. Jean-Yves Le Drian qui a fait le déplacement à Abidjan, puis à Yamoussoukro, se serait inquiété de cette situation en France.

Des hommes d'affaires installés à Abidjan, avec qui il a échangé durant son séjour en Côte d'Ivoire, auraient confirmé, selon des informations relayées par Confidentielafrique, les craintes d'un lendemain douloureux pour les Ivoiriens.

L'ancien Président du conseil régional de Bretagne, dans ses notes à la cellule africaine du Quai D'Orsay, aurait mis en gras son inquiétude sur les relations tendues entretenues par Ouattara avec Bédié et Soro.



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Français

Éditorial

Université gratuite : Il faut en profiter

Lors d'une visite à l'Université du Libéria, le Président de la République George Manneh Weah a déclaré gratuits les frais de scolarité au premier cycle de l'Université du Libéria, ainsi que dans toutes les autres universités publiques du pays. Cette déclaration a suscité des réactions mitigées de la part des étudiants de l'UL et du public en général.

Le président a exhorté les étudiants de l'Université du Libéria et de toutes les autres universités et instituts d'enseignement supérieur publics à profiter de l'occasion qui leur est offerte pour réaliser leur rêve de s'instruire, tout en indiquant que l'administration universitaire et le ministère de tutelle discuteraient des détails et des modalités de ce qu'il a décrit comme « un partenariat gagnant-gagnant » avec les étudiants.

Mais les sceptiques et les critiques doutent de la faisabilité et de la durabilité de cette gratuité de l'enseignement universitaire vu le manque de ressources financières auquel l'Etat du Libéria est en proie depuis quelques années, sans compter le déficit budgétaire annuel projeté de 26 millions (0,7% du PIB), selon le dernier rapport de la Banque mondiale.

Même les étudiants sont eux-mêmes inquiets car les universités publiques, en dépit du fait qu'elles soient payantes jusque-là, sont confrontées à un déficit de financement, y compris l'Université du Libéria (UL). L'administration de l'UL a toujours eu du mal à garder le cap par manque de financements.

Mais le président Weah a déclaré qu'il a pris cette décision après avoir consulté le ministre des Finances et de la Planification du développement, Samuel Tweah. Il souligne que son gouvernement ne réussira jamais son programme en faveur des pauvres s'il ne met pas davantage l'accent sur le développement du capital humain du pays.

Nous ne sommes pas du même avis que les prophètes du malheur et les sceptiques, qui disent que cela ne fonctionnera pas. Nous encourageons plutôt les étudiants de partout dans le pays à profiter de l'occasion en s'inscrivant pour poursuivre leurs études. L'UL a toujours été confrontée à des problèmes de financement et de qualité des programmes académiques au cours des deux ou trois dernières décennies. Mais, au milieu de ces défis, il a produit certains des meilleurs cerveaux, dont notamment des technocrates comme l'ancienne ministre des Finances, Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan, et le ministre actuel, Samuel Tweah, parmi tant d'autres, qui ont fait d'énormes contributions à la société.

Ils ont atteint leurs objectifs car ils ont gardé le cap malgré les difficultés de fermeture prolongée en raison d'un financement insuffisant de l'administration. Il y avait aussi des problèmes de manque de matériel didactique à jour tel que des livres, des produits chimiques et des outils de laboratoire, principalement pour les sciences naturelles. Cependant, les étudiants qui ont réussi ont gardé le cap et étaient déterminés à mener à bien leurs études universitaires.

C'est dans le même esprit que nous exhortons les étudiants inscrits et ceux qui envisagent de s'inscrire dans les universités et les instituts d'enseignement supérieurs du pays à s'adapter. Le gouvernement a ouvert les portes, mais encore faut-il que les étudiants fassent preuve de résilience pour faire la différence.

Pour profiter de cette opportunité, il faudra payer tous les frais d'inscription et prendre part aux cours, au lieu de passer tout le temps sur les médias sociaux en espérant qu'on réussira à la fin du semestre. Non ! Ça ne marche pas comme ça.

Le président Weah a lancé un défi aux étudiants libériens. Il leur demande d'utiliser « l'arme » qu'il a mise à leur disposition, c'est-à-dire la gratuité des universités publiques. Pour atteindre cet objectif, il faudrait consacrer plus de temps à ses études malgré les défis, d'autant plus que d'autres, avant eux, ont connu des défis similaires, parfois beaucoup plus sérieux. Ils n'ont qu'à faire usage des nouvelles technologies de l'information pour élargir leurs horizons sur les plans académique, intellectuel et social.

Le monde entier est à votre disposition. Le ciel est votre limite. Il faut foncer. Il est vrai que pendant votre parcours académique, le retard du financement et autres sources de distraction constitueront des problèmes, mais si les deux partenaires (gouvernement et étudiants) conjuguent leurs efforts et se concentrent sur les objectifs communs avec engagement, c'est faisable.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Michael J. Boskin

A qui revient le mérite de la force de l'économie américaine?

STANFORD - Le président américain Donald Trump s'attribue le mérite d'une économie « plus forte que jamais », et met constamment en contraste la conjoncture économique d'aujourd'hui avec la reprise historiquement faible sous la présidence de Barack Obama. Etant donné la croissance cette année à plus de 3%, le chômage à 3,7% et les créations d'emplois qui dépassent le nombre de chômeurs, l'économie s'est considérablement améliorée sous Trump. Les indicateurs macro-économiques sont les meilleurs depuis des décennies.

En même temps, Obama s'attribue lui aussi le mérite de la bonne santé de l'économie, en faisant valoir que ses politiques ont empêché une récession qui aurait pu être bien pire après la crise financière de 2008. Ni l'hyperbole de Trump, ni la mémoire sélective d'Obama ne sont une surprise.

Les présidents américains, comme les athlètes vedettes dans les sports d'équipe, attirent à la fois trop de mérite et trop de blâme de la part des électeurs et des historiens à propos de ce qui se passe durant leur mandature. La plupart des politiques présidentielles doivent être adoptées par le Congrès, qui souvent les modifie ou les bloque. De plus, beaucoup d'autres facteurs sont constamment à l'œuvre, notamment la politique monétaire de la Réserve fédérale américaine. Jusqu'à présent, les politiques de la Fed sous son nouveau président, Jérôme Powell, ont été exactement les bonnes; mais cela n'a pas empêché Trump de se plaindre publiquement que les taux d'intérêt augmentent trop rapidement. Bien que cela reste inhabituel, les rouspétances de Trump sont peu de chose en comparaison de l'avertissement du président Jimmy Carter sur la télévision nationale cherchant à convaincre la Fed de baisser ses taux d'intérêt en plein épisode d'inflation galopante dans les années 1970.

Egalement importants sont les événements économiques et politiques dans le reste du monde, les forces technologiques et démographiques dans le pays et à l'étranger, ainsi que les politiques des administrations précédentes, qui peuvent élargir ou contraindre les options du président en fonction. Par exemple, le président Ronald Reagan hérita de l'inflation à deux chiffres de Carter. Le président George H.W. Bush hérita d'une crise de la dette latino-américaine, ainsi que d'une crise domestique de l'épargne et du crédit qui couvrait depuis plus d'une décennie. À leur crédit, Reagan et Bush ont tous deux anticipé les problèmes qui se profilaient à l'horizon et mis en œuvre des réponses adéquates, en dépit des coûts politiques prévisibles de la récession qui a suivi chaque épisode.

Quant au président Bill Clinton, il hérita d'une inflation faible et d'un système financier ravivé. Lorsque les Républicains prirent le contrôle des deux chambres du Congrès lors des élections de mi-mandat en 1994, Clinton travailla avec eux pour équilibrer le budget et réformer la sécurité sociale. Puis vint le président George W. Bush, qui hérita des conséquences de l'insuffisance chronique des dépenses de défense nationale. Au début de sa présidence, les attentats du 11 septembre 2001 mirent en évidence la nécessité de reconstruire l'armée et d'améliorer la sécurité intérieure. Enfin, Obama hérita de la crise financière et de la Grande récession qui l'a suivie. Néanmoins, sa présidence fut ensuite caractérisée par la reprise économique la plus lente depuis la Seconde Guerre mondiale, en partie à cause de ses tentatives de réforme de vastes pans de l'économie.

Ces exemples américains sont modestes par rapport à d'autres cas récents. En Europe centrale et orientale, les réformateurs de l'après guerre froide ont dû gérer la transition d'un système socialiste planifié décrépit vers une économie de marché libre. Au Venezuela, celui qui succédera finalement au président Nicolás Maduro héritera de la catastrophe économique et

sociale complète qu'a été le chavisme.

Si on revient à 2018, aussi bien le démantèlement de plusieurs lois d'Obama que la réforme de l'impôt des sociétés par l'administration Trump ont contribué à promouvoir la croissance. La politique commerciale de Trump, cependant, est risquée. Si elle parvient à ouvrir le marché chinois et à réduire les transferts technologiques depuis les entreprises américaines, alors elle aura été constructive. Par contre, si elle précipite une guerre commerciale à long terme, elle pourrait causer de graves dommages.

Trump porte souvent l'exagération présidentielle à de nouveaux sommets avec son refrain que « Personne n'a jamais vu quelque chose comme ça ». Mais cela ne veut pas dire que les anciens présidents aient évité cette hyperbole. Par exemple, après avoir invoqué à plusieurs reprises des projets « prêts à démarrer » en vue de faire passer son plan de relance en février 2009, Obama a plus tard admis que « ... les projets 'prêts à démarrer', ça n'existe pas ». Et sa promesse que l'Obamacare garantirait aux patients de pouvoir garder leur plan de santé et leur médecin a reçu « quatre Pinocchios », la pire note possible, de la part du vérificateur de l'information du Washington post.

Obama a également affirmé que personne ne savait quelle aurait été l'ampleur de la Grande récession. Pourtant, immédiatement après son élection, j'avais fait remarquer que « Cette récession est le vrai test, bien pire que les deux récessions douces et courtes du dernier quart de siècle ». Plus tard, Obama a regretté de ne pas avoir communiqué plus tôt sur la gravité de la récession et expliqué que, s'il l'avait fait, il aurait peut-être pu prévoir un plan de relance beaucoup plus important. Or, si personne ne savait quelle aurait été son ampleur, comment cette dernière aurait-elle pu être communiquée plus tôt?

Obama semble avoir oublié, de manière commode, que ses budgets du premier terme ont estimé à plusieurs reprises une croissance supérieure à 4% pour les prochaines années. Le double de ce qui a été réalisé. Il est clair que ses conseillers soit ne disposaient pas d'une lecture précise de l'économie, soit étaient follement optimistes quant à l'efficacité de ses politiques. Depuis lors, ils sont retombés sur une théorie discréditée de « stagnation séculaire » pour expliquer la timide reprise.

En conséquence, lorsque Trump est arrivé au pouvoir, il a hérité d'une dette nationale qui avait doublé sous Obama, de taux d'intérêt en augmentation rapide et de budgets de sécurité sociale et d'assurance - maladie non financés. Dans ces conditions, les propositions de politiques les plus importantes et audacieuses de Trump se heurteront probablement à des contraintes budgétaires. Il a déjà exclu toute modification de la sécurité sociale. Ses tentatives et celles des Républicains du Congrès pour remplacer la Loi sur les soins abordables (Obamacare) et freiner la croissance des dépenses de Medicaid, ont été infructueuses. Et une augmentation temporaire des dépenses de défense devra retourner à des niveaux insuffisants après cette année fiscale.

Bien que le paquet fiscal que Trump a promulgué en décembre dernier ait commencé par réduire les impôts et soit en train d'aider à la croissance de l'économie, les recettes du gouvernement n'ont pas encore beaucoup répondu à cette croissance. Malheureusement, les déficits croissants signifient qu'il sera difficile de pérenniser les réductions de l'impôt sur les personnes prévues par la législation dans un avenir proche.

En cas de récession, les électeurs seront plus rapides à blâmer Trump qu'ils ne l'ont été à lui reconnaître le mérite du boom d'aujourd'hui. Compte tenu de tous les efforts du président pour être reconnu comme le responsable de l'économie actuelle, il ne sera pas facile de faire porter le blâme sur la Fed, les Démocrates, ou toute autre personne.

ARTICLE

By Alpha G. Gray

A wake-up call to our Liberian youth

The essence of youth participation in society is to seek readiness to building a vibrant society, social network, contribute to nation's economic growth and development, bring about a new paradigm shift as well as strengthening national leadership. In the wake of national development, it takes courageous young men who'll vow to share their sweat and blood for the redemption of their generation. We live in a country of hidden greatness. Our young generation sees far below the future of our nation. This is a crisis in the making that we all need to be concerned about, and work together to avert. Our nation fell away some years back due to the inability of its earliest inhabitants to consciously fight and defeat the foes of our nation's greatness.



In this current generation, it has now become a great challenge posed on us to rise up and restore the true mirror of the homeland that has been broken. This challenge is urgent, practical, critically important, and vital. We as young people have no choice if we want a bright future. We must strongly glean from our wisdom the tools necessary to grow our society, impact our country, and transform this current generation. We are to see beyond the future of this generation and effectively illuminate the plight of today's youth in our permissive culture.

There is no retirement in war! In war, the time is crucial, the cost is great, but the cause is worth it! Our nation has been in a grave danger for so long. The national battle wages for the hearts and minds of our generation. It is our fervent hope that the youth of this country will not only sit and watch national government and/or leaders, but that we will join them on the front lines. Against formidable odds, we can come together to fight off evil-- to win a war that once seemed unwinnable and to secure freedom for our future generation. It is time for us to wake up and acknowledge that this is our war for the hearts of today's youth and for the future of our country.

It is time now for us to get involved, not only as supporters but as warriors. It is the story of history that the younger generation are used to revive and restore a nation that has fallen away. Therefore, the enemies of our youthful generation often work to destroy youth before they can fulfill that destiny. It is no surprise, then, that today's political terrorists have targeted youth for national instability through empty politics. To rebuild our generation and move mama Liberia forward, we will have to expose those political terrorists sleeper cells at work within our country, sound a clarion alert, and set forth a succinct battle plan to defeat the enemies.

Youth wanting to see Liberia being great must put on their working shoes and be willing to make all necessary sacrifices to move our country to greatness. For us in the youth and student community, it's not too late for a wake-up call regarding even the socioeconomic crisis with today's youth-generation. Rather, it's time for an intellectual explosion that begets a progressive, passionate leadership response to take action too long overdue. Like a pregnant woman is responsible for the welfare and health of the child she carries, so is every nation responsible for the generation within its womb. And to capture the urgency and danger of the critical state our youth are in, there should be a team of powerful, practical and profoundly passionate young men and women to rise up to the occasion, seize the moment and sound a clear call to all who dare to accept the mandate to save our generation.

Fake political messengers who are power griever, self-centered, with no love for country and respect for human dignity will parade in another form, infuse material wealth into your actions against your national leadership and teammates. Fellow Liberian youth, don't be carried away by what they say or do. They are subversive and effective in promoting their selfish agenda. These enemies of decency are already in our nicest families, as we will soon see. Yes, even in the best of government ministries and agencies. Let us not be deceived by their slippery movements-- not even by their material wealth.

For 170 years our nation bleed, our nation suffered in the dead hands of modern democratic wonders of nature, and was locked down in political and economic captivity. Today, we now see a 171 year old Liberia that focuses light on building human resource capacity especially the youthful generation, prioritizes health and education which play major role in the economic growth and development of a nation as well as roads and infrastructures. Why can't we have an open mind and create an able environment and make our contributions to the homeland through action programs? Why can't we support the positive changes and/or developments, honestly convert the negative actions of the government to positive and move our country to greatness? Our national leaders are waiting. They are willing to give us their faces. They are willing to extend their helping hands. Rise up now Liberian youth, rise up! I foresee a better Liberia.

About the author:

Alpha G. Gray is a student of the University of Liberia reading Biology major with emphasis in Medical Science. He is passionate about his field of studies and wants to make the case in his scientific life. He can be contacted via (alphagbessaygray@gmail.com) (alphag.gray@yahoo.com) Tel: +231776915195

Meet President Weah's latest appointees

President George Manneh Weah has made additional appointments in government, affecting the Judiciary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Governance Commission, Small Arms Commission, Liberia Civil Aviation Authority and the Liberia Revenue Authority. The appointments, according to an Executive Mansion release also affects the Boards of several Agencies of Government including the National Port Authority, Liberia Water & Sewer Corporation, National Social Security & Welfare Corporation, Forestry Development Authority, the Liberia Agency for Community Empowerment, among others.

Those appointed include:

Name	Position	Area of Assignment
Cllr. Roland F. Dahn	Resident Judge	8 th Judicial Circuit Court, Nimba County
Cllr. Ousman F. Feikal	Resident Judge	5 th Judicial Circuit Court, Grand Cape Mount
Cllr. Onesimus Barwon	Resident Judge	14 th Judicial Circuit Court, Rivercess
Cllr. Joe S. Barkon	Resident Judge	2 nd Judicial Circuit Court
Atty. Patrick Wesseh Williams	Judge	Debt Court, Bong County

Governance Commission

Cllr. A. Ndubuisi Nwabudiki	Chairman	Governance Commission
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National Port Authority (NPA)

Priscilla Weah	Board Member
Zadye Shelton Gonkerwon	Board Member
Charlotte H. Davies	Board Member
Mary Quita Johnson	Board Member
Emily Abiose Marsh-Askie	Board Member

National Social Security and Welfare Corporation (NASSCORP)

Elizabeth Seah	Board Member
Mornjay Prat	Board Member

Forestry Development Authority (FDA)

Mather Weah	Board Member
Joyce Marsh	Board Member

Liberia Agency for Community Empowerment (LACE)

Joyce Konah	Board Member
Haja Mawatta S. Toure	Board Member

Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation (LWSC)

Naratu Hawah	Board Member
Mariah Y. Bonkuo	Board Member
Kabeh Collins	Board Member
Mamiata J. Sheriff	Board Member

Public Procurement and Concessions Commission (PPCC)

P. Teplah Reeves	Board Chairman
Bodger Scott Johnson	Co Chairman
Roosevelt Woods	Member
Bendu E. Clarke	Member
Hawa Bropleh	Member
Mardia Jallah	Member

National Housing Authority (NHA)

Bendu Duwoe	Board Member
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Liberia Airport Authority (LAA)

Esther Paegar	Board Member
Musa H. Shannon	Board Member
Sandra Williams Glay	Deputy Managing Director/Operations

Liberia Civil Aviation Authority

Captain Moses Kronyanh Weefur	Deputy Director General
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Liberia National Commission on Small Arms

Marvin M. Sarkor	Chairman
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Ministry of Commerce & Industry

Peter D. Somah	Assistant Minister of Commerce & Industry
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Liberia Revenue Authority

Aaron B. Kollie	Deputy Commissioner General Administrative Affairs
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These appointments are subject to confirmation by the Senate where applicable.

Weah makes big promises

By Winston W. Parley

President George Manneh Weah has launched his government's five-year national development plan dubbed "Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development" (PAPD), with big promises to promote economic diversification and sustainable peace.

Launching the framework in Ganta, Nimba County, Saturday, 27 October nine months into his government, President Weah said the PAPD is designed to give power to the people, promote economic diversification, protect sustainable peace and encourage good governance.

The PAPD launching event broadcast live on state-radio ELBC from Nimba had assembled Mr. Weah's cabinet, members of the Legislature, Liberia's partners and stakeholders outside the capital, Monrovia.

Over the next five years, President Weah says his government will invest in high quality infrastructure including roads, affordable energy and all the seaports



and make emphasis on telecommunication and ICT.

He further says government will make moves aimed at [improving] water and sanitation, invest in Liberians in the areas of education and health, while placing emphasis on national security to enable Liberians move freely.

President Weah pledges his fullest personal commitment

and diligence to achieving these goals.

He urges support for the PAPD to ensure that it works, as he pledges his commitment insisting that every line of the "Book" will be implemented because the PAPD sets clearly his government's vision for the country and its people.

He boasts that after just nine months in office, his

government has already begun delivering on some of its promises, noting that the PAPD prepares the clear roadmap for government's five-year national development plan for the achievement of its national goals and objectives.

According to him, government did an extensive consultation with all its stakeholders in working on this roadmap, including international partners, financial partners and the private sector to ensure their friendly cooperation and participation.

Earlier presenting the PAPD to President Weah, Finance Minister Samuel Tweah said the National Resource Mobilization Strategy is to raise an additional one billion dollars

from domestic sources.

He terms it as an ambitious plan that is achievable, citing government's commitment in raising revenues by taking some tough decisions.

One of these, according to Minister Tweah, is to limit tax exemptions and duties waivers.

He says a review of exemption in the past 12 years has shown that these exemptions have hurt the economy in a variety of ways.

Under the PAPD and Domestic Resource Plan, Minister Tweah announces that the president and his government are committing to minimize exemption in order to to grow revenues so that Liberia can depend on its own resources.

Marketers want Gbarnga City Mayor dismissed

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

Marketers at the Dualla area on the Gbarnga-Ganta High-way have launched an appeal to President George Manneh Weah to dismiss Gbarnga City Mayor Lucia Herbert with immediate effect.

The marketers, many of whom are street sellers told NewDawn's Bong County correspondent that Mayor Herbert doesn't have the pedigree to maintain the job.

They are claiming that Mayor Herbert's leadership style at the Gbarnga City Corporation is grievous and onerous.

According to them, Mayor Herbert doesn't dialogue with them whenever she wants to take action concerning a specific place they should sell.

Instead, they claim that she only gets to them out of surprise and destroys their businesses.

The local marketers referenced Thursday, 25 October, the same day President Weah arrived in the County, as one of the days they will never forget about in their lives.

According to them, Mayor Herbert went at their selling place at 10:30 PM and allegedly wasted all of their goods including fishes, rice, oil and even dry goods that they were selling.

"Madam Herbert who did not give us any notice to stop selling here came here and wasted all of our markets and we are calling on the President to let him know that this is not the first time for this City Mayor to treat us like this. We want her sacked," Jerry Gbartawee, one of the marketers told this paper.

He says the action of the Gbarnga City Mayor is not fine, adding that they are struggling to survive and send their children to school by selling these goods.

"Since the President appointed this Mayor, we have not seen anything tangible that she has done. She only obstructs peaceful citizens, especially local business people," he continues.

He warns that local marketers will take drastic action against the Gbarnga City Mayor if the President doesn't listen to their cry.

Annieta Newon Bea, another Spokesperson of the aggrieved marketers is claiming more than eight thousand Liberian Dollars as damage from the City Mayor's action.

Annieta says she only depends on selling foodstuff to help send her siblings to school, alleging that Mayor Herbert wasted these goods.

"My mother even went off when the Mayor wasted my business because that's the only thing we're depending on to eat and pay tuition," Annieta adds.

"Up to now, my mother is still at the hospital because she was taken there by some of my friends during the situation," Annieta sorrowfully explains.

She says she wants the City Mayor to pay for her market within a week, and the President should have Mayor Herbert dismissed immediately.

When contacted by our correspondent, Gbarnga City Mayor Lucia Herbert stated that she has over the past told the marketers to stop selling at the interception but they have not listened to her.

Ellen turns 80 today

Former president Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf today celebrates her eightieth (80th) birth anniversary, nine months after she transferred power to President George Weah, himself an October born.

The celebration of this year's birthday comes as the former President last week bagged another accolade, this

inducted alongside Alice Walton, joining iconic leaders like Coretta Scott King, Rosa Park, Wangari Maathai and Ruth Bader Ginsburg

This is the second international highest honor Mrs. Sirleaf has received so far since she stepped down as president in January this year

following years of civil wars.

Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Mrs Sirleaf became president in 2006, three years after the second civil war had ended, and was re-elected for a second term in 2011.

"Ellen Johnson Sirleaf took the helm of Liberia when it was completely destroyed by civil war and led a process of reconciliation that focused on building a nation and its democratic institutions," Salim Ahmed Salim, chair of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation's prize committee, said when he announced Mrs. Sirleaf as winner back in February.

The Mo Abraham foundation said at the time that Liberia was the only country out of 54 to improve in every category and sub-category of the foundation's Index of African Governance since 2006 under Mrs. Sirleaf's regime.

Categories include safety and rule of law, participation and human rights, sustainable economic opportunity, and human development.

It is not yet clear how Mrs. Sirleaf is going to celebrate her birthday this year as it comes amidst controversy over a "missing 15.5 billion" Liberian bank notes.

Mrs. Sirleaf has repeated stated that every document regarding monies and transaction during her tenure were handed over to the current administration.



time Mrs. Sirleaf was inducted into the International Women's Forum (IWF) Hall of Fame.

At the ceremony which took place in the U.S. State of Florida, Mrs. Sirleaf was

at the end of her second term.

In February this year, she became the first woman to win the Mo Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership, in recognition of her efforts to rebuild Liberia

Suarez hits hat-trick as Barcelona blow away Madrid



Barcelona ran riot in the Clasico on Sunday as Luis Suarez scored the hat-trick that will surely spell the end of Julen Lopetegui's spell as Real Madrid coach.

Barcelona were 5-1 winners at the Camp Nou, dominant for all-but a 15-minute spell after half-time when the otherwise hapless Madrid briefly threatened a comeback.

All the failures that have underlined their recent problems under Lopetegui

were on show here, poor finishing, dreadful defending and key players performing well below par, let alone their best.

Philippe Coutinho scored the first and Arturo Vidal the last but in between the game belonged to Suarez, who terrorised Madrid from start to finish and made light of Lionel Messi's injury-enforced absence.

For Lopetegui, it is now one win in six games, as Madrid fall seven points behind

Barcelona, who return to the top of the table.

This defeat was reminiscent of the 4-0 thrashing that spelt the end of Rafael Benitez's time in charge two years ago but while Benitez survived two more months, Lopetegui may not last the week.

Much was made of this being the first Clasico without either Messi or Cristiano Ronaldo in 11 years but Suarez's masterclass will mean this contest lives long in the memory.

Madrid looked dazed in possession and dizzy out of it as Barca repeatedly opened them up down the left early on.

Sergio Busquets was allowed time to wait for Jordi Alba's zooming run past both Gareth Bale and Nacho, with the full-back's touch on the run perfectly pushed into the area.

Suarez rushed past but Coutinho held his ground by the penalty spot, where Alba found him with the cut-back.

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Ronaldo scores twice as Juve overcome fright to win at Empoli

Cristiano Ronaldo scored twice, the first a penalty and the second a booming long-range shot, to give Juventus a 2-1 win at Empoli on Saturday after their lowly Serie A opponents took a shock first-half lead.

Promoted Empoli, with one win all season and 18th in the 20-team table, stunned the visitors with a Francesco Caputo goal -- the

first time Juve had trailed at halftime this season.

But the champions turned the match around after the break as Ronaldo took his league tally to seven and left his side top with 28 points out of a possible 30, seven clear of second-placed Napoli who play on Sunday.

Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri described Ronaldo's winner, which dipped wickedly past

goalkeeper Ivan Provedel, as "a moment of magic from an extraordinary player.

"This sort of thing should be shown to kids in football training schools, rather than boring them with theory that prevents them from enjoying training," he said.

"Tomorrow, lots of kids will go out and try and imitate what they saw him do, and they will definitely learn more through that than they will



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