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The New Dawn

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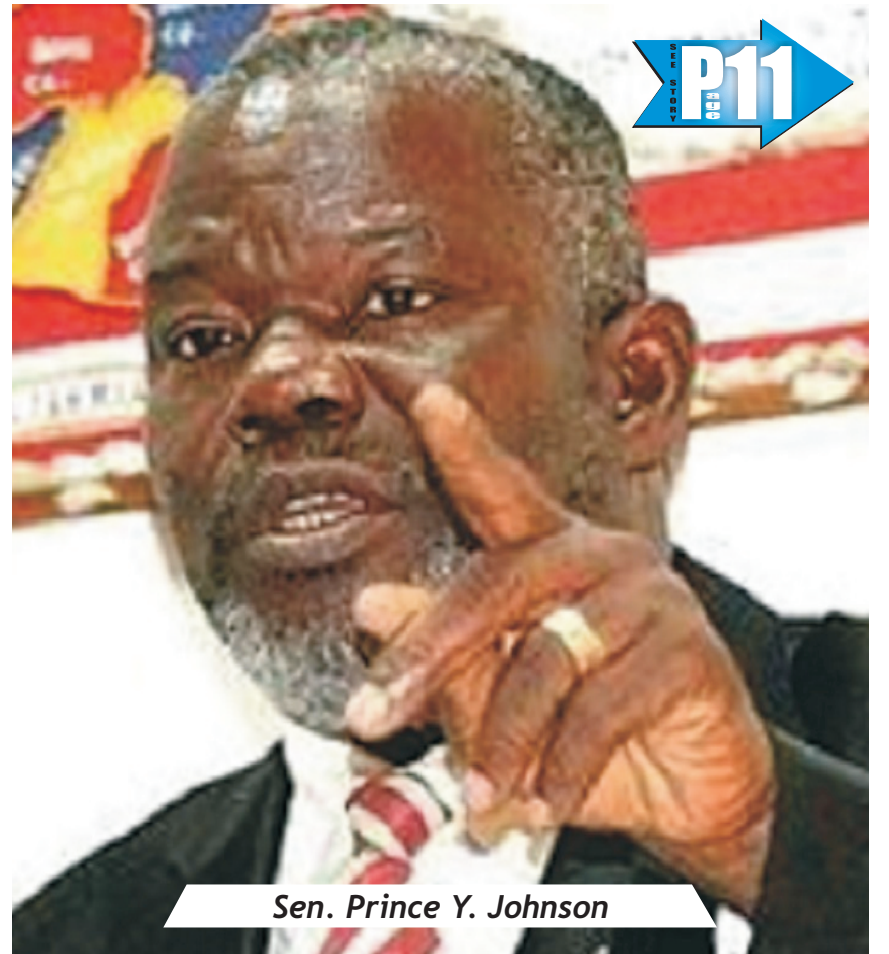
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PYJ to lawmakers:

Suspend impeachment



Sen. Prince Y. Johnson

P11

-focus on missing billions



Judge Boima Kontoe

P11

Weah appoints Ad-Hoc Justice

-for Justice Ja'neh's case



Continental News

Deadly wildfires ravage SA tourist route

At least seven people have been killed in a raging fire along South Africa's popular Garden Route in the Western Cape province, officials say.

A pregnant woman, two toddlers, and a baby are among the fatalities.

"The fire remains active on the slopes," Lauren Howard from Working on Fire said about their operation in the mountainous suburb in George city.

The Garden Route is a 300km (185 mile) scenic stretch of road popular with tourists.

It is not clear whether any foreign nationals have been affected by the fires.

George city officials say at least 200 residents have been moved to a hall and that three suburbs, housing more than 1,500 people, have been evacuated as a precaution.

"There will be food, a place to sleep and social services... the medical services are there to look at

people who may be struggling to breathe. They will be referred to hospitals in the area," Brent-Styan from Western Cape Local Government Department said.

More than 400 firefighters have been battling the blaze 450 km (280 miles) east of

Cape Town, which has so far burned over 16,600 hectares since last week.

A fire fighter pilot died last week after his helicopter went down in the Vermaaklikhei area along the Garden Route.

Working on Fire has been tweeting about its

operations:

The pregnant woman who was killed in the fire was eight months pregnant, Colin Deiner, head of Western Cape provincial disaster management services, told AFP news agency.

Students from one campus of the Nelson Mandela University, situated at the

foot of the Outeniqua Mountains near George were also evacuated, local media reported. Windy conditions are however complicating efforts to put out the fire which authorities blame on a heatwave sweeping across the Western Cape.

"The strong winds are our biggest problem at the moment and lightning is also causing more problems," Mr Deiner said.-BBC



A pregnant woman, two toddlers, and a baby are among the fatalities along the popular Garden Route.

Strike grips Guinea's capital with deadlock over teaching

Conakry (AFP) - A "dead city" strike call by the opposition in Guinea largely emptied the streets of the capital Conakry on Monday, with no solution in sight to a pay dispute in the education sector.

Streets were deserted in some parts of the West African city, while traffic was jammed in other areas where all drivers were being diverted, an AFP correspondent saw.

Troops and police were placed on alert but few were

deployed on the streets. Instead they were gathered in strength in central police stations and gendarmerie barracks, the correspondent said.

Youths burned tyres early in the day along a main Conakry thoroughfare, Le Prince street, but rain soon put out the fires and dampened the ardour of would-be demonstrators.

The political opposition called for the strike in protest against what it considers a violation by the authorities of an agreement reached in August over the appointment of local government officials elected in a hotly disputed vote on February 4.

Rivals of President Alpha Conde have also called for a march and rally in Conakry on Tuesday, a week after a banned demonstration during which opposition leader Cellou Dalein Diallo alleged that police tried to assassinate him.

Also last Tuesday, an 18-

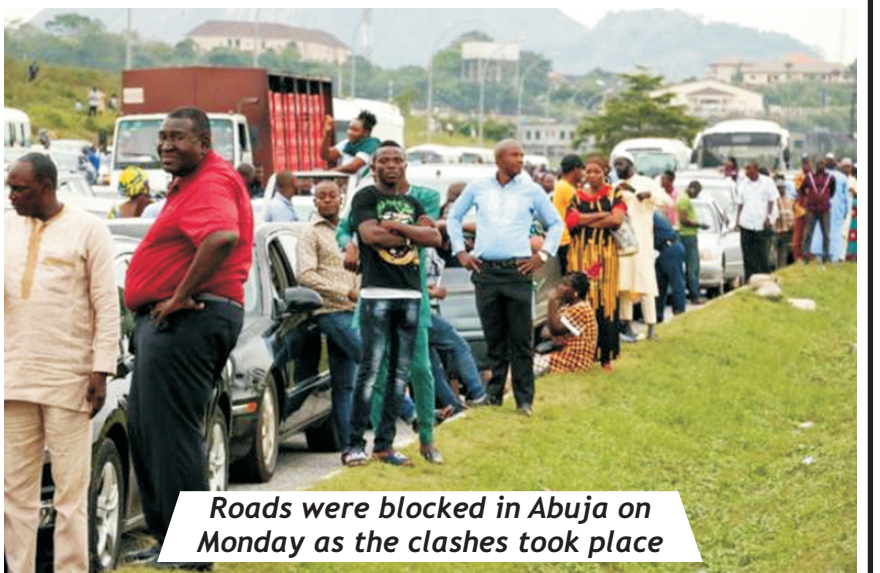
Three Shia protesters killed in Nigeria

Three members of a religious group have been killed in clashes with security forces in Nigeria's capital, Abuja, the army has confirmed. Four soldiers were also injured.

A spokesperson for the Shia group, the Islamic

In a statement, the military said troops were transporting ammunition and missiles from Abuja to Kaduna on Saturday afternoon, when they were attacked by members of IMN.

The IMN has held a series of protests in Abuja over the



Roads were blocked in Abuja on Monday as the clashes took place

Movement of Nigeria (IMN), told the BBC members of the group were taking part in a symbolic procession on Monday afternoon when they were attacked by the military.

This latest clash follows violence over the weekend.

past year to demand the release of its leader Ibrahim El-Zakzaky. He has been in government custody since fighting between his supporters and the army broke out in December 2015.-BBC



Guinean protesters and police clash during a demonstration in Conakry in March 2018 (AFP Photo/CELLOU BINANI)

year-old was killed in street clashes and his family blamed police, who denied both shooting allegations.

On Monday morning, hundreds of schoolchildren in Siguiri, a town in the far north of the country, took to the streets to call for the return of their teachers, who began "an unlimited strike" on October 3 to press demands for a raise in minimum pay, according to local media.

The teachers decided to take tougher action after the

government announced that it would not pay October wages for the strikers, said Aboubabar Soumah, general secretary of the powerful Free Union of Teachers and Researchers of Guinea (SLECG).

"From now on, it's not the worker who gets paid, but the work," Conde warned on state media.

"Teachers will stay at home until the end of the head of state's second mandate in 2020," the SLECG said in response.-AFP

EDITORIAL

Heeding the plea from ex-president Sirleaf

FORMER PRESIDENT ELLEN Johnson Sirleaf is apparently upset with Liberians for the way they pull or tear each other down in politics and negatively portray Liberia to the rest of the world, pleading with them to stop. In a rather mother-to-children-faction, she calls on Liberians to unite in their diversity and to uphold the country as their common patrimony.

THE FORMER PRESIDENT emphasizes that political differences should in no way allow Liberians to be at war with each other and to denigrate their country.

THIS IS A patriotic plea from not only a former leader, but a mother in the real sense of the world that we as Liberians, should never allow to fall on deaf ears. Disagreement should in no way lead us to violence or bad mouthing our country, particularly on the newly found platform - social media.

THE MEDIA IS not spared in this attitude either, as former President Sirleaf notes, calling on the media in Liberia to be less sensational. "Yes, you are supposed to be independent, you are supposed to be the conscious of society, you are supposed to be the watchdog; we honor you for that. But your sensationalism goes too far," Madam Sirleaf observes.

BUT THE MEDIA, it is often said, is mirror of society. It reflects happenings in society and the country at large, keeping checks on the operations of government - its watchdog function.

AS MEDIA PRACTITIONERS, we are fully aware that in the discharge of our duties, standards should not be compromised. In other words, accuracy and balance are important in media coverage to ensure professionalism.

NOTWITHSTANDING, WE OWE it to ourselves foremost as Liberian citizens, and as media practitioners to ensure security and protect national security interest. The media cannot operate in a vacuum. But when politicians slip or deliberately deviate from the normal course of duty, we would not hesitate to say so, as a patriotic responsibility to the state.

AT THE SAME time we agree with former President Sirleaf on the need for unity among Liberians in their diversity, a foundation that is needed in building a politically strong and economically vibrant nation. We cannot progress as a people if we continued to tear each other down, and negatively portray our country.

WE OWE IT not only to ourselves, but to posterity in working together to build and leave behind a better country than we met. This should be our prime focus as Liberians rather than pulling one another down.

WE BELIEVE IT is not only an honor, but a privilege as Liberians, to have a surviving former president in our midst for the first time in many, many decades to provide guidance and pieces of advice on the way forward. And we should be grateful, even if we are not pleased with all of her policies while she was in power.

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TRULY INDEPENDENT

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

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

COMMENTARY

By Elizabeth Drew

America's Midterm Elections Turn Menacing

With the approach of crucial congressional and state elections, no one should be surprised that domestic terrorism has emerged from the ranks of President Donald Trump's hyper-partisan supporters. In fact, given Trump's pattern of incitement, many have warned that some of his followers would resort to violence.

WASHINGTON, DC - With the approach of this year's midterm elections in the United States, domestic terrorism is starting to dominate the political landscape. First, barely two weeks before Election Day, an angry supporter of US President Donald Trump began sending 14 bombs to prominent Democrats and others whom Trump has frequently attacked. (None of the bombs exploded.) Then things became much worse, with the murder, on a Saturday, of 11 Jews in a Pittsburgh synagogue. Today, a polarized and anxious American public finds itself with a president totally unsuited to, and not very interested in, comforting the nation, much less trying to lead it away from the hate and deadly partisanship that he has stoked.

Had the 14 crude bombs, which the FBI called "potentially destructive devices," worked as intended, the bombmaker could have killed or gravely injured a who's who of Trump adversaries. The list included two former presidents (Bill Clinton and Barack Obama), Hillary Clinton, former Attorney General Eric Holder; a former CIA director; a former director of National Intelligence; two likely Democratic presidential candidates in 2020; a black congresswoman whom Trump frequently describes as "low IQ" (a common racist charge); two prominent Jewish billionaire philanthropists, one of whom, George Soros, is a frequent target of Trump and the subject of various right-wing conspiracy fantasies; and the actor Robert De Niro (who began his speech at this year's Tony Awards ceremony by declaring, "Fuck Trump").

Though Trump had frequently singled out many of the bomber's targets at his rallies - still attacking Hillary Clinton, his election opponent in 2016, for example, and then smiling as his audience chanted "Lock her up" - Trump's defenders tried to throw the spotlight elsewhere. The mail bombs, they claimed, were a "false flag" operation by the left, with some of the Democrats even sending the bombs to themselves in order to blame Trump.

So it was highly inconvenient for true believers when the would-be bomber turned out to be a fanatical Trump supporter who lives in Florida and drives a white van covered in hate-filled depictions of his targets. US law enforcement agencies - another frequent target of Trump - are extremely good at tracking down miscreants: the suspect was arrested four days after the first bomb was discovered in Soros's mailbox.

The most disheartening aspect of the entire episode was Trump's utter incapacity as a national leader. But that should surprise no one. How could a president who has thrived politically on dividing the American people, who has been spewing hate, sowing resentment, and at times even encouraging violence at his rallies, suddenly be - or even pretend to be - a healer? In fact, Trump's pattern of incitement and routine denunciations of the media as "the enemy of the people" had convinced many that some of his followers might resort to violence against members of the press.

The day after the discovery of the bombs sent to the Clintons and the Obamas, among others, a subdued Trump read a prepared statement at a prescheduled White House ceremony, condemning "acts or threats of political violence" and saying that the nation must unify.

It didn't last. By that evening, at a rally in

Wisconsin, he was making fun of his "trying to be nice" act and blamed the media for the violence. And soon he was back to whipping up fear of a caravan of refugees from Honduras. Though still roughly 1,000 miles from the US border, Trump portrayed the refugees as an imminent national security threat, warning, without evidence, that "Middle Easterners" were among them.

Trump's rallies are now almost a daily event, and his lies are even more frequent than before. With the entire House of Representatives and one-third of the Senate to be chosen on November 6, the upcoming midterm election is widely regarded as the most consequential in memory, perhaps ever. The Republicans' two-year lock on the entire US government - the House, the Senate, the presidency, and, with the recent addition of Justice Brett Kavanaugh, the Supreme Court - could be broken.

The midterm election following the election of a new president is often considered a verdict on the incumbent, and his party usually loses strength, particularly in the House. But Trump has made the midterms about himself to an unprecedented degree. He tells audiences that though he's not on the ballot, they should vote as if he were (though his approval ratings are in the low forties).

It has long been believed that the Democrats are more likely to win the House than the Senate, because several of the Senate seats in play are held by Democrats in traditionally conservative states. Trump's determination, or anxiety, that Republicans maintain control of both chambers is understandable. Should the Democrats take over the House, newly empowered committee chairmen, armed with subpoenas, will launch investigations of a broad range of administration actions and agencies, where extensive corruption is suspected.

But the real, almost palpable, fear on Trump's part is that a Democratic-controlled House will focus all manner of investigations on him personally: his acceptance of Constitutionally forbidden "emoluments" from foreign countries; his failure to separate himself sufficiently from the family business; his tax returns; his unauthorized foreign wars in Yemen and Syria; and of course his official and private dealings with Russia. At least the House is likely to have the conclusions of Special Counsel Robert Mueller to consider. In other words, no more lapdog Congress.

But if the Republicans maintain control of the Senate, there will be limits on what the Democrats can achieve. Even if the House were to impeach Trump - no sure thing - convicting him in the Senate would be extremely difficult. Whether a Democratic House would even proceed in that direction has been the subject of intra-party debate.

The nightmare election possibility for the Democrats is continued Republican control of both chambers. In that case, Trump will feel vindicated and more liberated than ever. He might then fire a raft of officials, treat immigrants still more harshly, and try to shut down Mueller's investigation of his campaign's possible collusion with the Kremlin and Trump's probable obstruction of justice.

The conventional wisdom may prevail, with the Democrats winning the House but not the Senate. But the polls have been fluctuating. And since Trump's stunning election victory in 2016, most observers have become more cautious about predicting outcomes.

O-PED

By Joschka Fischer

Europe's Coming Year of Reckoning

BERLIN - Politically, 2019 will be an extraordinarily important year for the European Union. The United Kingdom is currently on track to leave the EU on March 29, 2019. And, following elections to the European Parliament in May, nearly all of the most important leadership positions across EU institutions will turn over. Thus, depending on how parliamentary seats are distributed, Europe could witness a major realignment of power among member states, within EU institutions, and between member states and the Parliament.

The new distribution of power within EU institutions will be reflected largely through personnel. New presidents of the European Commission, the European Council, and the European Central Bank will be appointed, and a new High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy will be chosen. If nationalist Euroskeptic parties become the largest group in the European Parliament, these appointments could represent an abrupt break from the past.

EU member states are more divided now than ever, even on the most fundamental issues concerning the European project. The broad pro-European consensus of the past has been replaced by a resurgent nationalism. Moreover, east is increasingly pitted against west, and north against south. And there is good reason to fear that these widening rifts will be reflected in the new composition of the Parliament, making majority governance difficult if not impossible.

Today's de facto grand coalition between the conservative European People's Party (EPP) and the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D) most likely will not survive beyond the elections. The S&D, in particular, is in deep - indeed, existential - crisis across Europe. And there are new players on the field, including French President Emmanuel Macron's centrist La République En Marche! and a smattering of radical Euroskeptic and nationalist parties.

Given the unprecedented prominence of nationalist parties in this election cycle, the usual pro forma European campaign issues will inevitably take a back seat. This will be a contest about Europe and the future of European democracy. Recent developments in a number of member states have challenged foundational EU principles such as the rule of law and the separation of powers. These democratic institutions, as well as questions of European solidarity and sovereignty, will all effectively be on the ballot.

Needless to say, the parliamentary elections will have far-reaching implications for Europe's future in a rapidly changing world. The current president of the United States has such disdain for the EU that many now talk of "the end of the West." An increasingly revanchist Russia is waging wars along the European periphery and in Syria. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is taking his country down the path of authoritarianism. And China is demanding recognition as a global power.

Worse still, US President Donald Trump's recent decision to withdraw the US from the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty with Russia raises the threat of a renewed arms race. And this is coinciding with an escalating climate crisis and a global contest for predominance in artificial intelligence, the risks of which are still largely unaccounted for.

Against this dismal backdrop, the question is what will become of Europe. Will Europeans manage to hold on to their sovereignty, or will their self-inflicted disunity render them ever more dependent on other powers?

Pro-EU parties must make Europe's place in the world a central issue of the parliamentary election campaign; otherwise, they will suffer a shattering defeat at the hands of the new nationalists. The nationalists want to return to the past; it is up to the pro-Europeans to offer answers for the future.

Make no mistake: a nationalist victory next year would rock the EU to its core and throw it into another deep crisis. It would represent a defeat for the fundamental values of the European project. Given the scale of the threat, pro-Europeans cannot count on business as usual. Recent upheavals in many member states' party systems have altered the electoral calculus, and the pro-Europeans must adapt accordingly.

For my part, I foresee next year's elections auguring dramatic change in Europe. For better or worse, the question of Europe itself has been politicized, and now it must be decided. There will either be a rebirth of nationalism or a victory for EU-level democracy and unity. Sadly, pro-Europeans cannot hope for any help from abroad. In fact, the opposite is true: Europe must be vigilant in policing foreign interference in its affairs - including its elections.

In recent years, there has been much talk of the EU suffering from a "democratic deficit." But the fight for a majority in the European Parliament actually represents a major opportunity for democracy. Pro-Europeans need only wake up in time to seize it - or Europe's enemies will.

OPINION

By Yu Yongding

How Trump Is Helping China

FRANKFURT - The Sino-American trade war, initiated early this year by US President Donald Trump's administration, is escalating rapidly. Already, the Trump administration has imposed an additional 25% tariff on \$50 billion worth of Chinese goods, and an additional 10% tariff on goods worth another \$200 billion. Unless the leaders of the two countries can strike a deal at next month's G20 meeting in Buenos Aires, the situation is likely to worsen. That's better news for China than it is for the US.

So far, China has refused to bow to US pressure. While it has retaliated, it has kept its actions proportionate, to avoid excessive escalation. But there is no reason to think that the Trump administration - which has threatened tariffs on all Chinese products - will reverse course. After all, Trump believes that a country with a bilateral trade deficit is necessarily being taken advantage of by its partner.

The reality, of course, is that whatever costs the US incurs from trade with China are vastly outweighed by the benefits. For starters, thanks to low-cost imports from China, US consumers pay less for a wide range of goods, from shoes to electronics.

Moreover, the US runs a massive current-account deficit, meaning that it is borrowing much more from its foreign counterparts - especially China - than it is lending. Without inflows of Chinese capital, the US Treasury would face higher interest rates, raising the cost of financing government debt and the cost of homeowners' mortgages.

True, the trade deficit with China has cost the US jobs. But those losses have been in low-wage positions, and have been offset by new employment in other areas. According to a 2006 report by the US-China Business Council, the 500,000 manufacturing jobs lost over the subsequent four years would be offset by the same number of new service-sector jobs. Whether these projections were met is another issue. The key question is - and will always be - whether the US is able to upgrade its economic structure and ensure a fairer domestic distribution of the benefits of international trade.

This cost-benefit calculation is probably why successive US administrations were happy to run trade deficits with China, even if they pretended otherwise. China's government, too, was generally comfortable with the arrangement, though some Chinese economists have long warned that running a trade surplus with the US was not in China's long-term interests, for a few key reasons.

For starters, running surpluses against the US implies accumulating foreign-exchange reserves. As the late MIT economist Rudi Dornbusch pointed out, it makes more sense for residents of poor countries to invest their resources at home in ways that raise productivity and living standards, rather than buying US Treasury bills. Yet when China began running a continuous trade surplus, its per capita income was just above \$400.

Moreover, though China is among the world's leading recipients of foreign direct investment (FDI), it has failed to translate all that capital into a current-account deficit that would finance increased domestic investment and/or consumption. Instead, by continuing to run a current-account surplus, China has established an irrational international investment position: despite having accumulated some \$2 trillion in net foreign assets, it has been running an investment-income deficit for more than a decade.

Not only do US Treasuries produce meager returns; they are also less safe than they appear. After all, the US Federal Reserve could always decide that its debt burden has grown too heavy, and attempt to inflate it away by printing more dollars. Under more extreme circumstances, it could even sequester China's dollar-denominated foreign assets.

In short, China has outgrown the world market, and its economy is desperately in need of rebalancing. Though the country has made significant progress on this front since 2008, its total trade-to-GDP ratio (37%) and export-to-GDP ratio (18%) remain significantly higher than those of the US, Japan, and other large economies.

It is worth mentioning, however, that a rapid deterioration of China's current account will pose a serious challenge to the country. If China must reduce its trade surplus with the US, it must also reduce its trade deficits with the East Asian economies. The impact of such a rebalancing on the global economy could be very grave indeed.

China needs to stop accumulating foreign-exchange reserves. If it is to amass foreign assets, they should be more profitable than US Treasury bills. In any case, China should also reduce costly foreign liabilities. To that end, it must balance its imports and exports, while leveling the playing field for foreign corporations operating within its market by eliminating the incentives for local governments to compete for FDI regardless of cost, or to engage in other forms of undue intervention.

Last but not least, China certainly will make a bigger effort in indigenous innovation and creation to reduce its dependence on foreign technology, which has never been easy to obtain and will be increasingly difficult to secure.

These objectives are not new to the Chinese authorities. But, thanks to Trump's trade war, policymakers are now pursuing them with a new sense of urgency. In that sense, the trade war may end up being a blessing in disguise for China.

In 2005, when the US government was pressing China to allow the renminbi to appreciate, Phillip Swagel, a former member of President George W. Bush's Council of Economic Advisers, wrote: "If China's currency is undervalued by 27%, as some have claimed, US consumers have been getting a 27% discount on everything made in China, while the Chinese have been paying 27% too much for Treasury bonds." US policymakers, Swagel asserted, surely understood that, and they "certainly must realize that their very public campaign only makes it more difficult for the Chinese to take action."

But, as Swagel acknowledged, maybe that was the point. The US push for China to let the renminbi appreciate was "a devious attempt" to sustain the "enormous benefits" the US derived, at China's expense, from the fixed exchange rate. Even if this was an accident, the end result was "a brilliant strategy to keep the good times rolling."

With Trump, those good times may be about to come to an end. Trump claims that the "trade war" with China "was lost many years ago by the foolish, or incompetent, people who represented the US." But it is he who most likely will be remembered as the fool - a bungling, capricious leader whose attacks on China only made that economy stronger, at least partly at America's expense.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Journalist Identifies with Disabled Community

Gloria T. Tamba, a young female Liberian journalist could not have thought of a better way to celebrate her 25th birth anniversary than to identify with the disadvantaged in the Liberian society—putting smiles on the faces of the beneficiaries,

Kota. The young media practitioner presented eight bags of 25kg rice, gallon of oil and other food items.

Ms. Tamba said in the midst of the prevailing harsh economic realities, she thought not to have an elaborate celebration, but to

when she made the presentation.

Every household is facing resource constraints, and for the less fortunate, Ms. Tamba thought, are feeling the deadliest shocked of the economic crisis. “I would have love to do better than what I’m doing here today, but I’m also a struggling young woman. I don’t have much. But there is a need to help these people.

The privileged in the society must come to theirs. They are in need of help at every step along the way,” she said.

In brief remarks, Mr. Kota lauded Ms. Tamba for thinking about the blind at such a critical time. “We really want to appreciate you not really of the things you have brought, but as young as you are, having the slighted thought of coming to see us.

This is unprecedented. I must appreciate you for your kind heart.” He said there are many Liberians who are living comfortable lives but do not think about their brethren who cannot fend for themselves. “God will truly reward Gloria. You are a humanitarian who knows where the needy are. We truly appreciate your gifts,” he said. He also enumerated some of the challenges that the center currently faces and call on others to follow the step of Ms. Tamba by extending a helping hand to the group.



many of whom are kids. Ms. Tamba, who celebrates her nativity every October 28, began her birthday celebration earlier on Saturday, the 27th, took food and non-food items to the Christian Association of the Blind (CAB) headquarters on the RIA highway.

CAB is headed by Mr. Beyan

visit CAB and see how the kids are doing.

“Our disabled brothers and sisters are at the margin of the society and so we must come to visit and identify with them. This is the best way I thought to celebrate my birthday. I’m glad that we have come here to see you guys,” she noted

VP Taylor provides medical equipment in Bong

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

The Office of Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor has provided a consignment of medical equipment and furniture for the opening of the Sekou Amah Toure Health Center in Jorwah Panta District, Bong County.

Our correspondent in Bong County says the Sekou Amah Toure Health Center was looted and set ablaze during the Liberian civil war, but it was rehabilitated by Vice President Taylor few years ago.

Prior to the civil unrest, the health center provided health care services to the people of Bong County and parts of neighboring Guinea.

Vice President Taylor has stated that she remains eager to ensuring that the necessary health facilities for the poor in Bong County and other parts of the Country are available.

VP Taylor maintains that she will continue to lobby with international partners to create the enabling



environment for the common Liberian people.

Her office through the Deputy Press Secretary Philip Singbah says the health center will be officially opened by the Ministry of Health in collaboration with the office of Madam Taylor.

According to Mr. Singbah,

residents of Panta District have over the past been in dire need for the opening of the health center, adding that they couldn’t have opened the center in the absence of the medical equipment and furniture.

He states that while it is true that the consignment of

G AFL pleads with Pres. Weah

In the wake of recent declaration of tuition-free university education by President George Manneh Weah for undergraduate student at all public universities across the country, including the University of Liberia, “Girls Alliance for Future Leadership” is making a passionate plea to the President to extend similar opportunity to kids.

In a letter to President Weah, the secretary general of Girls Alliance, Faith Smith lauds the President for fulfilling his promise to make education his number one

branch through Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor, for similar opportunity: A free and compulsory primary education in all schools across Liberia.

She notes that since then two television stations here, Sky and Power, have consistently run free promos on the request, adding that the Speaker and the President Pro-Tempore have spoken favorably on the petition, but they are yet to present it to their various chambers.

Mrs Smith says the Office of Vice President Taylor since June is yet to respond or grant them audience on their petition,

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priority, but wants the gesture extended at primary level.

Former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf offered free and compulsory primary education at public schools across Liberia.

Mrs Faith Smith in her letter pleads, “While we celebrate such a huge relief handed to all Liberians, we are also concerned that our voices since June of this year are yet to be heard by your office”.

She claims that on June 16, 2018, during celebration of the Day of the African Child, Girls Alliance led a group of students to Capitol Hill and presented a petition to the National Legislature through Speaker Bhofal Chambers and Senate Pro-Tempore Albert Chie, and the Executive

saying “We are therefore appealing to you Mr. President, to please consider our situation and grant the children of Liberia similar opportunity.”

On June 16, 2018, the teenage based group called for the government of Liberia Free and Compulsory primary education for government schools launched under the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf administration to be extended to all schools in the country.

Girls Alliance in its petition says this is the surest way of bringing recovery to the education sector, arguing that relieving parents of such financial burden will put them in better position to save money for their kids’ college education. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

medical equipment has arrived at the hospital through the goodwill of VP Taylor, they are now looking up to the Ministry of Health to schedule specific date for the official opening of the health center.

Guinea Ambassador to Liberia Mr. Abdoulaye Dore is also expected to be part of the health center’s opening program.

Our Bong County correspondent says during the arrival of the medical equipment, citizens of Jorwah and surrounding villages in the County gathered and happily sang a song in extending commendation to the Office of the Vice President.

“I am very happy because of the materials the VP has brought to this town. I think we will not be worrying anymore because when this health center is opened, it will really help us,” Krubah Vesselee, a resident of the area told this paper.

Currently, there is a clinic in Jorwah which was established by the Ministry of Health through the Bong County Health Team.

The Jorwah Clinic is lack of medical equipment and even sitting capacity, thus prompting the residents to call for the quick opening of the rehabilitated health center.-- Edited by Winston W. Parley

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Weah gives young people hope

By Winston W. Parley and H. Sally Gaye

President George Manneh Weah says young people are a major part of his government's pro - poor agenda, committing his administration to provide every possible opportunity for youth empowerment.

"We recognize and acknowledge you as our most important natural resources. We are committed to provide every possible opportunity to you for empowerment through education," he said Monday, 29 October at the 49th National Youth Day celebration in Paynesville.

President Weah urges the young people here to continue to go to school and not listen to people who call them names that have the propensity to discourage them from pursuing their dreams.

"I think and I believe as the Finance Minister stated, I think primary school is free; it's just the special activities, those things you need ... if you need a book you have to pay for it," he says to the students.

However the president assures the young people and students that government will see how adjustments can be made on those special activities that cost them

almost what school fees are, and to also reduce books prices.

He says government's commitment to empower young people also includes

through all the ups and downs that Liberia has seen and contributed immensely to national life.

"And so for that we salute you. From war to peace, hoplessness to hope, our



Pres. Weah

training, and the development of their skills ... for the job market as well as for their own entrepreneurial initiatives.

He gives the young people credit for standing steadfast

country has come a long way. It is incumbent upon us, especially you as young people to build upon the foundation that has been laid," he says.

Speaking earlier at the

program, Senate Committee Chair on Youth and Sports Comany B. Wesseh urged young to be willing to make scarifice and serve their country.

Sen. Wesseh says before being given green letter (to government employment jobs), young people must first be prepared to make the sacrifice be serving the state in villages.

According to him, free education has been a long fight at the University of Liberia (UL), and now that it has been done under this government of President Weah.

He encourages the young people to keep in mind that they need to give back to the country, in return for the free education that they will acquire.

Sen. Wesseh believes that while doing youth service in villages, the young people will learn more about government and serving the people.

Also speaking, House Committee Chair on Youth and Sports Rep. Solomon Gorger says if the young people of Liberia must keep the peace and foster development, they should use the president as an example.

Rep. George encourages the young people to stand up and face the challenge without giving up until they are at the top.

Meanwhile, Rep. George has assured the Federation of Liberian Youth (FLY) President Weah's government will build a headquarters for FLY, noting that the instituion has never had one over the past 40 years now.

For his part, Youth and Sports Minister D. Zeogar

Wilson calls on young people to keep doing what they are doing in their little corners and stand up for peace.

He says young people have been identified during crisis, but they are often forgotten when it comes to empowerment and development.

He notes that during the Ebola crisis here, young people played a vital and and risked their lives to sacrifice for the state.

According to him, this government is committed to ensuring that Liberian youth are empowered to be good stalwarts.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports (MYS) on Monday, 29 October held event across the country in observance of this year's National Youth Day celebration, marking the 49th celebration since the day was first observed here.

The 49th National Youth Day celebration was observed by all schools in the country as well as organizations working in the interest of youth in the country including BRAC Liberia.

In 1969, the Legislature enacted an Act, declaring the 29th day of October each year as National Youth Day, in recognition of the immense contributions and sacrifices that the youth of Liberia have made and continue to make in enhancing durable peace and development throughout the country.

This year, the day was celebrated under the theme: "Sustaining the Peace, Foster Development towards the achievement of the Pro-Poor Agenda".

Bility assures end to petroleum crisis

By Ben P. Wesee

One of Liberia's leading petroleum importers and Chief Executive Officer of SRIMEX Oil and Gas Company Musa Bility has assured the public that as of today, 30 October, the petroleum crisis in the country will be over.

Speaking on local broadcaster Ok FM Monday, 29 October, Mr. Bility said petroleum importers here are working along with authorities

at the Liberia Petroleum Refinery Company (LPRC) to address the issue of petroleum price on the Liberian market.

"I always tell people that Liberia doesn't produce fuel. So because of that we don't determine the cost of the fuel. When the international price of the fuel goes up, the price of fuel must go up here in Liberia," he says.

According to Mr. Bility, the Managing Director of LPRC and the Minister Commerce were

quiet reluctant on setting standards as to when prices go up or drop.

He observes that when there is increase in the price of petroleum products on the international market, it immediately affects the everyday lives of people.

The SRIMEX CEO recalls that in 2006, Liberia again faced the same problem while he was serving as chairman on the board of the National Port Authority (NPA) and also a petroleum importer.

He continues that during the regime of former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the government than refused to increase the price.

According to Bility, he was the only person at that time that had fuel in the country and the government gave him a small discount on how much storage he should pay.

"One cent, two cent in the price put the government in a difficult position. So any government, not this government, will react in the same way. Its takes negotiation which we are doing now to bring reasonable solution that doesn't put too much burden on the Liberian people," Bility continues.-- Edited by Winston W. Parley



Mr. Musa Bility

Pres. Weah Off To Senegal for EITI Conference

President George Manneh Weah departed the country Tuesday, October 30, 2018 for Dakar, Senegal to attend the Africa Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) Conference on Beneficial Ownership Transparency.

The Government of Senegal is facilitating the Conference, which runs from October 30 to November 2, 2018.

The Conference is intended to discuss and find answers to burning issues arising from the use of Africa's lucrative extractive industries, including how ownership transparency can be key to preventing tax evasion,

mitigating illicit financial flows and raising revenues from extractives.

The conference will also discuss how governments, industries and civil society can work together towards beneficial ownership disclosure in extractives to help mobilize domestic resources.

Additionally, it will also afford leaders of EITI nations, who are driving extractive sector reforms, to improve availability of ownership information, opportunity to share their experiences,



MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

ECONEC partners with GIZ to empower media

The ECOWAS Network of Electoral Commissions (ECONEC) has called for trust, openness and cooperation between election management bodies and the media to ensure the delivery of credible, transparent and peaceful elections in West Africa.

“The media remains the most reliable instrument through which electoral issues involving participation and inclusivity are encouraged,” Prof Mahmood Yakubu, president of the ECONEC governing board and Chair of Nigeria’s Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) said in Abuja, on Monday, 29th October, in a welcome address to the opening of a two-day regional media training workshop on professional reporting of elections in the ECOWAS region.

Represented by the INEC Acting Chair, Dr Mustapha Lecky, the ECONEC boss said election administrators



looked up to the media, to assist in sensitising and mobilising citizens, adding that as the Fourth Estate of the Realm “the media is the gatekeeper in ensuring transparency and accountability in the

electoral process.”

He said the workshop organised by ECONEC with the support of the German agency for International Cooperation, GIZ, is coming several months before major elections in the region, with

campaigns by political parties for the 2019 general elections in Nigeria starting in less than three weeks.

“There is no doubt that the media is an important stakeholder and partner,” he added.

The INEC boss noted that the workshop will address issues such as social media, which benefits he described as “enormous and challenging,” and also address the menace of fake news.

“Another challenge worthy of consideration is the issue of foreign interference with domestic elections through the internet,” Prof Yakubu.

He urged election administrators and journalists to carry out their responsibilities with a high sense of duty and professionalism, to avoid a repeat of the “havoc poorly conducted elections and provocative reportage have caused in our region.”

In his remarks, the Head of ECOWAS Electoral Assistance Division, Mr Francis Oke, acknowledged the support which ECONEC has received from the ECOWAS Commission and development partners, including GIZ and the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA), since its formation in 2008.

He stressed that such collaborative partnership should be sustained to enable ECONEC, which is a technical arm of ECOWAS, to deliver on its mandate of promoting credible elections and consolidation of democracy

in the region.

GIZ representative, Mrs Phidelia Amey explained that the training workshop comes under the agency’s ECOWAS Support Programme, focusing on trade and customs and peace and security, which also cover electoral issues.

She said that since the media plays a key role in shaping the narrative of political conversation, the workshop will encourage media professionals to be more informative and educative of the electorate on electoral matters.

She urged the participants to come up with recommendations that would assist ECOWAS and ECONEC in the promotion of democracy and good governance in the region.

INEC senior officials, including National Commissioners, were among dignitaries that graced the opening ceremony of the workshop, which is being attended by journalists from the 15 ECOWAS member States, as part activities under the ECONEC’s 2016-18 Action Plan.

Earlier this month, ECONEC, also with the support of GIZ, organised a workshop in Abuja, where regional experts validated the findings of the Network’s commissioned study on the cost of elections in the ECOWAS region, sponsored by OSIWA as part of efforts at addressing the high cost of election management in West Africa.

Liberia’s Pure Honey wins first prize in UK

Liberia Pure Honey was recognized for its commitment to excellence when it was awarded first place in its category at the National Honey Show in England on October 26, 2018.

Competing against honeys from across Africa, Liberia Pure won first prize because of its superior aroma, taste

and viscosity.

The award has delighted the owners of Liberia Pure Honey who focus on sustainability and aim to grow the business alongside the Liberian beekeeping industry.

“Since Liberia Pure Honey’s inception, we have been committed to producing a world-class

product which would make us stand out, so it’s not a surprise that we would emerge as number one,” said Liberia Pure Honey co-owner Gladys Freeman. “Honey is a gift and a blessing, and we treat the bees and the land with the respect they both deserve. We view the award as belonging to all the employees of Liberia Pure Honey, the beekeepers of this nation and our dearest country Liberia.”

Liberia Pure Honey started buying honey from farmers in 2012 as a response to the need for job creation in Liberia, especially in rural areas. With very few income generating opportunities outside of the major cities and no local honey in grocery stores, Liberia Pure Honey knew if they could create a market for quality honey, more people could become beekeepers and gain an added source of income.

Liberia Pure Honey dedicates its profits to the development of the honey industry with the aim of developing an industry that can help improve the lives of people across the entire



Pres. Weah Off To Senegal

Starts from page 6

progress and challenges.

Topics also expected to be discussed at different Sessions of the Conference include improving revenue mobilization with beneficial ownership data, reduce risks in extractives licensing, legal approaches to ownership transparency, and making the

ownership register public.

While the President is away, the Minister of State for Presidential Affairs and Chief of Office Staff, Nathaniel Falo McGill will chair the Cabinet in close consultation with the Vice President via telephone contact with the President.-

Press release

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country. Its honey products are available in supermarkets and markets throughout Liberia.

“Liberia Pure Honey wants this award to be a source of inspiration to all Liberian

owned businesses,” Ms. Freeman said. “It demonstrates that Liberia has the resources to produce premium products that can compete on an international stage.”-Press release

Français

A 80 ans, la présidente Sirleaf dit avoir toutes ses capacités intellectuelles intactes

L'ex-présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf a pour la première fois démenti l'information selon laquelle elle aurait dit aux enquêteurs américains qu'elle était trop âgée pour se souvenir de quoi que ce soit, notamment en ce qui concerne l'affaire de la disparition présumée des 15,5 milliards de dollars libériens.

La semaine dernière, le journal HOT PEPPER, l'un des quotidiens de Monrovia, a publié deux articles selon lesquels l'ancienne présidente Sirleaf aurait affirmé qu'elle ne se souvenait de rien car elle avait 80 ans.

Madame Sirleaf a officiellement célébré son 80e anniversaire le lundi 29 octobre 2018. Elle a organisé une cérémonie paisible à sa résidence privée en face de l'aérodrome James Spriggs Payne à Monrovia, en présence des membres de sa famille, des amis et des anciens et nouveaux cadres



de l'Etat. Le président George Manneh Weah, accompagné du ministre des Finances, Sameul Tweah, et d'autres membres de son cabinet ont brièvement pris part à la cérémonie.

Dans un entretien avec Jonathan Paye-layleh, correspondant de la BBC, Mme Sirleaf a déclaré lundi que quiconque a dit ces

choses devrait consulter un médecin, en disant : « Ai-je l'air de quelqu'un qui dit qu'il a 80 ans et qu'il ne se souvient plus de rien ? Soyons sérieux. Il existe un journal stupide qui fait toujours des choses sensationnelles et ces choses sensationnelles ne sont pas vraies. »

L'ancienne présidente a soutenu qu'il n'y a

absolument aucune vérité à cela. "Je suis très forte ; mon cerveau fonctionne bien, c'est donc strictement de la propagande et personne ne devrait l'écouter », a-t-elle ajouté.

Toutefois, Mme Sirleaf a confirmé avoir été interrogée par des enquêteurs américains. « Et je leur ai dit tout ce que j'ai fait, chaque décision que j'ai prise, chaque geste que j'ai posé et ce n'est pas que de la parole, il y a des documents à l'appui. C'est écrit noir sur blanc. N'importe qui peut savoir ce que j'ai fait, il suffit de consulter les archives du ministère de l'État, c'est écrit, et ils vont (fournir) des éclaircissements complets sur tout, parce que je ne fais pas que parler, j'écris tout ce que je fais, et alors, va lire les archives ».

Une commission d'enquêteurs mise sur pied par le président Weah mène des investigations sur les circonstances entourant la disparition présumée de plusieurs milliards de dollars

libériens. Plusieurs hauts cadres du gouvernement sont visés par l'enquête. Il s'agit notamment de l'ancien gouverneur exécutif de la Banque centrale du Libéria, J. Milton Weeks, et du fils de Mme Sirleaf, Charles Sirleaf, qui a également été interrogé.

Parallèlement, l'ambassade des États-Unis près de Monrovia a récemment annoncé par l'intermédiaire de l'USAID qu'elle avait contacté une société indépendante et renommée, spécialisée dans les enquêtes judiciaires, afin de mener une mission de cadrage qui devrait permettre de faire la lumière sur la disparition présumée de l'argent.

Le gouvernement, par la voix du ministre de la Justice, a confirmé qu'une enquête est en cours pour faire la lumière « sur l'arrivée des conteneurs et des sacs d'argent dans le pays, via le port de Monrovia et l'aéroport international Roberts, et que les premières conclusions indiquent que les conteneurs et les sacs d'argent seraient arrivés entre novembre 2017, avant l'investiture du gouvernement actuel, et août 2018 » après la mise en place du gouvernement Weah.

Toutefois, Nathaniel Patray, gouverneur exécutif de la Banque centrale du Libéria, a affirmé qu'il ne manque pas d'argent.

« La Banque centrale du Libéria tient à préciser au grand public et à ses partenaires qu'il ne manque pas de 16 milliards de dollars libériens, comme cela a été rapporté à tort dans les

Weah redonne de l'espoir aux jeunes

Les jeunes constituent un élément important pour le programme en faveur des pauvres, a fait savoir le président Weah, qui a en outre promis l'engagement de son administration à mettre à leur disposition tous les moyens nécessaires pour leur autonomisation et leur émancipation.

« Nous reconnaissons et admettons

que vous êtes notre ressource naturelle la plus importante. Nous nous engageons à vous fournir tous les moyens possibles pour renforcer votre pouvoir par le biais de l'éducation », a-t-il déclaré le lundi 29 octobre à l'occasion de la célébration de la 49e Journée nationale de la jeunesse à Paynesville, dans la banlieue de Monrovia.

Le président Weah a exhorté les jeunes libériens à continuer d'aller à l'école et à ne pas écouter ceux qui les traitent de n'importe quoi pour les décourager et les empêcher de poursuivre leurs rêves.

« Je pense et je crois, comme l'a déclaré le ministre des Finances, que l'école primaire est gratuite ; c'est juste les fournitures scolaires et ces choses dont vous avez besoin qui coûtent cher, si vous avez besoin d'un livre, vous devez le payer cher », a-t-il regretté.

Le président a fait savoir que le gouvernement est en train de réfléchir sur comment soulager les élèves et les étudiants en leur permettant de s'offrir facilement des fournitures scolaires.

L'objectif que s'est donné le gouvernement, selon le président Weah, c'est de développer et de renforcer les compétences des jeunes afin que non seulement ils deviennent compétitifs sur le marché de l'emploi, mais aussi qu'ils puissent avoir des initiatives entrepreneuriales.

Il a salué les jeunes qui ont tenu bon face à tous les hauts et les bas que le Libéria a connus et qui ont contribué immensément à la vie nationale.

« Et pour cela nous vous saluons. De la guerre à la paix, du désespoir à l'espoir, notre pays a parcouru un long chemin. Il incombe à nous, et

particulièrement à vous, jeunes, de construire sur les fondations posées », a-t-il déclaré.

S'exprimant plus tôt lors de la cérémonie, le président du Comité sénatorial sur la jeunesse et les sports, Comany B. Wesseh, a exhorté les jeunes à faire de leur mieux pour servir leur pays.

Il a averti les jeunes que pour mériter un emploi au sein de la

fonction publique il faut être prêt à faire des sacrifices pour son pays, c'est-à-dire accepter d'être muté même loin dans les villages.

Selon lui, la gratuité de l'enseignement a été un combat de longue date à l'Université du Libéria (UL), et cela se fait maintenant sous le gouvernement du président Weah.



Articles traduits

Par Valéry G. Guhena

E-mail: valeryghn10@yahoo.com

Tel: 076 589 44 0881483394

Français

Simone Gbagbo : « Le sang des ivoiriens a suffisamment coulé en Côte d'Ivoire »

En Côte d'Ivoire, les élections locales se sont tenues samedi 13 Octobre 2018. Plus de 6,5 millions d'électeurs ivoiriens devaient choisir une trentaine de présidents de région et 201 maires. Ce scrutin qui n'a pas mobilisé les foules a été émaillé de nombreuses irrégularités techniques, couacs, des échouffourées, des urnes brisées... des morts.

Dès mardi 16 octobre, la CEI a proclamé les résultats complets de ce double scrutin qui a fait suite à une campagne tendue dans les mots et parfois sur le terrain. Le RHDP du président Ouattara est en tête des deux scrutins avec 46,4% aux régionales et 36,2% aux municipales. Des régions n'ont pas été comptabilisées, d'autres contestées, en raison d'incidents violents. L'ancienne Première dame, Simone Gbagbo donne de la voix Sortie de prison mercredi 8 août 2018 après une amnistie ordonnée par le président ivoirien Alassane Ouattara, Simone Gbagbo, s'est prononcée sur ces régionales et municipales du samedi 13 octobre, en tirant à boulet rouge sur la Commission électorale indépendante (CEI).

« Tant que la Commission électorale indépendante (CEI) n'est pas réformée, toutes les élections qu'elle organise sont frappées d'illégalité et d'illégitimité

(...) Non seulement la CEI doit être réformée, mais la liste électorale doit être refaite et elle doit être consensuelle. Le découpage électoral doit être totalement repris. », a déclaré l'ex première dame, relayée par le site ivoirien Linfodrome.

« Il doit faire l'objet d'un travail consensuel. Le vrai désarmement doit être fait pour que nous ayons des élections sécurisées (...) On va à des élections, et voilà le résultat. Il y a des morts. Ça, c'est l'élection municipale. Et l'élection présidentielle alors ? », s'est-elle exprimée depuis sa résidence de Cocody-Riviera Golf, lors d'une rencontre mercredi 17 avec les populations du Grand centre venues la saluer.

» Le sang des Ivoiriens a suffisamment coulé en Côte d'Ivoire (...) On ne veut plus que notre pays soit divisé. On ne veut plus que les élections aboutissent à des morts. On ne veut plus qu'il y ait des élections et que celui qui a gagné ne puisse pas bénéficier de sa victoire », a déploré Mme Gbagbo.

Simone Gbagbo, 69 ans, était gardée en prison depuis 2011, au lendemain de la crise post-électorale qui a frappé le pays et fait environ 3000 morts à travers le pays. Après donc 7 ans, dans la prison de l'école de gendarmerie, elle sort libre, graciée par ceux qui l'y ont envoyé.

Confiné à son domicile, Dalein appelle au départ d'Alpha Condé

Il a été très tôt assiégé à son domicile pour l'empêcher de marcher avec ses militants. Cellou Dalein Diallo, entourés de sa garde rapprochée et des quelques leaders politiques est sorti se promener dans les alentours de son domicile et faire quelques interviews avec la presse locale.

Très remonté contre la décision des autorités de le confiner, le leader de l'opposition dénonce le bafouillage des libertés publiques et appelle au départ d'Alpha Condé :

« Après avoir voulu m'assassiner la semaine dernière, aujourd'hui il faut me confiner par la force dans mon domicile, en privant toute ma famille de toute liberté, de mouvement. Voilà c'est le régime d'Alpha Condé, rien ne me surprend de sa part dès lors qu'ils se sont autorisés à

m'assassiner, à tuer des citoyens innocents dans l'exercice de leur droits constitutionnels », déplore le Président de l'UFDG.

Pour Cellou Dalein Diallo, qui offre sa poitrine aux forces de l'ordre (voir photo), « Il faut qu'on se mobilise parce qu'on ne peut plus accepter cette dictature rampante qui est devenue violente, qui est la négation de nos droits, qui est la négation de la démocratie. Il faut qu'on demande le départ d'Alpha Condé parce qu'il ne peut plus assumer la fonction de Président de la République », a-t-il laissé entendre.

A noter que échouffourées ont éclaté, lorsque le leader l'opposition et ses militants sont venus s'installer sur des chaises à l'entrée de son domicile pour un sit-in,

une manière pour eux de dénoncer la violation des libertés publique.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Elizabeth Drew

Les élections américaines de mi-mandat tournent à la menace

WASHINGTON, DC - À l'approche des élections de mi-mandat cette année aux États-Unis, un terrorisme intérieur commence à dominer le paysage politique. Dans un premier temps, à peine deux semaines avant le jour du vote, un partisan fanatique du président américain Donald Trump a adressé 14 colis piégés à d'importants responsables démocrates et autres personnalités fréquemment ciblées par Trump (aucune des bombes n'a explosé). Les choses ont par la suite encore plus mal tourné, avec le meurtre de 11 fidèles juifs dans une synagogue de Pittsburgh, un samedi. Une opinion publique américaine polarisée et inquiète se trouve aujourd'hui gouvernée par un président totalement incapable - et semble-t-il peu désireux - de reconforter la nation, encore moins disposé à mener le pays loin de cette haine et de cet esprit de parti mortel qu'il a lui-même attisés.

Si les 14 bombes artisanales (que le FBI a décrit comme des « engins potentiellement destructeurs ») avaient fonctionné comme prévu, leur expéditeur aurait pu tuer ou grièvement blesser d'importants adversaires de Trump. Parmi les cibles figuraient deux anciens présidents (Bill Clinton et Barack Obama), Hillary Clinton, l'ancien procureur général Eric Holder, un ancien directeur de la CIA, un ancien directeur du renseignement national, deux possibles candidats démocrates en 2020, un parlementaire noire souvent dénigré par Trump pour son « faible QI » (une attaque raciste courante), deux millionnaires mécènes juifs parmi lesquels George Soros, qui fait régulièrement l'objet des foudres de Trump ainsi que de divers fantasmes conspirationnistes de droite, et l'acteur Robert De Niro (qui a débuté l'an dernier son discours lors de la cérémonie des Tony Awards par la formule pour le moins explicite « Fuck Trump »).

Alors même que Trump a souvent critiqué nommément les cibles de l'expéditeur des bombes lors de ses rassemblements - s'en prenant notamment encore à son opposant électoral de 2016, puis souriant pendant que son public scandait « Enfermez-la » - les défenseurs de Trump s'efforcent de détourner l'attention. Les courriers piégés, rétorquent-ils, auraient ainsi été une opération dissimulée organisée par la gauche, dans le cadre de laquelle certains Démocrates se seraient eux-mêmes adressés un colis explosif dans le but de s'en prendre à Trump.

Pour ceux qui s'étaient autopersuadés de la supercherie, difficile d'apprendre par la suite que l'apprenti artificier était en réalité un partisan fanatique de Trump, résident de l'État de Floride, et fier propriétaire d'une camionnette blanche couverte d'affiches odieuses faisant apparaître ses cibles. Les agences américaines de maintien de l'ordre - autre cible habituelle de Trump - sont extrêmement compétentes dans la traque des criminels : le suspect a été arrêté quatre jours seulement après la découverte du premier colis piégé dans la boîte aux lettres de Soros.

L'aspect le plus désespérant de cet épisode réside dans l'incapacité manifeste de Trump à agir en tant que chef de la nation. Cela ne devrait toutefois surprendre personne. Comment un président qui a politiquement prospéré en divisant le peuple américain, qui véhicule la haine, qui sème la rancœur, et qui a parfois même encouragé la violence lors de ses propres rassemblements, pourrait-il soudainement devenir - ou tout simplement prétendre - être le président de l'apaisement ? La propension de Trump à provoquer ainsi qu'à dénoncer fréquemment les médias comme « l'ennemi du peuple » va jusqu'à convaincre de nombreux observateurs que certains de ses sympathisants pourraient même employer la violence contre les membres de la presse.

Le lendemain de la découverte des explosifs adressés notamment aux couples Clinton et Obama, un Donald Trump peu vaillant a prononcé lors d'une cérémonie prévue à la Maison-Blanche une déclaration préparée, condamnant des « actes ou menaces de violence politique », et appelant la nation s'unir.

Cela n'a pas duré. Plus tard dans la soirée, lors d'un rassemblement dans le Wisconsin, il plaisantait déjà sur sa « tentative de bonne action » à travers sa déclaration, et accusait les médias de violence. Peu de temps après, il

renouait avec ses habitudes et martelait son inquiétude face à des hordes de réfugiés en provenance du Honduras. Alors que les réfugiés se situaient encore à environ 1 600 kilomètres de la frontière américaine, Trump les décrivait comme une menace imminente pour la sécurité nationale, affirmant sans preuve que des « individus originaires du Moyen-Orient » se dissimulaient parmi eux.

Les meetings de Trump sont désormais un élément quasi-quotidien, et les mensonges du président plus fréquents que jamais. Dans la mesure où la totalité des membres de la Chambre des représentants et un tiers des membres du Sénat seront élu le 6 novembre, la prochaine élection de mi-mandat s'annonce de mémoire d'homme, et aux yeux du plus grand nombre, comme la plus porteuse de conséquences, peut-être même dans toute l'histoire. Ce verrouillage républicain qui dure depuis deux ans sur l'ensemble du gouvernement des États-Unis - Chambre des représentants, Sénat, présidence, sans oublier l'arrivée récente du juge Brett Kavanaugh à la Cour suprême - pourrait être bientôt rompu.

La tenue du scrutin de mi-mandat à la suite de l'élection d'un nouveau président est souvent considérée comme un verdict à l'endroit du chef de l'État, dont le parti perd alors souvent en puissance, notamment à la Chambre. Mais plus que jamais, Trump fait de ces élections de mi-mandat un événement électoral qui ne concerne que lui. Le président invite en effet l'opinion publique à voter comme s'il était question de lui dans les urnes (malgré une cote de popularité d'un peu plus de quarante pour cent), ce qui n'est pas le cas.

Il est expliqué depuis longtemps que les Démocrates sont davantage susceptibles de remporter la Chambre que le Sénat, dans la mesure où plusieurs sièges sénatoriaux en jeu sont occupés par des Démocrates au sein d'États traditionnellement conservateurs. La détermination de Trump - ou son inquiétude - quant au maintien d'un contrôle républicain sur les deux chambres est compréhensible. Si les Démocrates venaient à conquérir la Chambre, des présidents de commission nouvellement investis et armés de citations à comparaître ouvriraient en effet des enquêtes autour d'un certain nombre d'actes ou d'agences de l'administration, dans laquelle une importante corruption est suspectée.

Mais la plus grande crainte de Trump, et sans doute la plus palpable, réside dans la possibilité de voir une Chambre sous contrôle démocrate concentrer tous les moyens d'enquête sur sa propre personne : l'acceptation par le président lui-même d'« émoluments » interdits en provenance d'autres pays, son insuffisante prise de distance par rapport à l'entreprise familiale, ses déclarations fiscales, les guerres non autorisées menées par lui au Yémen et en Syrie, et bien entendu ses affaires officielles et privées avec la Russie. À tout le moins, la Chambre devrait disposer des conclusions du conseiller spécial Robert Mueller. Autrement dit, fini la docilité du Congrès.

Mais si les Républicains conservent le contrôle du Sénat, les possibilités d'action de la part des Démocrates s'en trouveront limitées. Même si la Chambre venait à destituer Trump - ce qui n'est pas certain - il serait extrêmement difficile de le faire condamner par le Sénat. La question même d'une démarche dans cette direction de la part d'une Chambre démocrate fait l'objet d'un débat au sein du parti.

Une issue désastreuse pour les Démocrates résiderait dans un maintien du contrôle républicain sur les deux chambres à l'issue de l'élection. Dans un tel scénario, Trump se sentirait plus conforté et libéré que jamais. Il risquerait alors de limoger bon nombre de responsables, de traiter encore plus durement les immigrants, et s'efforceraient d'étouffer l'enquête de Mueller sur la possible collusion de sa campagne avec le Kremlin, ainsi que sur sa probable obstruction de la justice.

Il est possible que la tendance habituelle se confirme, et que les Démocrates remportent ainsi la Chambre mais pas le Sénat. Les sondages sont néanmoins incertains. Et compte tenu de l'étonnante victoire de Trump en 2016, la plupart des observateurs ont appris à faire preuve de prudence dans leurs prédictions.

PERSPECTIVES

With Bai M. Gbala, Sr.
October 27, 2018

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

“WHAT IS WRONG WITH LIBERIA (THE NATION-STATE)?” THE ANSWER CONTINUES TO ELUDE US, THE PEOPLE HAS BEEN AND IS THE SOURCE OF FUNDAMENTAL CONCERNS SOCIO-CULTURAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SOME OBSERVATIONS

This article is our Liberian, on-ground version of the communication addressed to our Compatriots in the Diaspora about their concerns expressed about “*What is wrong with Liberia?*” (The Nation-State) and the prevailing conditions and atmosphere in our country.

My communication to the Brothers was that I or we too, at home, are similarly, deeply concerned, because “*What is wrong with Liberia?*” is the topic of Chapter 2 of the book *Liberia: A Century of Survival, 1847-1947* by Raymond Leslie Buell, published on the 100th birth anniversary (1947) of Liberia. The question was a rhetorical, the answer to which was the subject of Mr. Buell's analysis contained in the book.

Compounding Liberia's historical tragedy has been, still is, that all, almost, informed, highly-educated, trained/experienced Liberian political ruling Class - MBAs, MSCs, LLMS, PhDs - including those who fled the towns & villages of Rural Liberia, a Class/Leader which should and must teach, lead and be its “brother's keeper” in terms of the brother's socio-economic well-being, but the (Ruling Political) Class has become the opulent swimmer in the pool of corruption and dishonesty - of lies, deceit, thievery, war & economic crimes.

Our Suggestions

In my view, nevertheless, there are these Considerations (A), Suggestion and (B), Identifications of the major sources of our Concerns:

A) There is urgent NEED for Integrated Organization of Liberians (I O L I L) - Attorneys & Counselors-at-Law, Economists, Social Scientists, Academic-intellectuals and related Professionals - on-ground in Liberia, dedicated to Challenges-for-Change of Liberia's Traditional Political System of Untouchables who are now ruling Liberia, the modern Untouchables with characteristic impunity. Indeed, this Challenge-for-Change requires not only concerns, but also, democratic and patriotic Liberians committed to Challenge and Expose the Nation's ancient Political System of:

- 1) Corrupt Judges, Prosecutors, Court official, Grand Juries and defendants with corrupt Insurance Bond/bail Companies;
- 2) Corrupt National Police, National Defense, NSA Security officials, NEC; Corrupt State-owned Enterprises (NPA, LPRC, NOCAL, NASSCORP, FDA, NIC), etc.;
- 3) Most Corrupt Branches of Government, the Executive (President) and Legislative (Speakers & Protemp); and
- 4) The Indigenous Liberians who fled the towns & villages of Rural Liberia for education/personal growth and development, but now are the major crooks and criminals.

I argue that an on-ground, integrated Organization of Liberians is doable, because is concerned and dedicated to do the right and lawful and that the International Community (led by Liberia's historical ally and mentor, the USA) is, and will be, with the Liberian Organization. But we, Liberians, have to start “the ball to roll”. Some of us will have to “invest” in the Change “for crying out loud”, fundamental and comprehensive. Dishing out pie-in-the-sky pontifications of classical democratic principles from the comfort of Salary/Wage Allowances and the cesspool of corruption will not produce the desired socio-political Change.

In my Article, “*What is wrong with Liberians?*”, the people (*Analyst Liberia*, June 12, 2013), I dealt, exhaustively, with the relevant political issues.

B. In Response to an Editorial (*New Democrat*, May 25, 2017) entitled *The Destruction of Public Institutions in Liberia*, the newspaper (*New Democrat*, May 22, 2017) moans “*Liberia's backwardness rooted in an indecent culture wherein thieves, murderers and hyper dishonest people are celebrated and often rewarded with public (government) offices*”. The Editorial chronicles the events and institutions in which these crooks and criminals were and are rewarded. I identified and exposed some of the major individuals in detail. They include:

1. Dr. Amos Claudius Sawyer.

Mr. Sawyer earned and holds the PhD degree in Political Science and, therefore, Social Scientist. Dr. Sawyer has been, and is, one of the major political players on the Liberian political stage in various crucial, critical positions for some 35-40 years. He was the most and major influential political player during the administration of the Military Government (PRC), and appointed Chairman of the powerful Constitution Commission, apparently, as reward for Principal Teacher at the former Marcus Garvey Night High School of the former BTC where M/Sgt. Samuel Doe and his comrades, the AFL NCOs coup-makers were

students. It had been reported that the “Progressives” of Dr. Sawyer provided the political, academic-intellectual rationalization and support for *Regime-change, the April 12, 1980 coup d'état*.

The PRC-banning of the dreaded TWP and the difficulties with the PRC regarding his Liberia Peoples' Political Party (LPP), including the Liberia Action Party (LAP) of Mrs. Sirleaf, both political incarnates of the banned TWP and collapse of the Grand Coalition, his major voice of opposition to Head of State Doe, Dr. Sawyer fled Liberia to the USA and teamed up with Mrs. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf. There they planned, founded and organized the Association for Constitutional Democracy in Liberia (ACDL), the premier organization that conceived, planned, financed and recruited operation agents for the overthrow of the Liberian government by force of arms, a political crime that they detested!!

Thus, the ACDL, Mrs. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, Dr. Sawyer and the host of other “untouchables/notables” of *who-is-who* in the dreaded TWP hierarchy bear the responsibility for the mind-boggling nightmare of the civil war which took the lives of an estimated quarter of a million, innocent, unarmed, civilian, Liberians.

After President Doe was assassinated, Dr. Sawyer was elected and served as Interim President of Liberia for 5 years. Now, Dr. Sawyer is Chairman of the most powerful Governance Commission, the Public Policy development/decision-maker, presentation and Advisor to the Government of Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf for the last 12 years.

As Chairman of the Governance Commission, Dr. Sawyer, apparently, lives part-time both, in Liberia and the USA, where he has a home and family. Like Mrs. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, Dr. Sawyer is, often, on-the-go. He is, perhaps, US citizen. Also, as Chairman of the Governance Commission, Dr. Sawyer crafted the Code of Conduct, apparently, designed to eliminate all possible formidable candidates for President to give retiring Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf the retired-kingmaker status by appointing her successor who, from inside of her rebel-war-making-killer and thievery circle, will protect her from prosecution for alleged, political war crimes against humanity. But the plan fizzled; so, Dr. Sawyer and his intellectual policy rationalists called off application of the Code's provisions regarding politics. A recent writer suggested the removal of Dr. Sawyer and his “Doctors' club” from the Governance Commission.

Indeed, there are several celebrated individuals now holding high public positions as reward for rebellious, “hyper-dishonest” war activities - destruction of public and personal properties, looting, deceit, lies, thievery, murders, etc., etc. Dr. Amos Sawyer appears to be the dean of them all. Time and space do not permit full and complete discussion and/or exposure of Dr. Sawyer's activities. But sooner or later, law will catch up with all of them to join their agent, Mr. Charles Taylor at his 50-year retreat.

2. Dr. D. Elwood Dunn

Mr. Dunn, also, earned and holds the PhD degree in Political Science & History; thus, the Social Scientist. He has been the major, long-time, in-house political ideologue and policy rationalist for the dreaded, deposed True Whig Party (TWP) that ruled Liberia as one-party state for 133 years. In fact, Dr. Dunn was the Presidential Minister of State at the time of the time of the military coup d'état on April 12, 1980. Now, a US citizen, Dr. Dunn lives in the United States and is the retired Professor of Political Science & History of a US University. He is part-time political counsel to the Liberian Government of Mrs. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf during its 12-year tenure.

His most recent, major notable part-time service to the Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf Government included the 2012 Independence Day Oration and Advisor in many areas of national politics. Regarding the Oration, Mr. Samuel Tweah challenged Dr. Dunn's analysis of Liberian History in an article entitled, *Sugarcoating 133 Years of Americo-Liberian Dominance, August 9, 2012*. Mr. Tweah wrote:

“At a time Liberia struggles with national reconciliation and a cohesive national identity, it pains to pen this article. But Dr. Elwood Dunn, a noted Liberian historian and scholar, leaves no choice in his less than honest assessment of our past during his July 26, 2012 Independence Day oration. Dr. Dunn's oration leaves too much to be desired in interpreting our past. He makes several troubling assertions . . . In describing the ‘what, why and how’ of Liberian History, the professor asserts: “*In the beginning of Liberia there was a contestation of visions, but a single vision prevailed for long and shaped the country's development or evolution.*”

“What Dr. Dunn calls ‘contestation of vision’ can more

accurately be considered an ‘imposition of vision’ . . . Before and after independence, the political landscape in Liberia was marred not by ideological or visioning perspectives, but by battlefield contests over settlers' need for territorial acquisition, without which asserting authority would be difficult, and tribal peoples' need to retain control of traditionally inherited lands”.

“No such condition existed at the founding of Liberia. Americo-Liberians, who founded the state, had an incontestable, near unanimous vision to exclude indigenous peoples from the echelons of power . . . The settlers, at our founding, never admitted indigenous peoples into legislatures or constitutional conventions, where debates to influence the course of Liberian history were held. The Bassas and Krus, who might have provided an alternative vision, were nowhere around the seat of governance”.

Thus, the apparent, questionable or erroneous interpretations of Liberian History, perhaps, on conscious political, ideological grounds by Dr. Dunn and other “celebrated” officials of our Government. Dr. Dunn demonstrated this approach at the program held at the Centennial Memorial Pavilion in Monrovia in honor of the late Nelson Mandela, the former South African President and ANC freedom fighter.

In lecture-like historical, intellectual analysis and Remarks, Dr. D. Elwood Dunn “urged Liberians to introspect ‘What, Why and How to Reconcile’”. He told Liberians that “After 27 years in prison, Nelson Mandela . . . and his ANC colleagues worked . . . at reforming/transforming Apartheid government to transition South Africa from oppression to freedom . . . There was a country to govern . . . wounds to be healed and . . . compromises to be made. Remember, the racial, cultural and religious diversity that is South Africa. These, required accommodation, unending negotiations”. Continuing, Dr. Dunn noted that “A model design of a truth and reconciliation process ensued . . . A ‘Rainbow Nation’ sums it all up. Challenges remain, of course, but the social fundamentals seem in place, seem established”.

But Dr. Dunn argued the wrong historical analogy of the South African (SA) and the Liberian (LIB) struggles for freedom.

The SA struggle was between the racist, apartheid, colonialist, social cultural (Caucasian or white) minority rulers and the African black Negro, white-ruled majority; whereas, the LIB struggle was between Black, Negro, African-American minority-rulers and Indigenous, black Negro, ruled-majority. In the LIB struggle, both minority-rulers and majority-ruled were, and are, of the same racial and social cultural group. Therefore, the nature, level, scope and depth of the struggles are historically different, dissimilar. Besides, although the South African minority-rulers had the military and economic might to hold-on and maintain its undemocratic rule, but conceded democratic defeat and surrendered power peacefully. But the Liberian minority-rulers went to disastrous 14-year war!!!

While we appreciate and will remain grateful to Dr. Dunn for the opportunity to learn and benefit from the political, diplomatic and economic history of the South African struggle for freedom from colonial, minority rule in which the Republic of Liberia's patriotic sons and daughters were frontline leaders, the facts of history of the South African and the Liberian struggles for freedom show absolute differences and, because of these differences, Dr. Dunn's “lessons of history” - of compromise, give-and-take, negotiated settlement and, indeed, “reconciliation, once liberated”, we noted, “have been lost on or to us”.

3. Dr. Abdulaye Dukule`

Dr. Dukule`, the former co-worker and very intelligent individual, holds the PhD degree and claims Liberian citizenship. He had served as Executive Assistant to Interim President, Dr. Amos Sawyer and, since then, Diplomatic Envoy and Political Policy Theorist or Public Relations Advisor to the Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf Government during the past 12 years.

The range and coverage of Dr. Dukule's diplomatic, political and Public Relations activities on behalf of the Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf Government, the Liberia nationally-discredited Administration with historic record dominated by liars, deceits, thieves, rebels, killers, human rights violators and ordained Honorable(s) with characteristic impunity, are all in the cesspool of corruption and decadent moral behavior.

This condition gave rise to a journalist who questioned Dr. Dukule's Liberian citizenship and the location of the Liberian High School from which he graduated. This brings us to my book. With the completion of the manuscript of the book on Dr. Amos Sawyer, his politics and political Works, it is necessary to present a copy of the front cover page of the Book.

Suspend impeachment, focus on missing billions

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Nimba County Senator Prince Yormie Johnson calls on both Houses at the 54th Legislature to pause the ongoing impeachment proceedings against Associate Justice Kabineh Ja'neh and focus on the missing billions. Embattled Associate Ja'neh is facing impeachment action from the Senate for several charges.

Speaking after the first session of the extraordinary sitting of the 54th Liberian Legislature, Tuesday, October 30, Senator Johnson argues while it is true the allegation may have some realities or not, which will be verified by the Chief Justice, it is expedient that government focuses its attention on resolving the missing billions which is hunting every Liberian both here and in the diasporas.

The former presidential contender, who pledged his support to George Weah's Coalition for Democratic Change in the 2017 presidential runoff, notes that issue surrounding the missing billions has become an international embarrassment at the ECOWAS, African Union and the United Nations.

He notes that from the

concept of the impeachment proceedings against Justice Ja'neh, he (Johnson) had urged him to resign his post to save the long legal battle and hard feelings.

Senator PYJ recalls that his earlier invention was based on the fact that Justice Ja'neh hails from Nimba, a county he represents at the Liberian Legislature but with the dilemma of the missing billions, it would be very understanding for the

government and its people to put everything aside and resolve the money matter.

It all started when the Senate's Chairman on Judiciary Senator Varney Sherman wrote plenary of the Senate, seeking for amendments in Rule 63 of the Senate.

Rule 63: Section 1: Whenever the Senate receives notice from the House of Representatives that managers are appointed on

their part to conduct an impeachment against any person and are directed to carry articles of impeachment to the Senate, the Secretary of the Senate shall immediately inform the House of Representatives that the Senate is ready to receive the Managers for the purpose of exhibiting such articles of impeachment agreeable to such notice.

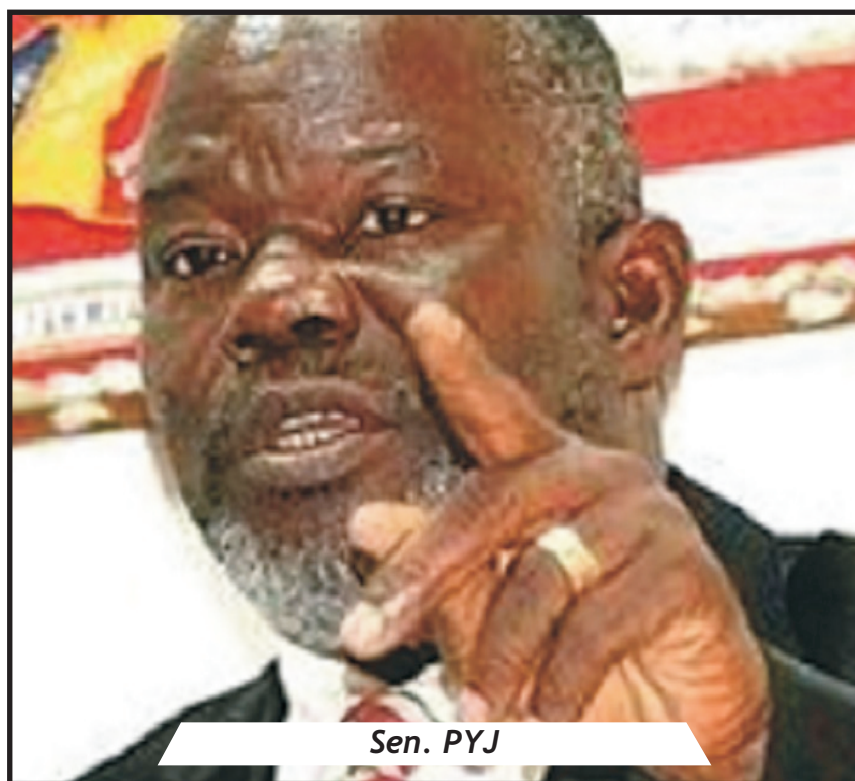
But Senator Oscar Cooper of Margibi County says the emergency return of the senators is not about impeachment and the senate has been legislatively 'armed bush' by the leadership of the upper house.

He points out that they were called back to work based on

the current economic constraints and the missing billions, not impeachment.

He was supported by Nimba County Senator Thomas Grupee argues that Rule 63 of the Senate is about impeachment and the senate does not have anything about impeachment during this current sitting and that the impeachment of Associate Justice Ja'neh is an emergency.

Meanwhile, presiding officer and President of the Senate, Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor took a motion that the communication be circulated among senators and the matter be debated this Friday, November 02. -Editing by Jonathan Browne



Sen. PYJ

IREDD releases report

Starts from back page

86.2%. Others are: Maryland (82.6%); Gbarpolu (81.9%); Bong (81.5%); (Grand Kru 81.5%); Lofa (80.9%); Sinoe (78.3%); Grand Cape Mount, 77.5%; Montserrado, 6.2%; Rivercess 76.1%; Grand Gedeh (70.3%); and, Grand Bassa, 67%, respectively," he adds.

Explaining further he discloses that only one of the nine representatives in the House from Nimba County scored "A" grade, while the other eight each getting "B" grades. For the least performing Bomi County, two of the three representatives scored "Fs" and the third obtained a grade of "C".

For the Senate, Aidoo

names Grand Gedeh County with the highest score with an average attendance score of 89.2 percent while Montserrado County ranked least at 28.57 percent. In between these scores, Rivercess ranked second with an average attendance of 83.3%, followed by Maryland and Grand Kru in third with an average of 82.1 percent, respectively. Others are: Rivergee (79.7%); Lofa (79.7%); Bomi (77.3%); Sinoe (77.3%); Margibi (76.2%); Grand Cape Mount (77.5%); Grand Bassa (71.4%); Nimba (70.2%) and Bong (52.4%), respectively.

Pres. Weah appoints Ad-Hoc Justice

By Winston W. Parley

President George Manneh Weah has appointed an Ad-Hoc Justice to sit for the hearing and determination of Associate Justice Kabineh M. Ja'neh's Writ of Prohibition filed before the Supreme Court against his impeachment by the Legislature.

Circuit Judge Boima Kontoe

appointed His Honor J. Boima Kontoe as Ad-Hoc Justice to sit for the hearing and determination of a Writ of Prohibition in the matter brought on behalf of His Honor Kabineh M. Ja'neh, Associate Justice, Supreme Court of Liberia- "Petitioner" versus The House of Representatives of the National Legislature, by

Associate Justices, a majority of whom shall be deemed competent to transact the business of the Court.

This provision says if a quorum is not obtained to enable the Court to hear any case, a circuit judge in the order of seniority shall sit as an ad hoc justice of the Supreme Court.

Also Section 2.8 regarding reconstitution of quorum by ad hoc appointments under the Judiciary Law "Title 17" of Liberian Code of Laws Revised approved May 10, 1972 and published June 20, 1972 says when more than two Justices of the Supreme Court cannot sit on a pending case, the Chief Justice shall direct the Clerk of the Court to notify the President.

According to this provision in the statute quoted, the president shall make ad hoc appointments to reconstitute a quorum from among the judges of the circuit courts.

For the purpose of this publication, this paper contacted several senior lawyers including National Bar president Cllr. Moses Paegar to ascertain their reactions on this latest presidential decision, but they appear reluctant to speak to it.

However former Solicitor General Cllr. Tiawan Gongloe says the president is not in

error in making the appointment, because four justices cannot make a decision.

Of the five justices on the bench, Associate Justice Ja'neh has recused himself from the hearing and determination of the case because he is a party.

Justice Ja'neh faces accusations of alleged corruption and abuse of office by ruling party CDC lawmakers for which an impeachment bill has been sent to the Liberian Senate against him.

But he challenges the processes leading to the drafting of the impeachment bill and has asked the Supreme Court to halt the process. However, lawmakers have defied the Supreme Court's intervention, rejecting a stay order in the case.

Cllr. Gongloe notes that beside Ja'neh not being on his own case, there are four justices left to hear the case, for which somebody is needed to break the tie so as to avoid having a divided court of two

against two.

"The fact that an ad hoc justice is being appointed means to me that the four justices are divided two, two - they cannot make a decision. So they need somebody to break the tie," he says.

"No, it was not in error," Cllr. Gongloe continues, and adds that an odd number is often required on the Supreme Court bench for decisions making because four justices cannot reach a decision.

Another thing is that, Cllr. Gongloe says Judge Kontoe is the most senior judge in order of appointment, and as such the president is not in error.

However, Judicial Communication Director Atty. Ambrose Nmah says he cannot speak to unfolding issue because he had just read the appointment statement a couple of minutes ago when this paper contacted him.

He says he does not know if the Chief Justice ever made a request for appointment of an ad hoc justice.



Judge Boima Kontoe

is appointed by the president as an Ad - Hoc Justice for this task, though arguments have already been heard by justices of the Supreme Court in the case prior to his appointment.

"President George Manneh Weah, in keeping with Article 67 of the Constitution of the Republic of Liberia, has

and through its Speaker, Honorable Bhofal Chambers- "Respondents," the Executive Mansion says in a one - paragraph statement issued Tuesday, 30 October.

Article 67 of the Liberian Constitution says the Supreme Court shall comprise of one Chief Justice and four

IREDD releases report on lawmakers



By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

The Institute for Research and Democratic Development or IREDD releases performance report on members of the Liberian Legislature, considering the three constitutional functions of both the House of Representatives and the Liberian Senate.

The Executive Director of IREDD, Harold Aidoo says during the period under review, the Institute recorded 200 communications between both Houses of the

Legislature. Of the 200 communications recorded, 120 or 60 percent came from the House of Representatives and 80 or 40 percent from the Liberian Senate.

Mr. Aidoo further details there were 180 Committee reports recorded at both the House of Representatives and the Senate of which 100 or 55.6 percent came from the Liberian Senate and 80 or 44.5 percent came from the House of Representatives.

"Few of the reports related to a petition from citizens of Butaw, Sinoe County asking for

the area to be made a statutory district; a letter requesting the Director General of the General Services Agency and the Minister of Public Works to provide detail clarification regarding the issue of the assets and properties of the Government of Liberia mobilized and deployed during the 1979 OAU Conference, and, a letter requesting plenary exercise its oversight mandate on the management of Farmington Hotel in Margibi County among others," he explains.

Commenting on attendance of lawmakers, Aidoo intimates that Nimba County scored the highest with an average attendance score of 88 percent while Bomi County ranked least at 45.2 percent.

"Between these scores, Margibi ranked second with an average attendance of 87.4%, followed by Rivergee in third with an average of



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Red Cross alarms misuse of emblem

By Winston W. Parley

The Liberian National Red Cross Society (LNRC) is alarming here that its emblem is being misused by unauthorized individuals and entities on their vehicles and buildings, tarnishing the reputation of the Red Cross in some cases.

"And so the emblem has been misused. In order to prevent the misuse and curtail other abuses of this emblem,

we have decided to launch this campaign to ensure that our emblem is protected," LNRC Secretary General Madam Sayba T. Tamba told journalists Tuesday, 30 October in Monrovia.

The Red Cross official raises concern that when the institution's emblem is seen on unauthorized buildings, vehicles and other places and there is an issue, "it reflects on Red Cross."

But she warns that the Red Cross emblem is legally authorized by government, only for the use of the Red Cross and its relevant partners including the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) in times of war.

Madam Tamba complains that the misuse of the Red Cross emblem on vehicles, other ambulances and buildings that are not associated with the Red Cross has been ongoing for a long time.

"And individuals carry some of our materials for example, like the jacket," she says.

In another development, the LNRC has made a provision of digital cameras and recorders for reporters of 14 community-based radio stations, excluding Montserrado County.

Madam Tamba says the intention is for the beneficiaries to assist the National Red Cross Society in profiling the humanitarian

needs across the country as well as alerting the institutions responsible to be able to respond in a timely manner.

Media institutions benefiting from this donation will this week receive their cameras and recorders, according to Madam Tamba.

The Red Cross and the Press Union of Liberia (PUL) represented by its Program Officer Mr. James Davids, signed documents to the effect on Tuesday at the LNRC Head office in Monrovia.

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