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# The New Dawn

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# Ellen gets top IMF role



Ex-Pres. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde



# Lawmaker defends US\$1,000 DSA saga



# Continental News

## Boko Haram attacks kill 12 in Nigeria

At least 12 civilians were killed in multiple Boko Haram jihadist attacks targeting two villages and a camp for those displaced by the bloody conflict in northeastern Nigeria, civilian militia and residents told AFP Thursday.

Jihadists in seven trucks late on Wednesday attacked Bulaburin and Kofa villages as well as a camp in Dalori village outside the Borno state capital of Maiduguri.

"The terrorists attacked and completely burnt Bulaburin and Kofa villages and burnt half the Dalori two IDP (internally displaced persons) camp," militia leader Babakura Kolo told AFP.

"They killed nine people in Bulaburin, two people in Dalori, and one in Kofa and looted food supplies before setting them on fire," Kolo said.

The attack was launched in Kofa where the jihadists

opened fire indiscriminately and killed one person as residents fled, said Kofa resident Musa Goni.

"They then moved to nearby Bulaburin where they gunned down nine people and burnt the village after stealing food," Goni said.

At Dalori 2 IDP camp, which houses 10,000 homeless people, the jihadists engaged troops and civilian militia guarding the camp in a shootout before overrunning the makeshift facility, civilian militia camp member Solomon Adamu

said. "When the Boko Haram gunmen came they stopped on the road overlooking the camp and started firing," said Adamu who took part in the fight.

"Soldiers and civilian JTF (militia) at the gate engaged them in gunfight but were forced to withdraw into the camp because we were outgunned," he said.

Residents were forced to flee and two were killed while several were injured, according to Adamu.

The jihadists invaded the camp after overrunning troops and the militia and "burnt half the camp" by

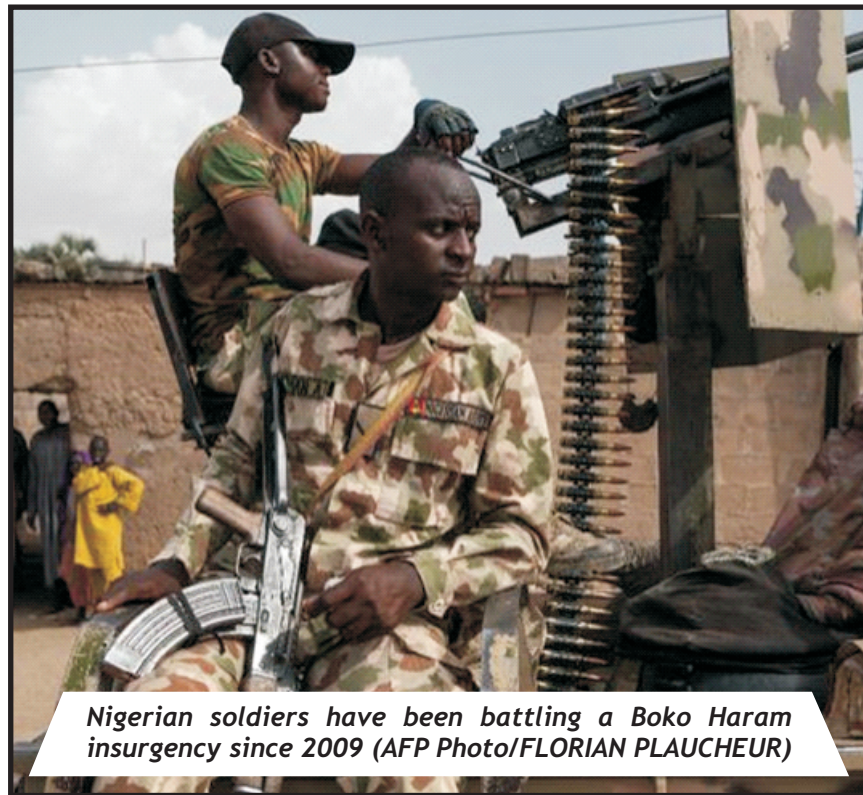
setting fires and firing rocket-propelled grenades on buildings.

"One grenade didn't explode and is still lying in the camp, waiting for bomb disposal units to evacuate it," Adamu said.

The area has been attacked multiple times before by the Boko Haram faction loyal to Abubakar Shekau.

Dalori, which is about 15 kilometres (nine miles) from Maiduguri, houses about 50,000 people in makeshift camps.

In June 2017, two female suicide bombers blew themselves up at the camp. The attack injured several residents but killed only the bombers. -AFP



Nigerian soldiers have been battling a Boko Haram insurgency since 2009 (AFP Photo/FLORIAN PLAUCHEUR)

## Uganda in Ebola vaccine first

Uganda is to become the first country in the world to give a vaccine against Ebola without experiencing an active outbreak.

The country's health authorities along with the World Health Organization

have taken the decision because of the threat of the spread of Ebola from neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo.

Insecurity around the town of Beni, in the east of the DR Congo, has hampered efforts to contain Ebola in

the latest outbreak in which 179 people have already died.

The affected region is close to the borders of Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda.

In Uganda, the vaccine will be given as a preventative measure to frontline health personnel.

Vaccination teams have been deployed in the west, close to the border, to start work in the five most-at-risk districts.

Uganda has already been taking other measures such as the screening of people crossing at some border points. The country has a reputation for responding quickly to health emergencies.

In 2000, it experienced its own deadly Ebola outbreak which killed over 200 people. And since then, it strengthened its surveillance and emergency response teams for early detection of virus outbreaks. -BBC



## Zimbabwe 'excited to dig for oil' after new survey

Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa has announced the discovery of potential oil and gas deposits in the north of the country.

Australian mining firm Invictus Energy, in partnership with the government, is to determine whether commercial drilling is feasible.

"We have since been advised by Invictus that the findings are positive and point to oil and gas deposits in the area," Mr Mnangagwa said.

"The result as communicated by Invictus is an exciting development for our country."

Mines Minister Winston Chitando said the well,



Image copyright EPA: President Emmerson Mnangagwa said it was an exciting development for Zimbabwe

An exploration well would be sunk by Invictus in Muzarabani district within two years, the president said. Zimbabwe is experiencing its worst economic crisis in a decade.

Fuel shortages are a frequent problem and there are many power cuts.

situated about 240km (150 miles) north of the capital, Harare, would be sunk at a cost of \$20m (£15m), the Reuters news agency reports.

The mineral-rich country currently has no oil or gas production. -BBC

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# 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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# COMMENTARY

By Mohamed A. El-Erian

## Why Italy is the Latest to Question Policy Orthodoxy

*The budget standoff between Italy's anti-establishment government and the European Commission has rattled markets and brought back memories of the eurozone sovereign debt crisis. EU officials should remain open to unconventional economic-policy approaches, and the Italians should show that they are serious about long-term reforms.*

PARIS - Global markets, policymakers, and risk managers are watching the budget skirmish between Italy's government and the European Commission closely. The episode highlights a growing tendency among governments in both advanced and emerging economies to question economic policy orthodoxy. As this trend intensifies, economists and market participants need to think harder about, and communicate much better, the implicit tradeoffs of conventional economic and financial policymaking under challenging circumstances.

Having been elected with a mandate to promote faster, more inclusive growth, the Italian authorities are pursuing a more expansionary fiscal stance. Their budget, however, has been "rejected" by the European Commission for its "non-compliance" with EU deficit rules. As a result, Moody's has since downgraded Italy's sovereign credit rating to just one notch above junk level, citing worries about the country's debt stock and the government's overoptimistic growth projections.

With Italy's leaders insisting that they have "no Plan B," spreads on Italian government debt have risen back to levels not seen since the dark days of euro crisis. And as both public- and private-sector borrowing costs increase, some observers are starting to worry about the implications for the Italian financial system. In fact, some have even gone as far as to argue that Italy poses an existential threat to the eurozone. Others, however, dismiss this as dangerous hype, given that Italy still has a manageable short-term debt-servicing profile, a primary budget surplus and a current-account surplus, as well as considerable economic potential.

Italy's longstanding growth challenge is being amplified by Europe's recent loss of economic momentum, regional fragmentation pressures, and the gradual reduction in liquidity injections by the European Central Bank. To counter these factors, Italy is resorting to fiscal policy to try to stimulate growth through both demand and supply channels. In other words, the government wants to run a larger budget deficit now in order to generate higher actual growth and higher potential growth.

Meanwhile, the pressure on Italian risk spreads has been accentuated by a shift in global markets. The past several years have been characterized by unusually low market volatility and an appetite for higher risk, owing to ample, repeated, and predictable liquidity injections from central banks. But markets are now moving toward greater risk aversion and higher volatility as monetary policies tighten and as growth - particularly in advanced economies outside the US - slows and becomes more divergent.

Looking ahead, much will depend on whether Italy's big policy bet can be reconciled with the rules and guidance of the European Commission. But make no mistake: global factors will also play a role, not least by determining how much time Italy and the Commission will have to sort out their differences.

Precisely how regional and international factors evolve will have important implications for Italian sovereign spreads. An orderly policy transition would provide breathing space for the government's economic strategy to evolve, whereas an abrupt shift would create significant headwinds in the form of tightening financing

conditions for the Italian government and private sector.

This is not the first time that a newly elected government has challenged economic orthodoxy in the advanced world (the phenomenon is usually associated more with emerging economies). Upon taking office in January 2015, Greece's Syriza government signaled its departure from the conventional approach adopted by its predecessors, even going back to the electorate for re-affirmation in a nationwide referendum. In the end, though, the threat of losing eurozone membership forced it back to policy orthodoxy.

In the United States, the Trump administration and congressional Republicans pushed through a late-cycle fiscal stimulus, cutting taxes and raising government spending at a time when the US economy is already growing rapidly due to higher consumption and business investment. Normally in an aging expansion, the government looks for ways to increase its policy flexibility as preparation for a possible future downturn. But, here, pro-cyclical policies were accompanied by a more confrontational approach to trade. Needless to say, this, too, runs counter to economic orthodoxy which regards trade as mutually beneficial, and protectionism as unnecessarily costly.

Likewise, Turkey has been busy rewriting the rules of crisis management. So far, at least, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government has managed to overcome a currency crisis without aggressively raising interest rates or seeking financial support from the International Monetary Fund.

These unorthodox policy approaches are fundamentally challenging the conventional wisdom on how economic policies should be sequenced. For example, both Italy and Turkey have dispensed with the dictum that macroeconomic stability must come before growth-promoting fiscal and monetary stimulus. Or, as the old saying goes: Macroeconomic stability isn't everything; but without it, there is nothing.

The increasing appeal of unorthodox policy approaches is the direct result of years of slow and insufficiently inclusive growth, coupled with mounting concerns about the inequality trifecta (income, wealth, and opportunities). These factors have undercut advanced economies' actual and future potential, alienated significant segments of the population, eroded the credibility of the establishment and expert opinion, and fueled the politics of anger.

Rather than dismiss the reaction out of hand, experts should be more open-minded when grappling with the factors behind the new unorthodoxy. Specifically, the tradeoffs that are implicit in conventional approaches need to be carefully quantified and clearly communicated. And those approaches should be updated for a world in which anemic growth seems to have become a structural feature of a growing segment of economies.

In a world of self-reinforcing expectations and multiple equilibria, careful efforts to jump-start economies might facilitate the success of more durable structural reforms. In the case of Italy, then, the EU should remain flexible. But the Italian government must also demonstrate that it is a lot more serious about implementing the supply-side changes needed to sustain faster growth in the long term.



## Lord, they say, Daboo say, she can't remember anything about money?

Dear Father:

*Have you heard the latest news about our village money business? They say Daboo says she is too old to remember anything.*

*Aha, my son, this one da geese oo. It too heavy for my mouth sef. Oh, they say the other day the people who looking into our "missing" village money went to Daboo, to ask her what she knew about the ongoing money saga.*

*They say the Old Lady said she already 80 years old, so she can't remember anything again. And in fact, she never took any document from the mansion, she left everything there, so they should go and ask the Country Giant for the papers, everything they want to know is inside.*

*Tell me something my son!*

*Oh, Father that fire! The Old Lady says, she too old to remember anything about our village money. Da one, da na gossip oh.*

*Wait which one of the investigators she was telling that one to so? They say da the other group the Country Giant put together and not the one from Uncle Sam's village oo. You know the ones from Uncle Sam's village just arrive in town so we don't know if the Old Lady would be given some membrane pills to be able to talk to them, since they are from Uncle Sam's village na.*

*But have you also heard the news concerning the ones from Uncle Sam's village?*

*No, my son.*

*Oh, but wait oo, then you are really behind time oo. I heard and they say our Paramount Chief from the Traditional Council says nobody will go before them to answer any question.*

*You don't mean it!*

*Ah, Father da what I heard oo. They say our man was very serious in saying that. The man say nobody moh talk anything.*

*But my son, you think the people serious to really know what happen to this money?*

*Father, the way things are going, I think that short man like myself and those two people from the Traditional Council who signed those letters have plenty explaining to do oo.*

*Who short man, you mean the former Big Man from your Village Money House?*

*Yes, Father, from the way I am looking at things-the Old Lady says she can't remember, the Chiefs are talking about bearing gee, the only people who can really tell us what went on are the two people from the Traditional Council and my short friend. Ah my name oo!*

*So what about the Town Criers?*

*Oh, I heard the Blue Uniform people have sent for one of our friends to meet with them tomorrow. But we are listening with all ears as to why they want him to go and meet with them.*

*But overall how are things in your village?*

*Aah, Father, hmmm, to tell you the truth it na easy. This money palaver na make everybody to see us as some kina common criminal so it na easy. Then our pro poor agenda working too so its na easy.*

## OPINION

By Harold James

### Winter Is Coming to the UK

**P**RINCETON - The United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union is rapidly unraveling. The "Chequers plan" upon which British Prime Minister Theresa May has based her negotiating strategy is dead on arrival. It has been rejected not just by the EU and the opposition Labour Party, but also by enough Conservative MPs to ensure that it would fail a parliamentary vote.

Accordingly, the May government's only option has been to delay and hope that something turns up (also known as kicking the can down the road). But while the current impasse could simply mean that May's negotiating strategy was flawed, it also could mean that the underlying logic of Brexit is incoherent.

For its part, the Chequers plan relies on a series of uneasy compromises. The UK would maintain a customs relationship with the EU, but it would not be in the EU customs union. Instead, both UK and EU courts would enforce a common "rulebook," and the UK would be able to diverge from EU trade rules when making agreements with third parties.

But even if this customs-union fudge were palatable to both sides, there would still be the question of the Irish border. Specifically, there would either have to be a border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland (which will remain in the EU), or between Northern Ireland and Great Britain. The first scenario would threaten the Irish peace process; the second would destroy the UK.

Brexit is based on the belief that national sovereignty is the only rational basis for international order. Academics would refer to this as "realism," which holds that states are driven by clearly defined and articulated interests that perpetually collide with one another at the global level. A popular non-academic rendering of this doctrine can be found in the HBO series "Game of Thrones," which combines Shakespearean elements with fantasy.

For many viewers, "GOT" has become a lens for understanding contemporary reality. At this year's International Monetary Fund-World Bank Annual Meeting in Bali, Indonesian President Joko Widodo channeled the main theme of the series when he warned that, "Winter is coming." As the "great houses" of the United States and China compete for control of the "iron throne," a global crisis that will spare no one becomes increasingly likely.

By portraying a world of treachery and broken alliances, GOT serves as the perfect fable for our current moment of international uncertainty. It is also a must-watch among Brexiteers. Michael Gove, one of the leaders of the "Leave" campaign, has identified the mastermind underdog Tyrion Lannister as his favorite character on the show.

According to GOT-style realism, the EU makes no sense institutionally, because it is based on an impossible premise: the transcendence of nationalism and state interests. One of the driving forces behind Brexit was the belief that Europe was breaking apart under the weight of insurmountable debt and uncontrolled migration. The UK was simply escaping from a burning house before it collapsed.

The problem with this interpretation is that it ignores all of the ways that EU institutions, regulatory authorities, and legal frameworks hold the house together. To be sure, there are always some people in some countries who dislike some rules. Northern and southern Europeans had very different perspectives on the euro crisis; eastern and western Europeans have very different views on refugees. But the main political divides are within, not between, societies, and the prospect of an exit would most likely intensify them.

After all, a new order brings new divisions, as is now apparent in the UK. The City of London is torn between banks that are worried about losing their European clients and markets, and hedge funds that are looking forward to being free of European regulations. Some farmers are worried about losing EU subsidies, while others think that a new framework could allow them to practice more sustainable agriculture. And some Brexiteers want more social spending, while others would like to become a deregulated paradise that competes with Singapore. Everyone wants a better world, but few can agree on what such a world would look like.

In continental Europe, the difficulty - if not impossibility - of formulating viable national exit strategies is now widely known. When Marine Le Pen of the far-right National Front (now called the National Rally) suggested a referendum on euro membership during the French presidential campaign in early 2017, she lost support. The same dynamic is now playing out in Italy, where the two populist parties in power have had to backpedal on past Euroskeptic remarks to make clear that "Italexit" is not on the table.

As the continental populists are learning, disengagement makes impossible demands of leaders. In the realist framework, a government must represent the country's interests perfectly. But national interests in a pluralist democracy are subject to constant debate and disagreement. The last time that realism made sense as a mode of interpreting the world was in the 1930s, when democracy was in crisis, and only authoritarians could act as the theory implied.

During the campaign for the June 2017 general election, May promised that she would lead a "strong and stable" government. But because she cannot rule as an autocrat, "strong and stable" is no longer an option, thanks to Brexit.

# 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 100<sup>th</sup> 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.

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# WFP, GoL prioritize home-grown food -for school meals

A high-powered World Food Programme (WFP) Liberia team headed by Deputy Country Director, Asif Bhutto, visits two schools in Nimba County where WFP and partners are providing nutritious Liberian country rice to schoolchildren.

According to WFP, some 20,000 students in 62 public schools in Nimba County are enjoying the daily meals produced by Liberian farmers and purchased by WFP as part of plans to directly support Liberian farmers boost production, better schoolchildren's nutrition and education status, and improve social and productive safety nets.

Under its Home-Grown School Feeding Programme, WFP in collaboration with the Ministries of Education and Agriculture is buying rice, cassava, eddoes, potatoes, vegetables, and palm oil from smallholder farmers in Liberia.

Speaking to students and school administrators early this week, Mr Bhutto said: "WFP is pleased to support the school meals programme with food commodities we buy from Liberian farmers as a way of supporting our own farmers produce more food instead of buying the food from overseas".

He says the organization's activities throughout Liberia are in line with government's development plans as articulated in the pro-Poor Agenda.

The Home-Grown School Meals Programme (HGSFP) - known for its integrated agriculture, nutrition, education and social safety net approaches - is the WFP and

Government of Liberia-led innovative and multifaceted development effort, which benefits both the food security and education sectors through the production of nutritious

that but when the feeding started in October, the news spread and more students came".

WFP-supported Community Grain Reserves (CGRs) in

Toko, Secretary General of the Gleyeekwa-doo (we are one) farmers group in Bunadin says their CGR was milling at least 300 bags of 25kg rice for sale to WFP.

from us. One year from now we will increase our paddy rice production field from six to eight hectares."

Up to 2017, WFP and the Ministry of Education provided daily school meals to over 120,000 students in 577 rural public primary schools in nine counties.

Additionally, over 4,000 school-going girls received monthly rations of rice and oil under the WFP Girls take-home rations (GTHR) - aimed at boosting girls' enrolment, attendance and retention.

The support was provided in areas where girl child enrolment was noticeably low as compared to boys. In late 2017, WFP experienced huge financial constraints that forced the organization to suspend school meals programme in early 2018.

The resumption of the programme in October 2018 was made possible through a multilateral donor support. WFP urgently needs financial support without which school meals programme will not continue beyond December 2018. WFP



DCD Asif serves students at Ylamba Public School in Saclepea, Nimba County

food commodities for use in school feeding.

School administrators are lauding the effort as "extremely wonderful and good for improving education".

Liberia National Red Cross High School (Saclepea) Principal, Joseph S. Adjei, could not hold back his admiration for the home-grown school meals programme: "We have changed from vegetable oil to palm oil and to country rice and eddoes - you name it - and the students love it".

Mr Adjei outlines the immediate benefits of the new meals programme in his school: "Right now we have 560 students. When we started in September, it was less than

Nimba County are also supporting the school meals programme by selling Liberian country rice and beans to WFP.

Community Grain Reserves are owned and managed by rural women farmer groups that WFP trained and provided with initial amounts of milled rice for use as loan to other farmers and community residents during the peak of the hunger season.

Sampson

## J.J. Roberts School Principal extols Pres. Weah

By Emmanuel Mondaye

"Quality education is said to be the bedrock for building a solid foundation for socio-political and economic development in any nation. And as such, President George M. Weah must be extolled for providing tuition free opportunity for students attending the ... University of Liberia (UL)", says Liberian educator Samuel K. Sagbeh.

Speaking recently, the J.J. Roberts Methodist School Principal said the recent magnanimous gesture from President Weah must be accorded with more seriousness from students to help take the country to a noble destiny.

Mr. Sagbeh made the assertions in an interview

with reporters recently, saying the president's decision will help alleviate extra stress often encountered by parents and students in meeting educational demands for students at public universities, mainly UL.

The J.J. Roberts School principal observes that some students do not have the means of getting school fees on their own, but are yearning daily to attend school or obtain university education.

He appeals to President Weah to also extend the gesture by providing annual subsidies for private universities so as to enable them to lower their school fees.

Mr. Sagbeh believes that any attempt to improve human capacity building could serve as a vehicle for reducing mass illiteracy here.

He adds that President Weah's move is not just a giveaway, but also an added advantage.

Mr. Sagbeh sees it as a challenge for Liberian students to study much harder in order to put their country on par with other countries.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

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**MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

# Strive for excellence

## **-Finance Minister urges Liberian Doctors**

By Ethel A. Tweh

The Minister of Finance and Development Planning Samuel Tweah urges Liberian doctors to strive for excellence in the medical profession and demonstrate excellence in public service.

Speaking during the second convocation of the Liberia College of Physicians and Surgeons at the Samuel K. Doe Sports Complex in Paynesville, Minister Tweah promises that government will increase allotment to the Liberia College of Physicians and Surgeons to mold the minds of Liberian doctors in specialized areas to transform the country's health sector.

He notes if Liberia should move forward within the next five years, it would require collective effort of every Liberian, not only President George Manneh Weah.

Minister Tweah also calls on Liberians to put the past behind and unite to transform the socio-economic

development of Liberia. The President of LCPS, Prof. Robert M. Kpoto, stresses that investing in education is crucial for the development of the nation and its people. He says investment in education will go a long way to develop the human capital of Liberia for growth and transformation of

the society.

According to him, knowledge and skills are the best currencies in the 21st Century and no central bank can print it, stressing that educating young people will make the nation to progress from one level to another.

Doctor Kpoto notes the LCPS graduates 15 doctors in post-graduate medical education, disclosing the

institution was established by law in 2012 to train medical specialists in disciplines such as surgery and internal

medicine, among others.

The convocation was held under the theme: "Advancing Liberia's Health Care Delivery System; the role of Post-graduate Medical Education."

**-Editing by Jonathan Browne**



Minister Samuel Tweah

## Petty traders formulate taskforce

By Emmanuel Mundaye

A 25 member taskforce drawn from the Petty Traders Association of Liberia has been set up to coordinate activities of petty traders in the country.

The Media Relations Officer for the Monrovia City Corporation (MCC) made the disclosure on 30 October in an exclusive interview with The New Dawn in Monrovia.

He says the MCC and the Petty Traders Association of Liberia signed a memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in which it was agreed that the taskforce would handle all related matters involving petty traders.

According to him, the decision reached between

Traders and Informal Workers' Union of Liberia or FEPTIWUL.

The training amongst others focused on city ordinance, basic report writing and professionalism.

Addressing a news conference in Monrovia, MCC details that the training is the city government's way of working in line with a recent Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the Monrovia City Corporation and the Federation of Petty Traders and Informal Workers' Union of Liberia, committing to capacity building of taskforce members recruited by the FEPTIWUL to enforce regulations on street selling.



## Margibi to host county sitting

By Ramsey N. Singbeh, Jr. in Margibi

After it was suspended under the regime of ex-superintendent John Z. Buiway for several years, the County Council Sitting of Margibi is expected to resume shortly as authorities in the county hold preparatory meeting.

It is at such sitting, usually a one day's event that county

leaders and their people gather to discuss development programs and funding for the county.

Margibi County District Two Representative Ivar K. Jones, who is also secretary of the county caucus, discloses plan by the county to conduct a county sitting soon.

He made the disclosure after a meeting with County Superintendent Jerry Varnie and lawmakers of Margibi,

lasting several hours.

Margibi Senator Jim Tornola, said to be receiving medication, sent a proxy at the meeting held in Superintendent's Office.

Rep. Jones continues they are reviewing turnover note of the past administration, including verification of access to the county's accounts, amongst others.

He says they are even considering support to the Margibi County Team as a priority in the upcoming county sitting.

He notes they have also started working with the superintendent to put in place necessary mechanisms that will enable them to give information to citizens about development in the county.

The Margibi Lawmaker further discloses that today, Wednesday, October 31, they leadership will make decision on a suitable date for the county sitting to inform the public.

He assures Margibians mainly the people of Electoral District Two that a county sitting will be held not later than November, 2018. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**



Representative Ivar K. Jones

both the MCC and the PTA leadership is aimed easing tension that usually erupts between members of the Petty Traders and City Police in enforcing city ordinance.

Under the MOU, both parties agreed that each petty trader pays a monthly waste management fee of US\$20 to the MCC to enhance removal of garbage from the streets of Monrovia.

The MCC recently trained over 25 taskforce members of the Federation of Petty

The City Corporation indicates the taskforce will also work collectively with the Monrovia City Police to ensure petty traders are restricted to certain areas in the city to carry on their businesses, noting that this is the first time in the country for a city government to form a joint taskforce with petty traders' union to help promote a safe and healthy environment for all. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

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# Français

## Suspendre la procédure de destitution pour se concentrer sur la disparition des milliards

Le sénateur Prince Yormie Johnson du comté de Nimba a appelé les deux Chambres du parlement libérien à suspendre la procédure de destitution contre le juge associé Kabineh Ja'neh afin de se concentrer sur la disparition présumée des milliards de dollars libériens.

Kabinet Ja'neh, l'un des Juges associés de la cour suprême, est visé par une procédure de destitution du Sénat sur la base de plusieurs chefs d'accusation.

A l'issue de la première séance de la session extraordinaire de la 54ème législature libérienne, le mardi 30 octobre, le sénateur Johnson a affirmé que même s'il est vrai que les charges portées à l'encontre du juge associé de la cour suprême sont avérées, il est préférable que le parlement se concentre sur la résolution de la question de la disparition présumée des milliards de dollars libériens, car cette affaire inquiète tous les Libériens.

Le candidat malheureux à la dernière présidentielle, qui



a apporté son soutien à la Coalition pour le changement démocratique de George Weah lors du second, a indiqué que la question des milliards manquants est devenue un embarras international tant au niveau de la CEDEAO et de l'Union africaine que des Nations Unies.

Il a fait savoir que concernant la procédure de destitution, il a personnellement conseillé au

juge Ja'neh de démissionner afin d'éviter cette longue et rude bataille juridique.

Le sénateur PYJ a en outre déclaré que sa première intervention était basée sur le fait que le juge Ja'neh soit originaire du comté de Nimba, dont il est le représentant au parlement Libérien, mais avec le casse-tête chinois que constitue la disparition présumée des milliards de dollars, il serait très sage de la

part de l'Etat et du peuple de tout mettre de côté pour résoudre cette question d'argent.

Le président du comité sénatorial sur les affaires judiciaires, Varney Sherman, avait demandé au sénat, lors de la séance plénière, de procéder à un amendement de l'article 63 de la loi organique du Sénat, qui concerne la procédure de destitution.

Mais le sénateur Oscar Cooper du comté de Margibi a déclaré que si le parlement a été demandé d'interrompre ses congés pour se réunir de

façon urgente, ce n'est pas à cause de la procédure de destitution, mais c'est plutôt à cause des contraintes économiques auxquelles le pays est confronté et de la disparition présumée des milliards de dollars libériens. Il a ainsi accusé la hiérarchie de la chambre haute d'avoir posé « une embuscade parlementaire » contre les sénateurs.

De même, le sénateur Thomas Grupee du comté de Nimbe, a soutenu que l'article 63 du Sénat concerne les procédures de destitution et qu'au cours de la présente session il n'est pas question de destitution et en plus la destitution du juge associé Kabinet Ja'neh n'est pas aussi urgente face aux difficultés économiques qui assaillent le peuple.

La vice-présidente Jewel Howard Taylor, qui présidait la séance, a pris une motion demandant que la communication du sénateur Sherman soit distribuée aux sénateurs et que la question soit débattue ce vendredi 02 novembre. En sa qualité de vice-présidente de la république du Libéria, Mme Jewel Howard Taylor est d'office présidente du sénat.

## Le Président Weah nomme un juge ad hoc

Le Président George Manneh Weah a nommé un juge ad hoc pour siéger lors de l'audience concernant le bref d'interdiction déposé par le juge associé Kabineh Ja'neh, devant la Cour suprême, contre la procédure de destitution initiée par le

pouvoir législatif à son

encontre. Le juge Boima Kontoe est nommé juge ad hoc pour cette tâche par le président, bien que des arguments aient déjà été entendus par les juges de la Cour suprême dans l'affaire bien avant sa nomination.

« Le président George Manneh Weah, conformément à l'article 67 de la Constitution de la République du Libéria, a nommé Son Honneur J. Boima Kontoe juge ad hoc pour siéger à l'audience et prendre part à la décision concernant le bref d'interdiction dans l'affaire dont il est saisi, au nom de Son Honneur Kabineh M. Ja'neh, juge associé de la Cour suprême du Libéria - « Requêteur » contre la Chambre des représentants de l'Assemblée législative, représentée par son président, l'honorable Bhofal Chambers - « Intimé », a déclaré la présidence dans une courte déclaration publiée le mardi 30 octobre.

Le présent journal a contacté plusieurs juristes renommés, dont le président du barreau national, Me Moses Paegar, pour s'enquérir de leurs réactions à cette dernière décision présidentielle, mais la plupart d'entre eux n'ont pas voulu répondre à nos questions.

Cependant, l'ancien solliciteur général, Me Tiawan

Gongloe, a déclaré que le président n'avait pas commis d'erreur en procédant à cette nomination, « car quatre juges ne pouvaient pas prendre de décision ».

Le juge associé Ja'neh s'est refusé dans le cadre de l'audience car il est une partie dans cette affaire. Il est visé par une procédure de destitution pour corruption et d'abus de pouvoir présumés. La procédure a été initiée par l'un des législateurs du parti au pouvoir, CDC. Mais, M. Ja'neh a contesté le processus et demandé à la Cour suprême de l'arrêter. Cependant, les législateurs ont défié l'intervention de la Cour suprême, rejetant l'ordonnance de suspension émise par cette dernière.

Me Gongloe a fait remarquer que, « outre le fait que Ja'neh ne soit pas à sa place, il reste quatre juges pour entendre l'affaire, mais il faut quelqu'un de plus pour rompre la parité, de manière à éviter d'avoir un tribunal divisé en deux avec deux juges de

chaque côté. La nomination d'un juge ad hoc signifie pour moi que les quatre juges sont divisés en deux camps, avec deux de chaque côté. Ils ne peuvent pas prendre de décision. Donc, ils ont besoin de quelqu'un pour briser cette égalité ».

« Non, ce n'était pas une erreur », a dit Me Gongloe avant d'ajouter qu'un nombre impair est souvent requis pour les décisions de la Cour suprême, car quatre juges ne peuvent pas prendre de décision. En plus, selon Me Gongloe, le juge Kontoe est le juge le plus ancien par ordre de nomination, par conséquent, le président n'est en erreur.

Cependant, le directeur de la communication judiciaire, Me Ambrose Nmah a quant à lui déclaré qu'il ne pouvait pas se prononcer sur cette question car il venait à peine de faire la lecture du décret de nomination, en plus, il ne sait pas si le juge en chef a fait la demande de la nomination d'un juge ad hoc.



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# Français

## Guinée : Plus de morts avec l'aggravation de la répression des manifestations d'opposition

**A**u moins 18 personnes ont été tuées depuis janvier dans le contexte des manifestations, dont trois par arme à feu au cours des deux dernières semaines.

Une vidéo et des photos authentifiées montrent des membres d'une unité d'élite militaire sur les lieux d'une manifestation.

La voiture d'un dirigeant de l'opposition a été touchée par un projectile.

Alors que la Guinée connaît une nouvelle vague de manifestations politiques, les autorités doivent prendre toutes les mesures nécessaires pour protéger le droit de réunion pacifique et veiller à ce qu'aucune autre personne ne perde la vie à cause de la violence de tous les côtés, notamment des excès meurtriers des forces de sécurité, a déclaré Amnesty International mercredi 31 octobre.

Depuis le début de l'année 2018, au moins 18 personnes sont mortes dans le contexte des manifestations, dont trois ont été tuées par des tirs d'armes à feu semblant provenir des forces de sécurité les 16, 23 et 30 octobre dans la capitale, Conakry.

Par le biais de son Service de vérification numérique (réseau de bénévoles formés à la vérification des réseaux sociaux), Amnesty International a authentifié des vidéos et des photos montrant des membres des « bérets rouges », une unité d'élite militaire déjà impliquée dans des violations des droits humains comprenant des homicides illégaux et des violences sexuelles, portant des armes aux côtés de la police lors d'une manifestation le 15 octobre.

« Au cours de cette année, les manifestations en Guinée ont été marquées par une violence effroyable de tous les côtés, notamment un usage excessif de la force par les forces de sécurité, et le déploiement d'une unité militaire connue pour avoir commis des violations des droits humains risque d'aggraver encore la situation, a déclaré François Patuel, chercheur pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest à Amnesty International.

« Étant donné que l'opposition guinéenne prévoit de nouvelles manifestations dans les prochains jours, les autorités doivent prendre toutes les mesures nécessaires pour éviter que la situation ne devienne incontrôlable. Elles doivent faire clairement savoir à toutes les forces de sécurité que l'utilisation injustifiée et excessive de la force ne sera pas tolérée. »

Plus de 150 personnes sont mortes après que des membres des « bérets rouges » ont ouvert

le feu lors d'une manifestation au stade de Conakry le 28 septembre 2009. Au cours de cet événement, une centaine de femmes ont été violées, plus de 1 500 personnes ont été blessées et beaucoup d'autres ont disparu.

Amnesty International appelle les autorités à ouvrir des enquêtes sur toutes les personnes soupçonnées d'avoir commis des violations des droits humains dans le contexte des manifestations, y compris celles occupant des fonctions de commandement, et à s'assurer qu'elles ne soient pas mobilisées tant que les enquêtes et les poursuites pénales engagées le cas échéant seront en cours.

Depuis les élections locales du 4 février 2018, des groupes d'opposition manifestent contre des résultats qu'ils jugent frauduleux et appellent régulièrement à des manifestations et des opérations « ville morte », lors desquelles les citoyens sont invités à rester chez eux.

Nombre de ces manifestations ont donné lieu à des affrontements meurtriers entre les manifestants et les forces de sécurité. Des violences ont été signalées des deux côtés ; certains manifestants auraient lancé des pierres, blessant des membres des forces de sécurité. Celles-ci ont souvent répondu par un usage excessif et aveugle de la force contre les manifestants, en ayant recours à des gaz lacrymogènes, des coups de matraque et des tirs à balles réelles.

Les autorités doivent veiller à ce que l'utilisation de la force par les responsables de l'application des lois soit évitée pendant les manifestations et limitée à certaines circonstances exceptionnelles. Les violences sporadiques ne doivent pas servir de prétexte aux autorités pour disperser une manifestation et empêcher des manifestants pacifiques de poursuivre leur action de protestation. Les forces de sécurité ne doivent jamais faire usage d'armes à feu pour disperser une manifestation, même lorsque celle-ci devient violente.

Récemment, la situation s'est à nouveau envenimée quand des groupes d'opposition ont accusé les autorités de ne pas avoir respecté un accord conclu en août quant à l'installation des élus locaux après les élections contestées.

Le 30 octobre, des groupes d'opposition ont annoncé la mort d'un homme de 30 ans blessé par balle dans le quartier de Bambeto à Conakry.

Le 23 octobre, un manifestant a été tué par balle à Cosa, un autre quartier de la capitale. Selon un porte-parole de la police, il a reçu une balle perdue dans la poitrine.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Mohamed A. El-Erian

## Au tour de l'Italie de s'attaquer à l'orthodoxie politique

**P**ARIS - Marchés mondiaux, dirigeants politiques et gestionnaires de risque observent actuellement avec attention l'accrochage budgétaire qui oppose le gouvernement italien et la Commission européenne. Cet épisode souligne la propension croissante des gouvernements des économies développées et émergentes à remettre en question l'orthodoxie des politiques économiques. À l'heure où s'accroît cette tendance, il est nécessaire que les économistes et acteurs du marché réfléchissent de nouveau et communiquent plus efficacement autour des compromis implicites qui fondent l'élaboration des politiques économiques et financières conventionnelles face à des circonstances difficiles.

Élues pour promouvoir une croissance plus rapide et plus inclusive, les autorités italiennes adoptent une approche budgétaire plus expansionniste. Seulement voilà, la Commission européenne a « rejeté » le budget italien, qu'elle juge « non conforme » aux règles de l'UE sur le déficit. Moody's a par conséquent abaissé la note de crédit de la dette souveraine italienne, la plaçant seulement un échelon au-dessus de la catégorie « junk », formulant des inquiétudes quant au stock de dette du pays et aux projections de croissance trop optimistes du gouvernement.

Les dirigeants italiens insistent sur le fait qu'ils n'ont « aucun plan B », les primes de risque sur la dette publique italienne ont augmenté jusqu'à des niveaux inédits depuis les heures les plus sombres de la crise de l'euro. De même, face à la hausse des coûts d'emprunt dans les secteurs public et privé, plusieurs observateurs commencent à s'inquiéter des conséquences pour le système financier italien. Certains vont jusqu'à affirmer que l'Italie serait une menace existentielle pour la zone euro. D'autres réfutent cette idée, qu'ils considèrent comme une dangereuse exagération, dans la mesure où l'Italie présenterait encore un profil de service de la dette gérable à court terme, des excédents de budget primaire et de balance courante, ainsi qu'un potentiel économique considérable.

Le défi de longue date propre à la croissance de l'Italie est aujourd'hui alourdi par la récente perte de dynamique économique en Europe, par des pressions régionales fragmentées, et par la réduction progressive des injections de liquidité par la Banque centrale européenne. Pour contrer ces facteurs, l'Italie recourt à une politique budgétaire destinée à stimuler la croissance via les canaux de la demande et de l'offre. Autrement dit, le gouvernement entend enregistrer aujourd'hui un plus lourd déficit budgétaire, afin de générer une plus forte croissance réelle et potentielle.

Dans le même temps, la pression sur les primes de risque italiennes est accentuée par un changement sur les marchés mondiaux. Ces dernières années ont été caractérisées par une volatilité inhabituellement faible des marchés, ainsi que par un appétit plus élevé pour le risque, en raison d'injections de liquidité généreuses, répétées et prévisibles de la part des banques centrales. Or, les marchés s'orientent actuellement vers une plus grande aversion au risque, et vers une volatilité plus importante, à l'heure où les politiques monétaires se resserrent, tandis que la croissance se fait plus lente et plus divergente - notamment dans les économies développées, en dehors des États-Unis.

Pour ce qui est de l'avenir, beaucoup dépendra de la question de savoir si le grand pari politique de l'Italie peut être conjugué avec les règles et orientations de la Commission européenne. Mais ne nous y trompons pas : les facteurs mondiaux joueront également un rôle, notamment dans la détermination du temps qu'il faudra à l'Italie et à la Commission pour régler leurs différends.

La manière exacte dont évolueront les facteurs régionaux et internationaux influencera significativement les primes de risque sur la dette souveraine italienne. Une transition politique ordonnée conférerait au gouvernement une certaine marge de liberté lui permettant de faire évoluer sa stratégie économique, tandis qu'une transition brutale ferait naître d'importants vents contraires, sous forme de

resserrement des conditions de financement pour les secteurs public et privé de l'Italie.

Ce n'est pas la première fois qu'un gouvernement nouvellement élu remet en question l'orthodoxie économique au sein des pays développés (le phénomène est habituellement associé davantage aux économies émergentes). Lorsqu'il a pris le pouvoir en janvier 2015, le gouvernement grec de Syriza a fait savoir qu'il entendait rompre avec l'approche conventionnelle adoptée par ses prédécesseurs, allant jusqu'à solliciter les électeurs dans le cadre d'un référendum à l'échelle du pays. En fin de compte, la crainte de perdre son appartenance à la zone euro a contraint la Grèce à renouer avec l'orthodoxie politique.

Aux États-Unis, l'administration Trump et les Républicains du Congrès ont opéré une relance budgétaire de fin de cycle, en réduisant les impôts et en augmentant les dépenses publiques, à l'heure où l'économie américaine enregistre d'ores et déjà une croissance rapide liée à une consommation et à des investissements d'entreprise plus élevés. Habituellement, en fin de cycle d'expansion, l'État s'efforce de trouver les moyens d'accroître la souplesse de ses politiques, en préparation d'un possible ralentissement futur. Mais les politiques procycliques ont en l'occurrence été accompagnées par une approche plus conflictuelle vis-à-vis des échanges commerciaux. Il va sans dire que ceci s'inscrit également en opposition avec l'orthodoxie économique, qui considère les échanges commerciaux comme mutuellement bénéfiques, et le protectionnisme comme inutilement coûteux.

De même, la Turquie a très activement réécrit les règles de la gestion des crises. À ce jour, le gouvernement du président Recep Tayyip Erdogan est au moins parvenu à surmonter une crise monétaire sans élever de manière agressive les taux d'intérêt, ou solliciter le soutien financier du Fonds monétaire international.

Ces approches politiques peu orthodoxes contrarient fondamentalement l'approche conventionnelle autour de la manière de séquençer les politiques économiques. L'Italie et la Turquie s'affranchissent par exemple toutes deux de l'affirmation selon laquelle la stabilité macroéconomique devrait passer avant la relance budgétaire et monétaire créatrice de croissance. Or, comme le dit l'adage : la stabilité macroéconomique ne fait pas tout ; mais sans elle, rien n'est possible.

La montée en puissance des approches politiques non conventionnelles est la conséquence directe de plusieurs années de croissance lente et insuffisamment inclusive, associée à des inquiétudes croissantes quant au trio des inégalités (revenus, richesse et opportunités). Ces facteurs ont en effet mis à mal le potentiel actuel et futur des économies développées, aliéné une importante partie de la population, érodé la crédibilité de l'establishment et des avis experts, tout en alimentant une politique de la colère.

Plutôt que de rejeter d'emblée cette réaction, il s'agirait pour les experts de faire preuve d'une plus grande ouverture d'esprit face aux facteurs qui sous-tendent la nouvelle inorthodoxie. Les compromis implicites qui fondent les approches conventionnelles doivent notamment être soigneusement quantifiés et clairement communiqués. Il est par ailleurs nécessaire que ces approches soient actualisées, au sein d'un monde dans lequel la croissance anémique semble être devenue l'une des caractéristiques structurelles d'un segment croissant des économies.

Dans un monde d'attentes autoalimentées et d'équilibres multiples, des efforts consciencieux d'amorce des économies peuvent faciliter le succès de réformes structurelles plus durables. Dans le cas de l'Italie, l'UE doit par conséquent demeurer flexible. Mais le gouvernement italien doit également prouver qu'il prend beaucoup plus au sérieux la mise en œuvre des changements nécessaires du côté de l'offre pour soutenir une croissance plus rapide à long terme.

# CULTURE & ENTERTAINMENT



## The Beef is on: Bucky Raw Vs. Christoph

The Christoph and Bucky raw imbroglia all started back in the United States of America over a girl, Delle, who Bucky raw was dating but later snatched by Christoph in America while attending the Wizkid concert hosted in New York City.

Fast forward Bucky raw landed himself in trouble in the U.S., went to jail and subsequently deported to Liberia.

But upon his arrival back in the country, Bucky allegedly placed phone calls to most of the top artists he met on base, including Christoph who allegedly refused to meet Bucky Raw or even pick his call.

Rumors of Bucky raw's deportation went like wild fire on social media, claiming that Bucky went to jail and got deported for beating his child/children's mother who allegedly slept with Liberian artist Flex, currently signed to konvict record, owned by African-American star Akon.

Bucky raw attempting to comfort himself on the trauma associated with his deportation from the States dropped his first home base song both audio and video titled "woonii" that went viral on the social media and the country at large.

But in no time, Christoph drop a response version to the song with the same titled "Woomii", prompting lots of speculations in the public.



Bucky dropped three diss songs titled "warming shot, Trapco Issue and Close Casket." The efforts are currently talk of the town.

While the city is vibing to Bucky raw's beef songs, thousands of Christoph's fans were expecting a response song from him. Instead, he granted an interview with the Strong Pekin show, telling fans in and out of Liberia he doesn't want to give relevance to the diss song, though a leaked flyer from Christoph's response diss song titled "Close Case" has surfaced on social media, and the whole country is locked down to listen the response.

But actual reasons for the songs were unknown until self-proclaimed Hipco king Chiller also dropped a diss song for Bucky raw titled "Sweet for you." In the same week, Flex went live on the social media giving his own account of what he terms as "actual story."

While the noise was on, Bucky raw came up with CES2 album that hitz the international billboard chart and took top spots on other digital music platforms around the world.

In Flex' live video, he disclosed to his many followers that Bucky raw is a coward for knowing the actual story but still hating him (Flex) for something he is innocent of, pointing that Bucky raw is mad with him (Flex) because Christoph snatched the girl of his dream, Delle that he (Bucky raw)

transported to Philly to team up with after the Wizkid concert in New York.

Flex went on saying a lot about Bucky raw amongst which he said Bucky is very broke but acting like he has cash,

Flex even challenged Bucky raw to go live and show total amount of US\$10,000 and then he (Flex) would quit his music career.

Few days later, Bucky raw posted on his Child Solider Entertainment (CSE) page, informing loyal fans and music lovers that he will take up the beef with Christoph and wouldn't give self-proclaimed Hipco King Chiller relevance. "I'm not going to help wake up his dead musical career, but I will take up the beef with Christoph", Bucky notes.

However, it was not long before

### Personality of the Week

Ambassador Duplexe Rickey Jaeploe is a young Liberian DJ, currently in the employed of Infinity Broadcasting Corporation (Power FM) He is also an event planner and owner of Shizo entertainment magazine Liberia.



## Liberia's Pure Honey wins award in UK

On October 26, a locally produced honey from Liberia was awarded first prize in a category at the National Honey Show held in England, the United Kingdom.

Gladys Freeman, co-owner of Liberia Pure Honey said in a press statement that competing against honey from across Africa, the business entity won the prize because of its superior aroma, taste, and viscosity. The products are currently available in supermarkets and markets throughout the country.



According to the National Honey Show, Liberia Pure Honey won first place in the category of Charitable Organization Working with Beekeepers, beating out finalists from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Ghana.

"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," Freeman said in the release.

She said honey is a gift and a blessing, adding that her business treats bees and the land with the respect they deserve. She, therefore, dedicated the award to the hard work and commitment of her employees and beekeepers of Liberia.

"We view the award as belonging to all the employees of Liberia Pure Honey, the beekeepers of this nation and Liberia."

Freeman said Liberia Pure Honey wants this award to be a source of inspiration to all Liberian-owned businesses: "The award demonstrates that Liberia has the resources to produce premium products that can compete on an international stage."

Freeman said her company began purchasing

honey from farmers in 2012 as a means of helping to create jobs, especially in rural Liberia.

"With very few income generating opportunities outside of the major cities and no local honey in grocery stores, the business entity knew if it created a market for quality honey, more people could become beekeepers and gain an added source of income," she explains.

# Ellen gets top IMF role

Ex-president Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has been tipped to play a more senior role at the International Monetary Fund or IMF, a day after she celebrated her 80th birth anniversary.

IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde, on Tuesday, October 30, 2018 named Mrs. Sirleaf to one of its two external advisory groups consisting of economic, financial, and public policy experts to inform the IMF's 2020 Comprehensive Surveillance Review (CSR).

Other members of the Advisory Group are Mr. Mohamed A. El-Erian. Chief Economic Advisor, Allianz. Mr. Yiping Huang. Professor of Economics, National School of Development, Peking University. Mr. Dani Rodrik. Ford Foundation Professor of International Political Economy, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, and Ms. Gertrude Tumpel Gugerell. Emerita Consultant, Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO).

The periodic review seeks to explore the IMF's effectiveness in monitoring global economic developments and delivering policy advice to its 189 member countries. It will be forward-looking in nature and framed by the global macro-financial environment and other secular trends, including

digital technology. The review will guide the IMF's operational priorities through 2025.

"To accomplish this task, the CSR will take account of the strategic challenges and opportunities facing the IMF and its membership in ensuring

"As we embark on the CSR, we are proud to have access to the expertise of two groups of eminent people. The first such group consists of thought leaders who will provide overall guidance on surveillance challenges facing

the backdrop of the ongoing global technological transformation, we hope to richly benefit from leading thinkers and practitioners with experience in revolutionary industries in our second advisory group," she added.

The External Advisory Group on Surveillance will serve as an independent check on staff analysis and will make recommendations that will be set out in the CSR. The Group

will engage with Fund staff on the priorities and strategic direction of the review, and subsequently inform the emerging findings and staff's preliminary recommendations. The Group's independent views will be communicated to the IMF Executive Board, which will ultimately establish the Fund's surveillance priorities.



sustained, balanced, and inclusive global growth," Managing Director Lagarde stated. "The review will also assess the Fund's capabilities and how it can innovate and adapt to continue to provide value to our members.

the Fund and help us chart the course for new policy approaches to enhance economic prosperity and maintain global economic stability. And because the CSR will position the Fund's surveillance function against

## Rep. Koffa commends

Starts from back page

this," he says.

Explaining his understanding of "Pro-Poor," Rep. Koffa says it means essentially you are organizing the government and the society to cater to those who do not have.

According to him, this happens to be majority of Liberians.

"Maybe society caters to a different class of people, but when you say the Pro-Poor Agenda, it caters to the poor. That's the option for the poor and if you cannot lift them up by giving them free tuition, give them quality education, give them free and quality healthcare," he continues.

In a related development, Rep. Koffa has described as excellent, Government's Pro-Poor Agenda, adding that said vision can only be fully actualized if all Liberians are willing to put aside their differences and work along with the government to ensure its accomplishment.

He says there are certain key components of the economy such as the rigorous road constructions, infrastructure, increase in trade and commerce, which will need the participation of all to ensure that they are accomplished.

Upon his return from the

United States, the Grand Kru lawmaker says as a result of his visit to the U.S., a team of professional doctors will arrive in country early 2019 to render services to people within the Southeast.

"We met with and interacted with the leadership of the Grand Kru Community Development Association...and during those meetings, we were able to review with them their development vision and concept for the county," he says.

Rep. Koffa discloses that the Grand Kru Community Development Association is currently preparing chairs for county schools, and arranging for the dispatch of a medical team to the southeast this January.

Once the plan is concluded, he says statement will be released on the various kinds of services they will render while in Liberia.

Meanwhile, Rep. Koffa says he also met with some private donors in the U.S., indicating that discussions suggest a positive response from partners.

The Grand Kru lawmaker names the construction of three separate schools within the district as an immediate priority for the people.--

Edited by Winston W. Parley

## Lawmaker defends US\$1,000 DSA saga

By Ethel A. Tweh

Montserrado County District #17 Representative Hanson Kiazolu confirms that each member of the House

arguing that monthly earning of Liberian lawmakers is insufficient to respond to many challenges they are confronted with in their constituencies.

here against lawmakers spending US\$100,000 on three meals and allowance just for a one day retreat.

The retreat was intended for the House leadership headed by Speaker Bhofal Chambers and the membership to mend fence following unilateral and sometimes contradictory utterances coming from that august body over the missing billions characterized by bitter disagreement and name-calling.

Liberian Lawmakers, particularly members of the House earn a monthly income of US\$15,000 but Representative Kiazolu rubbishes such figure.

According to him, their monthly earning, inclusive of benefits and gasoline doesn't exceed US\$11,000.

The former ruling Unity Party lawmaker noted their monthly salary as lawmakers is insufficient, owing to financial interventions they make to their respectively constituency. -Editing by Jonathan Browne



received US\$1,000 from a budget of US\$100,000 as Daily Sustenance Allowance or DSA during a day-long retreat recently in Monrovia, while

Speaking on a local radio station early this week, he said the money received is legal, and there was nothing wrong, contrary to public criticism

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Welcome To The New World




# Rep. Koffa commends Pres. Weah



Rep. Fonati Koffa

By Bridgett Milton

Grand Kru County district #2 Rep. Fonati Koffa is commanding President George Manneh Weah for declaring tuition free for all public universities here. During a news conference Wednesday, 31 October, Rep. Koffa said when the President's statement is

legislated, it will serve as a relief for the incoming generations, even after President Weah's tenure. Rep. Koffa announces that he is willing to support the waiver of tuition by President Weah. "I will support full the enacting into law the tuition scheme as announced by the President," he says.

While visiting the Capitol Hill Campus of the University of Liberia (UL), President Weah announced tuition waiver for all undergraduate students in all public universities here. Rep. Koffa notes that this move by the President will sustain his quest to reduce poverty between the rich and the poor in line with Government's recently launched Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD). At the same time, Rep. Koffa has questioned those that are casting dark cloud over the president's tuition free education pronouncement. "...How did they know that there is no funding for this? This is something the students brought and I believe the president identified that, he spoke with the Minister of Finance, and his economic team before making such pronouncement. I think some people are grappling with



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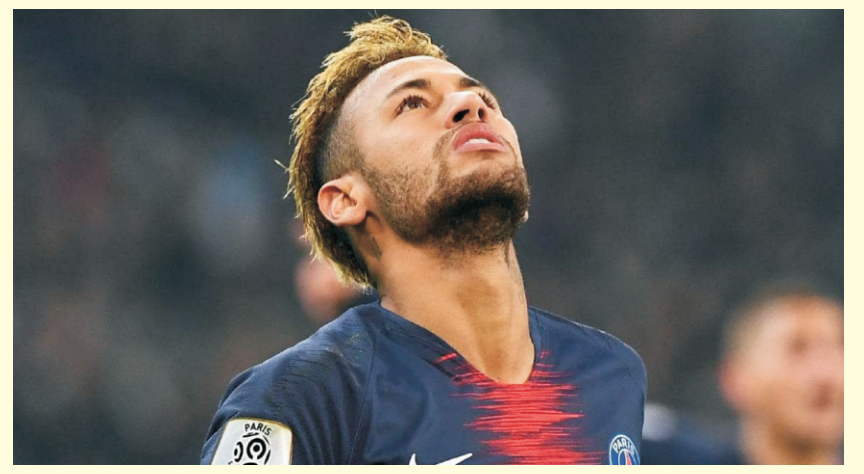


# Neymar faces six years in prison

Brazilian sensation Neymar could face up to six years in prison as courts re-examine his move from boyhood club Santos to Barcelona. Last year former Barcelona superstar Neymar was ordered to stand trial by the Spanish court for fraud regarding his transfer to the Nou Camp. The Brazilian made the switch to Catalonia in 2013 after four years after

progressing through the ranks as a youngster. Reports from Spain now suggest the national court has decided at the last minute to refer to the Criminal Chamber in front of three magistrates. The fact that three judges will sit on the case means sentences can be extended past five years as they are deemed as more serious. Barcelona newspaper Lavanguardia report they have

had access to a ruling which reveals that if found guilty, the sentence could be anything from four to six years. But the move to next chamber of the Spanish court will delay the start of the case. The move has been the subject of an investigation since January 2014, with Barcelona and president Josep Maria Bartomeu being charged with tax fraud.



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