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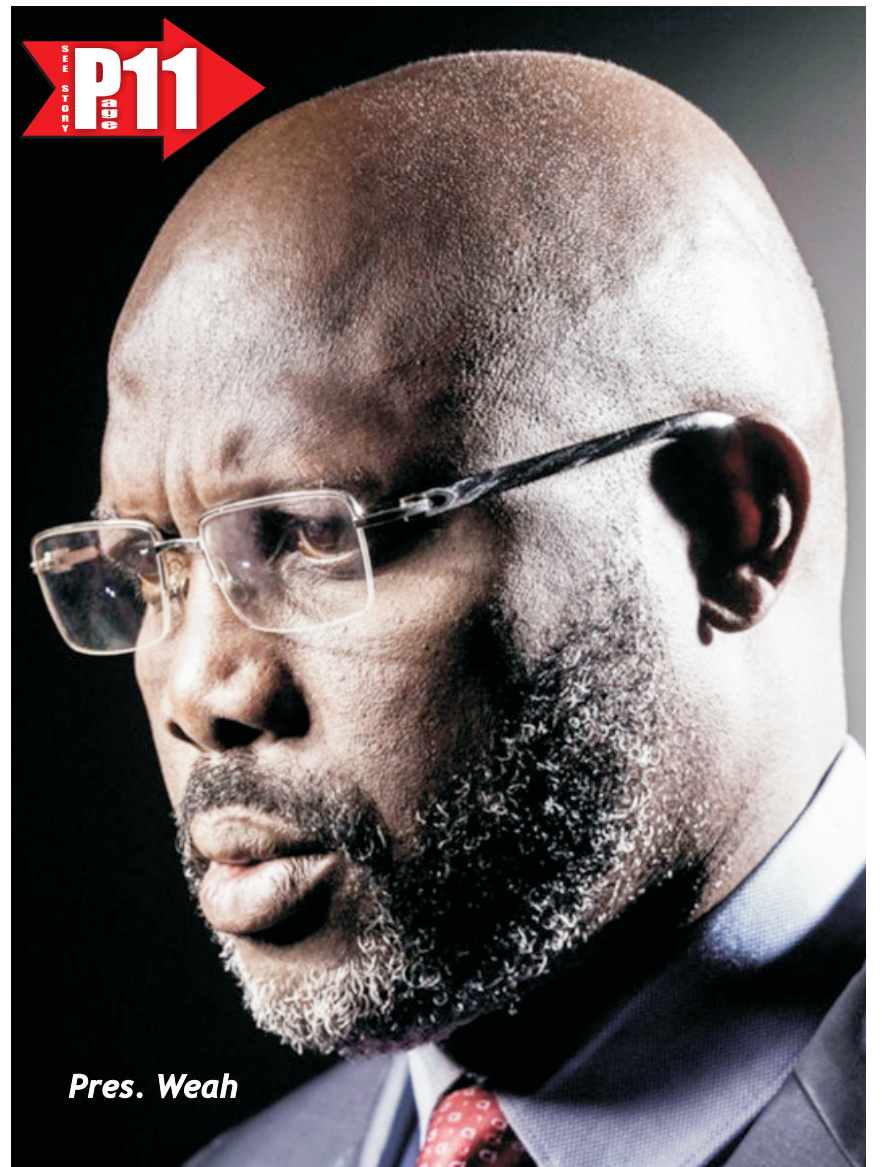
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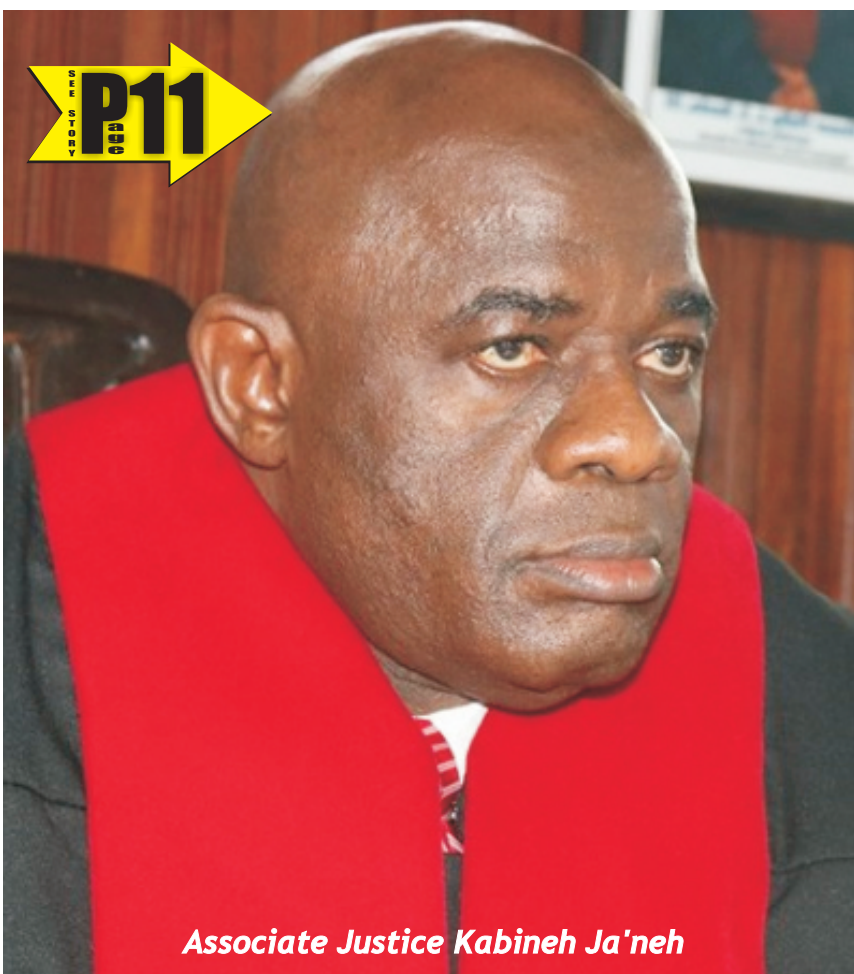
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“Missing” 16 bn probe **-Where are we?**



Pres. Weah



Associate Justice Kabineh Ja'neh

Senate decides Ja'neh's fate today



Continental News

Somalia bomb blast kills 300

More than 300 people were killed by twin bomb explosions in Mogadishu, an official said on Monday, as locals packed hospitals in search of friends and relatives caught by Somalia's deadliest attack in a decade.

The death toll has steadily risen since Saturday, when the blasts struck at two busy junctions in the heart of the capital city. One truck bomb detonated near a fuel truck, creating an enormous fireball.

The bomb attacks were the deadliest since Islamist militant group al Shabaab began an insurgency in 2007. Al Shabaab has not claimed responsibility, but the method and type of attack – a large truck bomb – is increasingly used by the al Qaeda-linked organisation.

"We have confirmed 300 people died in the blast. The death toll will still be higher because some people are still missing," Abdikadir Abdirahman, the director of the city's ambulance service, told Reuters.

Aden Nur, a doctor at the city's Madina hospital, said they had recorded 258 deaths and that 160 of the bodies could not be recognised.

"(They) were buried by the government yesterday. The others were buried by their relatives. Over a hundred injured were also brought here," he told Reuters at the hospital. Some of the injured were being evacuated by air to

Turkey for treatment, officials said. Locals visiting their injured relatives or collecting their bodies filled every available space in Madina hospital.

"My last time to speak with my brother was some minutes before the blast occurred," Halima Nur, a local mother, told Reuters.

"I am afraid he was among the unrecognized charred

bodies that were buried yesterday. I have no hope of getting him alive or dead. But I cannot go home." Abdullahi Aden, 56, said five of his cousins had died.

"The shop completely collapsed on them. I could not help them. I could not hear their screams and the nearby buildings were burning," he said. He was still searching for two other relatives.

Deadliest since insurgency began Al Shabaab stages regular attacks in the capital and other parts of the country. Although the group claims it targets the government and security forces, it has detonated large bombs in crowded public areas before.

It has sometimes not claimed responsibility for bombings that provoked a big public backlash, like the 2009 suicide bombing of a graduation ceremony for medical students.

The group is waging an insurgency against Somalia's U.N.-backed government and its African Union allies in a bid to impose its own strict

interpretation of Islam.

The militants were driven out of Mogadishu in 2011 and have been steadily losing territory. But Al Shabaab retains the capacity to mount large bomb attacks. Over the past three years, the number of civilians killed by insurgent bombings has steadily climbed as al Shabaab increases the size of its bombs. In 2016, 723 Somalis were killed in 395 bomb attacks, according to Nairobi-based thinktank Sahar Research, up from 193 deaths in 265 attacks in 2015.

Some of those seriously injured in Saturday's bombing were moved by ambulance to the airport on Monday morning to be flown to Turkey for further treatment.

Workers unloaded boxes of medicine and other medical supplies from a Turkish military plane and Turkish medical teams attended to the injured moved from the hospital for evacuation. The post Death Toll From Somalia Bomb Attacks Tops 300 appeared first on Independent Newspapers Nigeria. -Reuters



An ambulance arrives at the scene of an explosion in Mogadishu, Somalia September 22, 2018. REUTERS/Feisal Omar

Mnangagwa in missing \$6.4m mess

President Emmerson Mnangagwa and Mines minister Winston Chitando were yesterday dragged into a case in which \$6.4 million pumped into Hwange Colliery Company for exploration, allegedly disappeared, while board members were kidnapped and held hostage by an operative linked to the

two with assistance from police officers.

Government on Monday put the troubled coal producer under reconstruction and appointed Bekithemba Moyo of DBF Capital as its administrator.

The move also suspended the functions of Hwange Colliery's board of directors.

But members of the board,

led by acting chairperson Juliana Muskwe, yesterday appeared before the Parliamentary Committee on Mines, which is chaired by Temba Mliswa, to shed light on the goings-on at the mine.

She also spoke on the abduction of company secretary Allan Masiye and internal auditor Gilbert Mudenda by Shepherd Tundiya with the assistance of the police.

"There was a lot of mismanagement of funds by Shepherd Manamike (financial director) and Thomas Makore (former managing director) to the extent that Makore was even said to be paying a journalist at ZBC and when we demanded to know how much, Masiye was arrested and when we called for an enquiry on May 23, Makore resigned," Muskwe said.

However, Makore reportedly continued getting payment under unclear circumstances even though he had been given his statutory retirement package.

"The \$6.4 million for (exploration of) the western area was used without board authority," Muskwe said.

"When we suspended Manamike, Tundiya stormed in with two police officers during a board meeting with our lawyers in Harare. They grabbed Masiye and Mudenda and threw them into a car without number plates."

Muskwe said that Tundiya owned two companies – Phil Cool and Avin Investments – which had contracts to transport coal from Hwange to a Zimbabwe Power Company plant in Kwekwe and bragged that he was connected to Mnangagwa and Chitando and was taking instructions from the President's office.

"When we suspended Manamike, Tundiya called me to say that Mnangagwa wanted to see me and I must report to the President's office," Muskwe said.

"When we went to the President's office, we only saw a director (name not given), who instructed that we should work well with Tundiya. He (Tundiya) then took control and ordered the board to reinstate Manamike. He also called for another meeting at Chitando's office

where he gave instructions and surprisingly Chitando was quiet and did not say anything."

Another board member, Edward Tome, said the financial problems at Hwange were caused by gross mismanagement.

He said a European company, Motor Engine, which was contracted to mine coal by the Hwange Company Scheme, had not been paid, alongside several other creditors and workers as management allegedly embezzled funds, while Tundiya called the shots.

"When we suspended Manamike and Makore for the second time, we were told that there were instructions from the top to reinstate him," Tome said. Former board member Ntombizodwa Masuku said they later heard that the instructions allegedly came from Mnangagwa, who said that Manamike was his neighbour and so could not be suspended from Hwange.

Tundiya allegedly owes Hwange more than \$200 000 after he diverted coal for his own use. After the board directed that a forensic audit be carried out, Chitando put the company under reconstruction. REUTERS



Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa looks on as he gives a media conference at the State House in Harare, Zimbabwe, August 3, 2018. REUTERS/Philimon Bulawayo

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EDITORIAL

Wasting US\$100,000 on a few hours' legislative retreat undermines Pro-Poor

MANY ORDINARY LIBERIANS are still finding it difficult to comprehend just how does spending US\$100,000 on a few hours' legislative retreat in a hotel characterized by having breakfast, lunch, supper and sharing US\$1,000 each impact the government Pro-Poor Agenda.

BUT THIS IS exactly what members of the House of Representatives from the 54th Legislature did a one ago in Monrovia under the guise of reconciling themselves, having been at one another's throat, abusing and calling one another names. They spent that amount of money on entertaining themselves from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and still came out even with more disagreements on just about everything.

SOME BOYCOTTED THE so-called retreat, while others claimed they did not receive their share of the US\$1,000 each per diem at the close of the day. They made such huge expenditure just at about the time the Liberian economy is in a very bad shape with hyper-inflation, soaring food and commodity prices and rapid depreciation of the Liberian dollar and lack of purchasing power among the population.

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.

HOWEVER, WE THINK absolutely there was no justification for spending such amount of money in less than a day in the midst of scarce resources. Our lawmakers, particularly the leadership of the House ought to understand that economically, these are not normal times for the country.

THE GOVERNMENT IS desperately in need of money, and is going here and there to borrow funds for roads construction and other capital-intensive development projects, while mystery surrounding the alleged missing 16 billion Liberian banknotes remained unresolved.

JUST WHAT WAS the essence of budgeting and spending said amount on a few hours' retreat that has no tangible impact on the lives of the people. In whose interest was the retreat held other than the lawmakers themselves?

DID THEY NEED to cut short their annual vacation only to gather at a hotel and spent US\$100,000 on themselves when citizens of their various constituencies across the country continue to wallop in grinding poverty? We say absolutely no!

THIS IS SHEER insensitivity of the plight of the people who they claim to represent in the First Branch of Government. How could members of that august body herald the government's Pro-Poor Agenda and yet engage in wasteful spending?

WE CHALLENGE SPEAKER Bohfal Chambers and his entire leadership on Capitol Hill to provide reasonable justification for wasting taxpayers' money in such manner and faction that brings no returns to the Motherland.

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

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

COMMENTARY

By Harold James

Winter Is Coming to the UK

With the deadline for a Brexit deal fast approaching, British Prime Minister Theresa May not only has run out of cards to play, but was never playing from a full deck to begin with. That is because the force behind Brexit is a notion of sovereignty that is better suited to "Game of Thrones."

PRINCETON - 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.

O-PED

By Philippe Legrain

Auf Wiedersehen, and Good Riddance

LONDON - She has been dubbed the Queen of Europe and, since US President Donald Trump's election, the leader of the free world. As the European Union has lurched from crisis to crisis over the past decade, German Chancellor Angela Merkel's steady hand has helped hold the bloc together. According to the conventional wisdom, when she hands over the chancellorship after Germany's next federal election in 2021 - and perhaps much sooner if her grand coalition collapses - she will be sorely missed.

However, this will hardly be the case. Merkel's 13 years in office have involved domestic drift and European decay. She has complacently coasted along, failing to address Germany's mounting economic and security challenges, and allowing Europe's many crises to fester. Her lethargic managerialism would be tolerable for a small country in quiet times; it is catastrophic for Europe's dominant power in an era of upheaval.

Unlike many European countries, Germany has enjoyed solid economic growth over the past decade. But Merkel can scarcely take credit for that. Her four governments have enacted no significant growth-enhancing reforms. And in their obsession with running a budget surplus, they have failed to invest in the country's crumbling infrastructure and education system. Merkel has done nothing to prepare Germany for the digital disruption that threatens to do to its manufacturing heartland - notably its car industry - what Apple's iPhone did to Nokia. Germany will regret not fixing its roof while the sun was still shining.

The eurozone crisis greatly enhanced Germany's financial clout within the currency union. That gave Merkel massive political power, which she could have put to good use. Instead she put Germany's narrow near-term interests as a creditor first, leading her to make decisions that exacerbated the eurozone crisis, shifted its costs to others, and prevented any long-term resolution.

Merkel is ultimately responsible for the EU's refusal to restructure Greece's debts in 2010. She was behind the lending of European taxpayers' money to stricken governments to bail out German banks. And her governments responded to financial panic by demanding extreme austerity and painful adjustments in debtor countries, even as Germany's current-account surplus swelled. By eventually green-lighting European Central Bank President Mario Draghi's pledge to do "whatever it takes" to hold the euro together, Merkel did just enough to save the single currency, while leaving in place all of the flaws of a dysfunctional, incomplete monetary union.

To be sure, with Trump demolishing the liberal international order and swivel-eyed nationalists running amok in Britain, Hungary, Poland, Italy, and elsewhere, Merkel deserves credit for offering a calm, reassuring voice of moderation. Her decision to welcome more than one million refugees was an uncharacteristically bold humanitarian gesture. And whereas British Prime Minister Theresa May has humiliated herself by kowtowing to Trump, Merkel has spoken up for liberal, internationalist values. Likewise, unlike many senior politicians in Germany, she has stood up to Russian President Vladimir Putin's bullying and aggressive behavior.

Still, Merkel's tepid leadership has left Germany exceptionally vulnerable to today's nationalist backlash. The country's economic, political, and geopolitical security rest on precisely the three things that nationalists want to destroy: dynamic open markets for German exports; an integrated EU that anchors Germany's position in Europe and the world; and the US nuclear umbrella that ensures its defense.

Germany is not a trade cheat, as the Trump administration has claimed. And yet, under Merkel, it certainly has pursued a beggar-thy-neighbor mercantilist growth strategy that suppresses wages and boosts exports at all costs. Yes, protectionism is misguided; but mercantilism encourages it. German, European, and global interests would all be served if Germany were to do more to stimulate domestic demand.

Similarly, Merkel cannot be blamed for Brexit or for many of Italy's travails, which are of its own making. And yet her eurozone policies are a big reason why Italy now has a populist government vowing to block future EU trade deals, inflaming the refugee crisis, and threatening another eurozone panic.

The eurozone will not be secure until Germany and Italy can both happily share a monetary union. This may ultimately prove to be impossible. But if there is a workable arrangement, it will require significant reforms, as French President Emmanuel Macron proposed last year. Merkel's spurning of Macron's reform effort thus represents a tragic missed opportunity.

With respect to security, even as Merkel has acknowledged that Germany can no longer rely wholly on the US for its defense, she has done little to bolster German or European military capabilities. German defense spending remains inadequate, giving Trump a pretext to undermine NATO. The country's ramshackle military has tanks that don't drive, submarines that don't dive, and planes that don't fly. And there has scarcely been any debate about the need for a nuclear deterrent, whether German or European.

Far from a tragedy, then, Merkel's departure represents an opportunity for European reformers. Macron and his European allies are right to focus their campaign for the European Parliament election next May on the threat posed by far-right populism. But in his desire not to upset a powerful partner, Macron has so far failed to challenge Merkel's flawed European leadership. With Merkel on the way out, he and other reformers have a fresh chance to campaign for a different Europe that works for everyone. If they don't take advantage of her exit, the charlatans of the far right certainly will.

OPINION

By Jim O'Neill

An Earnest Proposal for Tackling AMR

LONDON - Under Article 50 of the Treaty of Lisbon, the United Kingdom will leave the European Union on March 29, 2019. Presuming that it does (but even if it does not), the UK government should continue to lead the charge against antimicrobial resistance (AMR), as it has in the past. Specifically, it is time for the UK to join with pharmaceutical companies in piloting a new model of finance for investment in research and development of new antibiotics.

Over the course of my professional life, one of the most rewarding roles that I ever had was between late 2014 and September 2016, when I chaired an independent Review on AMR under the government of then-Prime Minister David Cameron. We were confronting a serious challenge to global health and prosperity, and our efforts were appreciated around the world. Soon thereafter, the United Nations General Assembly issued a high-level political declaration on AMR, and the topic was placed on the agenda at the G20.

Even more recently, the Health and Social Care Committee of the UK House of Commons published an updated report on AMR, in which it called for more substantive policies to encourage the production of new drugs. And this more or less coincided with the publication of *The People's Prescription: Re-imagining Health Innovation to Deliver Public Value*, a report from the UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose (IIPP) that calls on governments to "adopt a mission-oriented approach" to bring more drugs to market.

This added attention is most welcome. As I pointed out at an event for the launch of the IIPP report, the original Review on AMR was emphatic about the need for more financing at the early stages of new drug development. And, as it happens, this is an area where there has been genuine progress, thanks largely to financing from the US Department of Health and Human Services' Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority and the Wellcome Trust. Moreover, government and philanthropic contributions are enticing some private businesses, and thus more AMR researchers, into the field.

Without the initial outlays from the US, the UK, China, and other governments, one doubts that private capital would have ventured into this area. Recent developments show that when the right conditions are put in place, there can indeed be a market for developing new antibiotics. Better yet, we still have other ways to strengthen incentives. There are now a number of academic studies showing that a \$1 billion annual prize could bring a host of new antibiotics down the pipeline in the coming years.

Most of the recent academic proposals are in keeping with the model of "market-entry rewards" that we recommended in the original Review. I would add only that such prizes should come with certain conditions regarding the marketing and pricing of new drugs, especially in low-income countries.

If the amount of money that has been pledged for early-stage funding is sustained over the next five years, the total could reach the \$2 billion that we recommended in the Review. Yet, despite this momentum, no government has announced any plans to finance a market-entry reward.

Similarly, while there has been endless talk among pharmaceutical-industry executives about the need to bring new antibiotics through clinical trials and to the market, there has been absolutely no substantive action. Even worse, of the few companies that were already in the antibiotics business, some have actually exited the market since the Review was published; and still more seem to be heading in that direction.

Clearly, now is the time to introduce a market-entry reward. With this proposal in mind, I have been meeting with a number of relevant stakeholders in the UK, including committed MPs such as Kevin Hollinrake and officials at the Department of Health and the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry. I can report that all of the key public-sector stakeholders do want market-entry rewards; and I have even detected a slightly more serious attitude among industry leaders.

I can only hope they are being sincere. At a time when capitalism increasingly seems to serve the interests of the few at the expense of the many, they should think about who would bear the blame if we were to start running out of effective antibiotics.

Assuming that everyone is on board, I would propose that instead of expecting the government to put up the whole \$1 billion for a market-entry reward - and in order to avoid inviting a revocation of industry-friendly regulations - British pharmaceutical companies should come together to contribute 50%. Imagine how encouraging it would be to see industry leaders standing next to the prime minister to announce the rollout of a jointly financed award for the creation of life-saving antibiotics.

To be sure, as my Review colleagues and I note in *Superbugs: An Arms Race Against Bacteria*, this proposal amounts to a mild form of "pay or play" capitalism. But it would also be a win-win for global public health.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Liberia validates Geneva Conventions

By Winston W. Parley

Liberian stakeholders this week reviewed lines of the draft Geneva Conventions Act in Monrovia for validation and possible submission to the Legislature for passage into law.

Assembled at the validation of the draft Geneva Conventions Act at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Wednesday, 31 October were Law Reform Commission Chair Cllr. Boakai Kanneh, Liberian National Red Cross Society (LNRCS) representatives, Justice Ministry authorities, ECOWAS representative and members of the civil society here, among others.

At the start of the validation, Law Reform Commission Chair Cllr. Boakai Kanneh says they decided to rewrite the Conventions consistent with recommendations and suggestions received from their previous meeting.

The Liberia National Red Cross Society organized the validation exercise.

By way of validation on Wednesday, Cllr. Kanneh notes that they were due to check through the document line by line, prepared to take comments and suggestions from participants so that a clean copy of the Geneva Convention can be derived



that they might submit to the Legislature for passage.

“As you will know, when international instruments are signed and ratified, for some of them they might need domestication - which means you will have to take further actions to ensure that they are implemented,” he says.

According to him, the Geneva Convention has violations outlined, but Liberia, as a state party has not been able to implement those violations because the country hasn't been able to domesticate them.

But he says what Liberia did was ... it decided to amend a

section of the penal code Volume Four Title 26 to upgrade the Geneva Convention.

According to Cllr. Kanneh, the Geneva Conventions will be Chapter Six of the Penal Code, adding that if there is a future law, it might be Seven, Eight and Nine.

Also speaking, Deputy Justice Minister Cllr. Nyenati Tuan says it is well noted that in time of peace, you prepare for war.

He welcomes the initiative and expresses wishes for a successful deliberation.

For his part, the Special Assistant to the ECOWAS

Ambassador to Liberia Mr. Lola Osunlalu says the regional body supports the effort, assuring that Liberia's human

rights issues can be germane and not violated.

Among other things, Section Two of the draft Act to amend Title 26 of Liberian Codes Revised says any person, regardless of nationality and whether in Liberia or elsewhere, commits an offense if he or she partakes, counsels, assists or procures any other person to commit an offense which is in grave breach of any of the Conventions or the Protocols.

Under Section Three, the draft Act says with the exception of the Armed Forces of Liberia's medical units and their establishments and materials, it shall not be lawful for any person to use or display for any purpose, the distinctive emblems of the Red Cross without the consent of the LNRCS and the Ministry of Health.

Lawmaker confirms US\$1,000 DSA

By Ethel A. Tweh

Montserratado County District #17 Rep. Hanson Kiazolu says each lawmaker received US\$1,000.00 at the close of a day-long legislative retreat, held Sunday, 28 August in Monrovia.

Speaking on a local radio talk show this week, Mr. Kiazolu argues that the money

rubbished speculations that the monthly earning of each lawmaker here is US\$15,000.

According to him, their monthly earning, inclusive of benefits and gasoline doesn't exceed US\$11,000.00.

The former ruling Unity Party (UP) lawmaker indicates that the money paid to each lawmaker is insufficient because

Chiefs commence harvest in Bong

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

A group of women under the National Council of Chiefs and Elders has commenced harvesting roughly a four -

Madam Ceita Saah Fofanah at the official ceremony recently on the Ganta Highway outside Gbarnga commended the women for the step taken to plant rice.

Madam Fofanah says the

to make planting of rice a continuous process, rather than just harvesting this year and sit by.

Madam Fofanah pledges the National Traditional Council of Chiefs and Elders' support to the women initiative in the county.

She enjoins the women farmers to keep standing up for the betterment of the country.

Two local officials of the National Traditional Council of Chiefs and Elders women farming group Madam Albanison Kromah and Madam Aletha Sackor Sheriff say the planting of the four hectare of rice farm was difficult.

They complain of the lack of support, but note that they are glad that it has been realized.

According to the two local officials, the women of Bong County are very committed to helping government create a strong agricultural sector that will benefit all Liberians.-- Edited by Winston W. Parley



hectare of upland rice planted this farming season.

The National Coordinator of the National Traditional Council of Chiefs and Elders

traditional council supports agriculture, especially rice because it is Liberia's staple food.

She encourages the women



Rep. Hanson Kiazolu

received was legal, and there is nothing wrong about lawmakers receiving daily sustenance allowance (DSA) for the retreat.

He says the monthly earning of Liberian lawmakers is insufficient to respond to the many challenges confronting them.

Meanwhile, Mr. Kiazolu has

they make interventions in their constituencies.

There has been a speculation in the media here that each member of the House received US\$1,000.00 as DSA during the weekend for a one - day retreat.

--Edited by Winston W. Parley

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Brussels Airline faces over \$1m lawsuit

By Winston W. Parley

A Liberian lawyer Cllr. Moiffie Kanneh has filed a lawsuit against S.N. Brussels Airline, demanding US\$1,012,010.00 (one million twelve thousand and ten United States Dollars), for his alleged missing luggage. He complains to the Civil Law Court in Monrovia that he purchased a round trip tick

could not be found.

According to him, the items in the alleged missing luggage were entrusted into his care for several persons, saying he faces embarrassment because owners of the alleged missing items are expressing dissatisfaction and questioning his credibility.

He lists numerous alleged missing items, including some

extent he is unable to move around freely," he complains.

He says everywhere he goes among friends and relatives in Monrovia and its surrounding, he faces questions relative to the missing items and no amount of explanation has helped him to clear their doubts. He notes that the Airline's action has embarrassed him to the extent



from the Management of S.N. Brussels to travel to the United States on 18 July 2015.

Returning from the U.S., Cllr. Kanneh claims that upon his arrival at the Roberts International Airport (RIA) in Margibi County on 4 August 2015, he was told that one of his luggages containing several items on Flight Number 1241

very expensive ones for which he says he has received several letters from owners expressing dissatisfaction over the manner in which their items were handled.

"Plaintiff further says that [the] action of Defendants / Management has caused serious injury to his reputation and embarrassment as a lawyer and statesman, to the

that he been unable to interact freely with his friends and other relatives because they think he has converted those items into his personal use and only tries to lie about S.N. Brussels Airline. -Business

Bong County journalist calls for media support

Kwatekeh FM News Editor Joseph Titus Yekeryan has stressed the need for Community Radio Stations in Bong County to be prioritized during the pending County Council Sitting.

Speaking Tuesday, 30 October in Bong County, Mr. Yekeryan stated that community radio stations in the County are finding it difficult to carry on normal activities amid the current economic situation in Liberia.

He maintains that if the interest of the Bong County media is prioritized during the County Council Sitting, it will greatly help to improve some of the activities of local stations in the County.

Even though it is yet unclear about the total amount in the County's covers, Mr. Yekeryan is requesting at least US\$50,000.00 as allotment for Community Radio Stations in

Bong County.

"We are really suffering in the media here, so I think it will be fine for our leaders to help buttress our efforts by giving us something better during the County sitting," Yekeryan says.

According to him, Bong County media have only received allotment from the county sitting one time in the tune of US\$15,000.00.

At the same time, Mr. Yekeryan has called on the

County authorities to adhere to the new budget law by implementing the five amendments made in the law.

It can be recalled that some months back, government made five significant changes to Section 9 of the 2018/2019 Budget Law of the County and Social Development Fund (CSDF) to improve transparency and accountability. -by Our Correspondent; -Edited by Winston W. Parley



Pres. Weah wants students to venture in the technical fields

President George Manneh Weah is encouraging Liberian youth to venture into technical fields, particularly the sciences such as engineering, biology and other agriculture.

He said this will reduce Liberia's dependence on external experts and boost the country's drive towards achieving the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development.

The President said amid changing times occasioned by technological advancement, Liberian youth will meaningfully contribute to the country's urgent development needs if they took interest in the sciences.

Speaking at the Free Port of Monrovia Wednesday, October 31, 2018, the President emphasized the need for more engineers and medical doctors as his government hasten the

the lead in making our country maintain its status as the oldest nation in Africa."

President Weah acknowledged Liberia's old-age problem, such as lack of affordable tuition for schools and universities which incapacitated countless Liberian children to access quality education.

According to him, government's decision to declare tuition free for undergraduate education at the University of Liberia and other public universities and colleges is set the basis for students to gain quality education in the country with financial strains which had prevented so many children from earning a first degree.

"Those who are trying to make unhelpful political statements must desist and bring on board those suggestions that can help



President George Manneh Weah

country's efforts towards broad-based and pro-poor development.

"Our dream is to see the best for Liberia by making more medical doctors, engineers and more professionals to make meaningful contributions to Liberia's growth," the Liberian leader said, adding: "Therefore, please let us encourage your children to advantage of the free tuition just declared at the University of Liberia and other public collages under the Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development."

Liberia needs the best brains in every sector of service therefore, President Weah emphasized, stressing, "We need to ask our children to take

change the condition of our people," President Weah further said. "This government is passionately committed to improving the lives of the people of Liberia."

The President said his government was open to accepting suggestions from everyone, including those in the opposition, towards fighting poverty and decess and achieving the goal of economic empowerment and national development that benefits every citizen.

President Weah also made a brief stopover at the offices of the Liberia Petroleum Refinery Corporation, LPRC, where he also toured entire facilities there.

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Senate decides Ja'neh's fate today

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

The plenary of the Liberian Senate decides today, Monday, 05 November whether or not, to invite embattled Associate Justice Kabineh Ja'neh before full plenary for his impeachment. The impeachment trial is expected to be presided over by His Honor, Chief Justice Francis Korkor.

Members of the Senate on Friday, November 02, debated amendment of their rule. Rule 63, which calls for jurors in impeachment proceedings, is not totally in conformity with Article 43 of the 1986 Liberian Constitution, which also talks about impeachment of senior officials of government.

Rule 63; Section (4) states: When the President of the Republic of Liberia, upon whom the power and duties of the office of President shall have devolved, shall be impeached, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Liberia shall preside; and in a case requiring the said Chief Justice to preside, notice shall be given to him by the Presiding Officer of the Senate of the time and place fixed for the consideration of the articles of impeachment, as aforesaid, with a request to attend; and the said Chief Justice shall preside over the Senate during the consideration of the said articles and upon the trial of the person impeached therein.

Section (5) of the same rule also states, "The Senate shall have power to compel the attendance of witnesses, enforce obedience to its order, mandates, writs and precepts authorized by these rules or by the Senate, and to make and

Constitution of Liberia says, "The power to prepare a bill of impeachment is vested solely in the House of Representatives, and the power to try all impeachments is vested solely in the Senate. When the President, Vice

thirds of the total membership of the Senate. Judgments in such cases shall not extend beyond removal from office and disqualification to hold public office in the Republic; but the party may be tried at law for the same offense. The Legislature shall prescribe the procedure for impeachment proceedings which shall be in conformity with the requirements of due process of law."

The Senate Chairman on Judiciary, Senator Varney Sherman of Grand Cape Mount County had since sought an endorsement from the senate's floor that a senator can serve as witness and waive his or her right as juror. Juror in the case of the impeachment proceedings are senators who will participate in the hearings of the impeachment against Justice Ja'neh.

The amendment says if senator is requested by plenary to serve as witness, said senator still has the statutory power to serve as juror but if a senator volunteers himself or herself to testify, that senator relinquishes his or her right to serve as juror.

But River Gee County Senator Conmany Wesseh and Margibi County Senator Oscar Cooper respectively argued that the approach by some senators is unconstitutional and the senate should be given ample time to debate the proceedings. However, Senate President Pro-Tempore Albert Chie resisted the two from debating.

Due to what appears to be 'the unconventional

legislative' approach of Pro-Tempore Chie, Senator Cooper stormed out of session, while Senator Wesseh was restricted by presiding officer Chie from speaking on the matter.

However, Bong County Senator Henry Yallah made a motion that date for the appearance of embattled Associate Justice Ja'neh should be decided today, Monday, and the impeachment shall commence immediately. The motion was overwhelmingly voted for with Senator Wesseh abstaining from the exercise.

On July 17, a petition seeking the immediate impeachment of Justice Kabineh M. Ja'Neh, was submitted to the House Plenary by Montserrado County Representatives Thomas Fallah of District #5 and Acarous M. Gray of District #8, respectively.

They, among others, charge that Justice Ja'neh "committed a serious official misconduct by engaging in a wanton and unsavory exercise of his judicial discretion, far exceeding the bounds of elementary judicial interpretation of issues simply to satisfy his personal ego."

They also want him impeached for "Proved misconduct, gross breach of duty, inability to perform the functions of his office by allowing justice to be served where it belongs no matter the status of the party affected."

But the embattled Associate Justice challenges his impeachment process as unconstitutional. -Editing by Jonathan Browne



enforce such other regulations and order in the premise at the Senate, and to make enforce such other regulations and order in the premise as the Senate may authorize or provide.

Article 43 of the

President or an Associate Justice is to be tried, the Chief Justice shall preside; when the Chief Justice or a judge of a subordinate court of record is to be tried, the President of the Senate shall preside. No person shall be impeached but by the concurrence of two-

CU to provide scholarships for Bong County scholars

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

In an effort to improve quality education in Bong County, Cuttington University (CU) president Dr. Hermon Browne has disclosed that every dux from each of the high schools in the County

will be given scholarship up to the time of acquiring undergraduate degree.

The CU president made the pronouncement Tuesday, 30 October in Gbarnga, Bong County when he toured several high schools in the County.

Our correspondent says it

was a three - day tour. According to Dr. Browne, the tour is intended to strengthen the relationship between the University and High Schools in the county.

Dr. Browne discloses that the first five persons from the 12th grade class of every high school that will score the highest mark will also be given scholarship to attend Cuttington.

He says this is intended to encourage students to take their lessons serious in the county.

He further pledges his institution's commitment in working with various high school administrators for the improvement of the education system in the county.

Some of the students and administrators lauded the Cuttington University president for the steps taken to strengthen relationship with high schools in the county.

They assured Dr. Browne that their schools will do all to ensure academic excellence.--

Edited by Winston W. Parley



LAA rejects claims

Starts from back page

Concession Act of 2010).

"LAA wishes to unambiguously clarify that all firms that have expressed interests in renting stores and or shops in the new terminal at the RIA will be treated equally and fairly," the statement says.

It indicates that no particular business including foreign firms will be given unfair advantage, saying determination regarding the

best suited applicants will be based solely on the procurement requirements in keeping with the laws of Liberia.

The LAA encourages FrontPage Africa Newspaper to cross check its facts before publication and exercise due diligence, so as to exhaust the rudiments and basic principles of true journalism.--Press release

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Français

Côte d'Ivoire : Laurent Gbagbo perd « son gardien du temple »

RFI-En Côte d'Ivoire, Abou Dramane Sangaré, président par intérim de la frange dissidente du Front populaire ivoirien, est décédé samedi 3 novembre à Abidjan. Ce fidèle de Laurent Gbagbo était entré à l'hôpital dans un état grave il y a 15 jours. Il souffrait d'un cancer. Lui que l'on surnommait parfois le « gardien du temple » incarnait la frange dure du FPI, aujourd'hui dans l'opposition au président Ouattara.

C'est un nouveau coup dur pour le Front populaire ivoirien. Une dizaine de jours après la disparition de l'ex-directeur général du port autonome d'Abidjan, Marcel Gossio, c'est un autre pilier du régime de Laurent Gbagbo qui s'en va. Celui que l'on surnommait « le gardien du temple », Abou Dramane Sangaré, était l'historique compagnon de route de Laurent Gbagbo. Une amitié d'un demi-siècle qui a perduré même après la chute et l'incarcération à la Cour pénale internationale (CPI) de l'ancien chef de l'Etat.

Hospitalisé il y a deux semaines à l'Hôtel Dieu d'Abidjan, Abou Dramane Sangaré a rendu l'âme à l'âge de 72 ans. Avec cette disparition, le FPI perd l'une de ses figures les plus respectées et le clan Gbagbo un allié de poids qui continuait à mobiliser les militants dans le pays.

Depuis leur rencontre sur les bancs de l'université d'Abidjan en 1970, le discret Abou Dramane Sangaré sera toujours resté au côté et parfois dans l'ombre de Laurent Gbagbo. Les deux hommes s'inscrivent en politique dans l'opposition au régime de Félix Houphouët-

Boigny, ce qui leur vaudra un premier séjour en prison en 1971.

Docteur en droit, Abou Dramane Sangaré participe en 1982 avec Laurent et Simone Gbagbo entre autres, à la fondation dans la clandestinité du futur FPI qui voit véritablement le jour en 1988 et dont il est naturellement un membre fondateur. Si le parti est reconnu en 1990, Sangaré fera de nouveaux séjours en prison en 1994 et 1995 pour s'en être pris au président Henri Konan Bédié.

En 2000, Gbagbo président le nomme ministre des Affaires étrangères, poste qu'il occupe deux ans. Sangaré quitte le gouvernement mais l'amitié avec le couple Gbagbo ne faiblit pas. Il est avec eux, le 11 avril 2011 lors de leur arrestation à Abidjan.

Quatrième séjour derrière les barreaux pour Abou Dramane Sangaré libéré deux ans plus tard.

Lorsque dans les années qui suivent le FPI implose, Sangaré prend la tête de la ligne « Gbagbo ou rien ». Il prône le boycott de toutes les élections jusqu'au retour au pays de l'ancien président emprisonné à la CPI à La Haye. Le cacique du parti d'opposition, qui estimait que son mentor était l'otage de la CPI, a pris la tête d'une frange dissidente au sein de la formation politique avec, pour principal objectif, la libération de Laurent Gbagbo avant d'envisager toute reconquête du pouvoir. Cette faction jusqu'au-boutiste du FPI ne cesse de s'en prendre à Alassane Ouattara, actuel chef de l'Etat, qu'elle estime autoritaire et antidémocratique.



présidents Kaboré et Weah lancent la voie de contournement de Ouagadougou

Le président du Faso, Roch Marc Christian Kaboré et son homologue libérien, Georges Weah ont lancé, mardi à Saaba (commune périphérique de Ouagadougou), les travaux de construction et de bitumage de l'autoroute de

contournement de la ville de Ouagadougou, a constaté APA. D'un coût global de 181 milliards f cfa, cette autoroute de contournement s'inscrit dans la vision du gouvernement de désengorger les artères principales de la ville de

Ouagadougou pour assurer la fluidité du trafic et la sécurité des usagers de la capitale.

Conclu dans le cadre d'un contrat de Partenariat public-privé (PPP) avec le groupe EBOMAF, le projet s'étend sur un linéaire de 125 Km en deux



Guinée : l'Etat manœuvre en coulisse pour une sortie de crise (SLECG)

Le SLECG (Syndicat Libre des Enseignants et Chercheurs de Guinée) a reçu cette semaine quelques personnalités du gouvernement. L'annonce a été faite par le SLECG ce samedi 3 novembre à la faveur de son assemblée générale extraordinaire qui a regroupé les enseignants de Conakry et des villes environnantes. Devant les enseignants, Oumar Ouamouno, secrétaire administratif du SLECG a indiqué que ces émissaires de l'Etat ont affirmé qu'ils sont à la recherche de solution à la crise qui mine le système éducatif. A en croire M. Ouamouno, ces hautes personnalités de l'Etat ont déclaré qu'il y a des possibilités pour aider les enseignants. Sauf que le budget de l'année 2018 étant déjà voté, que toute dépense en dehors, va se répercuter sur le

budget. Cependant, a-t-il indiqué, ces émissaires ont fait savoir que le budget de 2019 est sur la table. «Il y a des possibilités de faire quelque chose pour les enseignants», a-t-il expliqué.

Poursuivant, M. Ouamouno a fait savoir que les émissaires ont rappelé qu'il y a beaucoup de fictifs, des milliers dont certains sont à l'étranger et d'autres ont le statut enseignant, mais ils ne sont pas en situation de classe. «Les émissaires du gouvernement ont souhaité que nous mettions en place une commission tripartite, composée du SLECG, du ministère du Budget et du ministère de la Fonction Publique pour mener à bien ce travail. Ils nous ont fait savoir qu'en deux semaines, ce travail peut être fait», a-t-il fait comprendre.

fois deux voies qui traversent les communes rurales de Tanghin-Dassouri, Pabré, Loumbila, Saaba, Koubri, Saponé et Komsilga, ainsi que les arrondissements 4 et 8 de Ouagadougou.

Le Président directeur général (PDG) du groupe EBOMAF, Mahamadou Bonkougou s'est dit fier de voir son entreprise faire un retour sur le marché du bâtiment et des travaux publics (BTP) dans son pays après huit ans d'absence.

Pour lui, les présents travaux viennent marquer son adhésion et sa participation à la nouvelle ère de développement amorcée depuis 2015 sous le leadership du président du Faso Roch Marc Christian Kaboré.

Il s'est engagé à travailler à mériter la confiance placée en son entreprise, à travers l'octroi de ce marché, en livrant un ouvrage qui défie le temps dans les délais de 36 mois.

Français

Editorial

Ecouter les beaux conseils de Mme Sirleaf

L'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf semble mécontente des Libériens à cause de la façon dont ils ont tendance à faire la politique, celle qui consiste à dégrader l'image du pays aux yeux du monde entier.

Dans son rôle de mère de la nation, Mme Sirleaf appelle les Libériens à s'unir dans leur diversité et à défendre le pays, qui est leur patrimoine commun.

Pour l'ancienne présidente, il n'y a pas de raison que les libériens, pour des différences politiques, se fassent la guerre et dénigrent leur pays.

C'est en tout cas un plaidoyer patriotique de la part non seulement d'une ancienne dirigeante, mais aussi et surtout d'une mère au sens propre du terme. Les Libériens ont intérêt à ne jamais permettre que ces paroles sages tombent dans l'oreille de sourd. Les désaccords politiques ne doivent en aucun cas nous conduire à la violence ou à ternir l'image de notre patrie à travers les médias sociaux.

Même les médias ne sont pas moins infectés par cette gangrène, comme l'a si bien fait remarquer notre ancienne présidente qui a appelé la presse libérienne à ne pas se livrer au sensationnel. « Oui, vous êtes censés être indépendants, vous êtes censés être conscients de la société, vous êtes censés faire de figure de dénonciateurs et nous vous honorons pour cela. Mais votre sensationnalisme va trop loin », a-t-elle regretté.

Mais on dit souvent que les médias sont le miroir de la société. Ils font écho des événements survenus dans la société et dans le pays dans son ensemble, surveillant de près le fonctionnement du gouvernement. En tant que professionnels des médias, nous sommes pleinement conscients que, dans l'exercice de nos fonctions, les normes ne doivent pas être compromises. En d'autres termes, la précision et l'équilibre sont importants dans la couverture médiatique pour garantir le professionnalisme.

Néanmoins, il nous incombe, nous citoyens libériens et praticiens des médias, de garantir la sécurité et de promouvoir un environnement sécurisé et paisible dans la nation. Les médias ne peuvent pas fonctionner en vase clos. Mais lorsque des hommes politiques glissent ou s'écartent délibérément du cours normal de leur devoir, nous n'hésiterons pas à le dire, car c'est notre responsabilité patriotique.

Dans le même temps, nous convenons avec l'ancienne Présidente Sirleaf en ce qui concerne l'unité des Libériens dans leur diversité, car l'unité est fondamentalement indispensable à la construction d'un pays politiquement fort et économiquement dynamique. Nous ne pouvons aller de l'avant en tant que peuple si nous continuons à nous entredéchirer et à exhiber une image négative de notre pays.

Cela n'est pas que pour notre propre bien, mais aussi et surtout pour le bien de la postérité. Il nous faut ainsi œuvrer de concert pour bâtir et laisser un pays meilleur que celui dont nous avons hérité. Cela devrait être notre objectif principal en tant que Libériens et non de nous déchirer les uns les autres.

En tant que Libériens, nous estimons qu'il est non seulement un honneur, mais également un privilège d'avoir parmi nous un ancien président en vie qui nous prodigue de sages conseils et nous montre la voie à suivre. Il faut que nous soyons reconnaissants, même si nous n'aimions pas sa politique.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Harold James

L'hiver vient au Royaume-Uni

PRINCETON - Le retrait du Royaume-Uni de l'Union européenne est en train de tourner court. Le plan dit « de Chequers », sur lequel la Première ministre Theresa May a fondé sa stratégie de négociation est mort né. Il a été non seulement rejeté par l'UE et, dans l'opposition, par le Parti travailliste, mais aussi par un nombre suffisant de députés conservateurs pour garantir son échec devant la Chambre des communes.

Le seul choix possible du gouvernement May est donc de temporiser et d'espérer que quelque chose survienne (en d'autres termes d'attendre que ça passe) ; or si la voie sans issue actuelle pourrait ne traduire que les faiblesses de la stratégie adoptée par May dans la négociation, elle peut aussi signifier que le Brexit n'a d'autre logique que son incohérence.

Pour ce qui le concerne, le plan de Chequers repose sur une série de compromis fragiles. Le Royaume-Uni maintiendrait des relations douanières avec l'Union européenne, mais n'appartiendrait plus à l'union douanière. Les tribunaux britanniques et européens appliqueraient un « règlement » commun, alors que le Royaume-Uni aurait la possibilité de ne pas suivre les règles commerciales de l'UE lorsqu'il conclurait des accords avec des tierces parties.

Mais quand bien-même cette union douanière de bonneteau serait acceptable des deux côtés de la Manche, il y aurait encore la question de la frontière irlandaise. En l'occurrence, il faut une frontière, soit entre l'Irlande du Nord et la République d'Irlande (qui restera dans l'Union), soit entre l'Irlande du Nord et la Grande-Bretagne. Le premier scénario menacerait le processus de paix irlandais, le second détruirait le Royaume-Uni.

Le Brexit se fonde sur la croyance en la souveraineté nationale comme seule base rationnelle de l'ordre international. On parlerait, en langage académique, de « réalisme », doctrine selon laquelle les États sont mus et définis par des intérêts cohérents qui se heurtent perpétuellement les uns aux autres au niveau mondial, dont la série *Game of Thrones*, produite par HBO, qui mêle fantasy et réminiscences shakespeariennes, offre une vision populaire et non-académique.

Pour de nombreux spectateurs, « GOT » est devenue la lunette à travers laquelle ils comprennent la réalité contemporaine. Lors de la réunion annuelle du Fonds monétaire international, qui s'est tenue cette année à Bali, le président indonésien, Joko Widodo, a fait allusion au thème principal de la série en lançant cette mise en garde : « L'hiver vient. » Alors que les « grandes maisons » États-Unis et Chine se disputent le « trône de fer », une crise mondiale, qui n'épargnera personne, devient de plus en plus probable.

En décrivant un monde où règne la trahison et où les alliances sont rompues, GOT devient l'apologue parfait des temps d'incertitude internationale qui sont les nôtres. Elle est aussi très regardée des Brexiteurs. Michael Gove, l'un des dirigeants de la campagne du « Leave » a révélé que le stratège opiniâtre Tyrion Lannister était son personnage favori.

À en croire ce réalisme façon GOT, l'UE n'aurait institutionnellement aucun sens, car elle est

fondée sur une prémisse impossible : le dépassement du nationalisme et des intérêts de chaque État. L'une des forces à l'œuvre derrière le Brexit était la croyance en un effondrement prochain de l'Europe, ployant sous le poids d'une dette insurmontable et d'une immigration incontrôlée. Le Royaume-Uni ne faisait que fuir la maison en flammes avant qu'elle ne s'écroule.

Le problème d'une telle interprétation est qu'elle ignore tout des façons dont les institutions de l'UE, les autorités de régulation et les cadres légaux tenaient la maison. Certes, il s'en trouvent toujours dans tel ou tel pays à qui déplaisent telles ou telles règles ; les Européens du Nord et du Sud eurent des analyses très différentes de la crise de l'euro ; les Européens de l'Est et de l'Ouest ont sur les réfugiés des conceptions très différentes. Mais les principales dissensions politiques sont au sein même des sociétés et non entre les unes et les autres, et la perspective d'une sortie ne fera probablement jamais que les creuser.

À la vérité, un nouvel ordre est porteur de nouvelles divisions, comme on le voit désormais au Royaume-Uni. La City de Londres est déchirée entre ses banques inquiètes de perdre leur clientèle et leurs marchés européens et ses fonds spéculatifs qui cherchent à se libérer du carcan des réglementations européennes. Certains cultivateurs craignent de perdre les aides de l'UE, alors que d'autres pensent qu'un nouveau cadre pourrait leur permettre de pratiquer une agriculture plus durable. Et certains Brexiteurs veulent plus de dépenses sociales, tandis que d'autres aimeraient voir le pays devenir un paradis de la dérégulation qui rivalise avec Singapour. Tous veulent un monde meilleur, mais bien peu peuvent s'accorder sur ce qu'il devrait être.

En Europe continentale, la difficulté - sinon l'impossibilité - de formuler des stratégies de sortie viables est désormais parfaitement établie. Lorsque Marine Le Pen, la candidate du Front national (renommé depuis Rassemblement national) a laissé entendre, durant la campagne présidentielle française, au début de l'année 2017, qu'elle organiserait, si elle était élue, un référendum sur l'appartenance à l'euro, elle a perdu une grande part de ses soutiens. La même dynamique est aujourd'hui à l'œuvre en Italie, où les deux partis populistes au pouvoir ont dû se soumettre à un exercice de rétropédalage eu égard à leurs remarques eurosceptiques passées pour bien faire comprendre que l'option d'un « Italexit » n'était pas sur la table.

Comme sont en train de le réaliser les populistes du continent, le désengagement équivaut à une demande impossible de dirigeants. Dans l'optique réaliste, un gouvernement doit représenter parfaitement les intérêts de son pays. Mais les intérêts nationaux sont sujets, dans une démocratie pluraliste, à des débats et à des désaccords constants. La dernière fois que le réalisme offrit une clé d'interprétation du monde, ce fut dans les années 1930, lorsque la démocratie était en crise, et que seuls les régimes autoritaires pouvaient agir comme le préconise la théorie.

Durant la campagne pour les élections générales de 2017, May promit qu'elle dirigerait un gouvernement « fort et stable ». Mais parce qu'elle ne peut gouverner en autocrate, la force et la stabilité, le Brexit en soit remercié, ne sont plus à l'ordre du jour.

ANALYSIS

Analysis of the Similarities and Disparities: The Tale of Liberian Press and Global Media Practices

By: *Josephus Moses Gray*
Email: graymoses@yahoo.com

Globally, the media is considered as "mirror" of the modern society, in unarguably it is the media which shapes our lives and served as a conduit between the government and the people. The role of media is complex and varied, sometimes, media is viewed positively by society, although it is considered overbearing and obnoxious other times. Despite of geographical location, play several vital role such as the media set the public agenda and act as the gatekeeper of public issues and perform the watchdog role, especially in political situation and fight against bad governance, including corruption, abuse of state wealth, human rights and constitutional violations, and autocratic activities of some corrupt public bureaucrats.

If one was to better illustrate the dynamic relationship between the media and Liberia society, it would expedient to examine some case studies if the media have had an impact on a nation's socio-economic, political and industrialization. There is also the belief that the media holds a large amount of power and influence to effect change in a particular society and echoes the voice of the voiceless. The media similarly wields it in an effective manner to ensure that rights are respected, workable policies and respect for the rule of law and just are sustained, while at the same time direct and manipulate the development of Liberian. The media performs this in several different manners.

Having discussed Western media coverage of Africa in general, let me turn my attention to Liberia where the major challenge facing journalism nowadays is that of surviving the unfavorable media policy still on the book and persistent attacks against journalists directly or indirectly by individuals with a strong connections to successive governments which rode on the leverage of the media to get to state power through democratic or indisputable elections.

In the case of African, the larger numbers of the media lacks dominance, influence and persuasion, however, there are some similarities and disparities to that of the American media; to a large extent there is wild differences due to geographical location and the advancement of the society. For example, major happenings in America are given wild publicity and take banner headlines in the Liberian press, while the American press the situation is the opposite. One of the greater tough pillars of the American media is investigative journalism and the ability to "follow-up" stories to the end; journalists are well paid and supported.

Although media nowadays enjoys smooth media landscape, emerging as a dominant social figure; it enables dialogue to take place and bridged the gap between government and the citizenry; it would be unimaginable for any Liberian security officers or officials operating under the orders of their bosses to lawlessly close down or burn newspaper offices or radio station, as was the case under previous regimes. While 2016 was a throbbing year for Liberia media in general, the year saw the unprecedented death toll of journalists in the country in a single year, as the casualties of journalists in the hand of death as a result of the Ebola virus cannot be matched with other years.

Unlike the United States and other developed countries, in Liberia, media institutions which constantly exposed the central administration's transgressions and constitution violations, makes corruption and other abuses a primary target; are often accused of detractor of the government and branded enemy of the regime. For other media institutions sometime do that with less attention for fears of being denied advertisements by public

officials, since eighty-five percent of the advertisements in the print and aired on radio or television come from government's agencies, ministries and corporations.

Another sad scenario to robs the media of one of its most forceful and powerful avenue of support and defense is deeply embedded in the poor reading culture that has been lumbering gravely on the shoulder of the country's population which supposed to raise the bar much higher in demand and production and publication of materials for daily public consumption-unlike the western world and some part of Africa.

Unlike Liberia, the media in the United States of America are very influential, vigilant and persuasive in the discharge of their functions and role to the American society. The American media are influential in the body polity of America and have the ability to influence government's policies and decisions. However, just like other society, the American media are not perfect; they too have their own flawless and transgressions but are guided by perfection, very influential, effective, dominant and persuasive.

The American media are so respected in the society that the impact can be felt, but on the other hand, about 20 percent of the population believes what the media published or broadcast. The American media and journalists are well equipped, paid, trained, experienced and treat their assignments with dedication and commitment. But there is always opposing views in the American press - both the conservative and liberal views.

On the contrary, American media report less on vital issues obtaining outside the United States, less courtesy is given to main issues occurring in other countries as long it doesn't affect the American national interest; except where American interest is threatened. If you go very close to Americans you will know that they are mostly interested in knowing happenings in their environment, not much involved about other things occurring in other country or region and continent, as long it does not threaten the United States national security both externally and internally.

America is a society where all are treated equally under the law. The country's domestic policies are very unique, unlike, maybe the foreign policy. However, one might want to know the importance about America and its people. I guess there are several answers. Americans, especially in my personal interactions with professional colleagues are nice, friendly and treat others with respect. They greet people with smiles and opened hands, but on a serious note, they are direct and do not hide their feelings on issues of importance.

By just voicing out a concern, they are ready to assist; they are good observers and know how to approach situations. "Are you fine/ Are you okay? Do you have a family? Are you missing them? Have you spoken to them and what are your impressions about the time spent here? These are just few of the questions they will ask you on a daily basis. The people of America believe in their country.

They cherish the American dream and flag so much. They fly their flag in front of their homes and



The Author

offices. There is no doubt why America is the world foremost superpower. I wonder when Liberia will as a nation and people ever learn to cultivate the pride of Americans. Surely, Liberia can't be America, but patriotism coupled with nationalism does not grow on trees nor flourishes on the supermarket's shelves; and that is exactly and so pathetically missing from our DNA. Savannah is a beautiful city, well layout, the beautiful landscape, nice structures and beaches and home to dozens of tourists.

Free speech, press freedom and religious tolerance struck me a whole lot. They attached great respect to religious tolerance. They are good at speaking their minds on issues of national and international concerns and offer suggestions.

Unlike in my native country, Liberia where we always say, "It is the people's thing", the opposite exists in America. Only few Liberians are good at speaking their minds but these Liberians are often accused as being 'troublemakers'. In Liberia, when the independent media takes position on issues, especially the ills and pitfalls of government and prominent politicians, that particular media organization and staffers are demonized as undermining the government, branded as enemy of the state, biased reporting, paid agent or instruments of yellow journalism.

The downside is that the American society cares less about happenings in other countries, except for issues like terrorism, disasters, trade, and war since they all affect the American national interest. Sometimes, the American media published materials on smaller countries; these stories are treated with less interest and in some cases compromised stories; while African media give considerable courtesy to happenings in the United States. Most Africans believe in the sophistication of the American press and hold less respect for media on the continent.

TO BE CONT'D

About the Author: Josephus Moses Gbala-hinnih Gray is an Assistant Professor at the University of Liberia Graduate Studies Program. He is a native born Liberian, hails from the Southeastern village of Kayken Chiefdom in Barc layville, Grand Kru County. He is an author, professor, journalist, diplomat and scholar with a wealth of rich credentials including a doctorate in International Relations and Foreign Policy Studies from Paris, France. He has authored two books, published Two Graduate Theses and a 600 -page Doctoral Dissertation on the theme: "Geopolitics of African Oil and Energy: China and America New Strategic Interests in Africa". He has written extensively and published over 60 articles on variety of contemporary issues . He can be contacted at Email: graymoses@yahoo.com

How far is the missing “16 bn” probe?

There appears to be a deafening silence as it relates to updates on the ongoing probe surrounding the “missing” 15.5 billion Liberian bank notes.

Last week, former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf admitted that she had been visited by some of the investigators but she did not say which group. Mrs. Sirleaf comment only came about as she denies media reports allegedly quoting her as saying she is too old to remember anything about the 15.5 billion. The former president just celebrated her 80th birthday on Monday October 29.

She did not say in her denial when she was visited by the investigators. But this still doesn't help in providing an update on the investigation into the country's biggest scandal.

The prolong silence over the present status of the much trumpeted investigations sanctioned by the George Weah led government and the independent investigators announced by the US Embassy

here is raising eyebrows among the general public with many speculating that the case is dying a natural death just like other probes ordered before it

futile on Sunday as his mobile number rang endlessly unanswered.

The press and public affairs officer at the Ministry of

cleared all Central Bank of Liberia's (CBL) staffs from its lists of persons of interest and travel ban, leaving on it former CBL Governor Milton Weeks.

The removal of the names of CBL's employees from the lists of persons of interest and travel ban came a fortnight following reports of the arrival of an advance team of independent investigators spotted at the Capitol Building sometimes last month.

The United States Aid for International Development or USAID, nearly four weeks ago announced that it had reached an agreement with the Liberian Government to provide independent investigators from reputable firms to look into the missing money saga.

The independent investigative team are expected to carry on a scooping mission and expand into full scale investigation depending on their findings.

The USAID and the Liberian Government agreed that whatever findings established by the team will be made public.

Despite reports indicating that an advance team of independent investigators were spotted at the Capitol a fortnight ago holding brief meetings with key individuals at the Legislature, not much have been heard.

As if that is not enough, the Liberian public is yet to be told as to what is the status of the

team of local investigators since the Minister of Finance, Planning and Development was quoted to have said that it did not have money to fund the local team of investigators.

But there also appears to be another problem, despite not being funded, sources closed to the local team of investigators say the team is also finding it very difficult to access the needed documents it has requested from the relevant agencies of government—simply put, sources say there appears to be an uncooperative posture from agents of government.

All these development came days after the Governor of the CBL, Mr. Nathaniel Patray announced on October 2, 2018 that there was no money missing at the bank.

“The Central Bank of Liberia wants to clarify to the general public and our partners in progress that there is no 16 billion Liberian Dollars missing as has been erroneously reported in the media,” the CBL said in a press statement Tuesday, 2 October.

But as government remain thigh-lipped on the probe, it only spur speculation among the public about its attempt to hide the truth concerning what actually happen to the “missing” 15.5 billion Liberian bank notes. -writes *Othello B. Garblah*



in Liberian style.

Efforts to get Information Minister Eugene Nagbe to provide the latest update on the ongoing probe proved

Justice, Mrs. Maud Somah told this paper on Sunday night that there is yet no update on the investigation.

So far, Government has

EFFL calls for audit at LPRC

The Economic Freedom Fighters of Liberia (EFFL) an advocacy group is calling for an audit of the Managing Director of the Liberia Petroleum Refining Company (LPRC) Madam Nyemadi Pearson.

In a press release here Wednesday, 30 October EFFL expresses concern over arbitrary increase of petroleum price by importers and vendors.

It calls for the audit of the new Managing Director at the LPRC, including all storage tanks at the entity for spot

sanction an immediate audit of the LPRC Management presided over by Madam Pearson, who once served with the National Oil Company of Liberia or NOCAL before it went bankrupt, noting that it is not surprised Nyemadi is allegedly failing at LPRC as she was one of those who failed at NOCAL,

EFFL says it is troubled by statements coming from LPRC and one of the importers, Aminata and Sons, with one party saying there is scarcity and the other is claiming

immediate effect halt the clandestine ‘Provisional Lifting’ being carried out at the port where another importer’s fuel is illegally given to another for sale behind the back of the original owner thereby, creating shortage for others.

“This ‘Dig Hole Cover Hole’ attitude of LPRC as exposed by online watchdog must be investigated and perpetrators brought to book. Petroleum products have an adverse effect on the general population and any attempt by government not to sort out the challenges soon will lead to major economic catastrophe”, the institution says.

The group says it is regrettable that the President will parade with Madam Pearson for sight visitation in Nimba County and other places while the general public is crying to be served at a few filling stations that have access to petroleum product. “The friendship club must come to a halt, it’s time for governance and the leader must be ready to act swiftly to save the state.”

EFFL laments that as it stands, commuters commuting from one place to another are experiencing huge increase of transportation fares making specific reference to those traveling from Kakata City to Monrovia now being asked pay 1,500 Liberian dollars per trip. -Press Release

enough fuel is in the country, while majority of the Liberian people are suffering.

It wants a tank audit to verify who’s saying the truth. The group decries hike in transportation fares as a result of increment in petroleum price, saying this is not what the Weah-led CDC promised Liberians, adding, “Their Agenda for Prosperity will be a farce if this petroleum issue is not handled expeditiously.”

The EFFL calls on the LPRC Management to with

LIBA makes

Starts from back page

business empowerment law.

According to him, this law provides for at least 25 percent of all Public Procurement Contracts entered into by all government institutions including State - owned enterprises to be allocated and provided to Liberian - owned MSMEs, at least five percent of which are allocated and provided to women - owned MSMEs.

Additionally, Mr. Strother urges government to ensure timely payments to Liberian businesses as well as other businesses for goods and services provided.

“LIBA believes timely payments to vendors including Liberian businesses will accelerate business obligation with commercial banks, pay taxes, as well remaining profitable and competitive,” he says.

Meanwhile LIBA says as prime partners to the developmental goals of government, it welcomes the recent official launch of the Pro - poor Agenda for

Prosperity and Development (PAPD).

LIBA affirms its commitment and fullest support for the implementation of the PAPD in the interest of the wholesome upliftment of the people of Liberia.

LIBA president Mr. Strother says the Association is particularly inspired by President George Manneh Weah’s desire to restructure and revisit the programs around Liberian businesses in terms of having access to finance and human capacity development.

According to him, these are intended to enhance Liberian participation in the creation of wealth in the Liberian economy.

“We at LIBA see this as government’s willingness to conform to the President’s explicit statement that Liberians should not be spectators in their own economy,” he concludes.

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verification of products amidst LPRC claims there are no shortage in the country.

EFFL laments it is regrettable that LPRC Management and the government are maintaining there is no shortage of petroleum product in the country, but price of the products has sky rocketed within the last few days or weeks at an all-time ever in Liberia.

The group also calls on President George Weah to

LAA rejects claims of Weah's role in scouting tenants



The Management of the Liberia Airport Authority (LAA) has viewed with dismay a FrontPageAfrica news article published on November 2, 2018, in which it blatantly tried to mislead the public that President George Manneh Weah is involved in scouting tenants for the business class lounge and shops at the

Roberts International Airport (RIA).

According to a press release dated 2 November, LAA Management sees this article as an intent to undermine the bidding process which it says up to date, has had no direct or indirect involvement from President Weah.

LAA explains that thru its Procurement Department, it

received expression of interest from several companies in regards to rental facilities in the new terminal.

It says the procurement department would then apply the requisite procurement compliance mechanisms to determine those who are best suited.

"It is therefore a dishonor to anything truthful that the FrontPage Africa news article ignored the procedures and guidelines of the bidding process, published in this very paper by LAA for six weeks, and instead, cited something that is totally untrue," LAA says.

The LAA continues that in its haste to paint the LAA and the President of Liberia in a bad light, the paper contradicted itself several times regarding the NCB (National Competitive Bidding) and ICB (International Competitive Bidding) processes as prescribed in the PPCA (Public Procurement



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LIBA makes recommendations to gov't

By Winston W. Parley

The Liberian Business Association (LIBA) has made several recommendations to the Liberian Government in the interest of creating more jobs through micro, small and medium - sized Liberian enterprises.

Addressing journalists Friday, 2 November at the Association's office in Paynesville, LIBA president

James M. Strother called for a comprehensive enforcement of the Investment Act of 2010.

He says the Act exclusively reserves all retailing businesses for Liberians, especially in operations of gas stations, travel agencies, importation and sales of used clothing, among others.

Mr. Strother also calls for the provision of dedicated and well-targeted stimulus plan to address emergency capital

needs of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) owned and operated by Liberians.

"LIBA will provide its expertise to ensure that the stimulus plan is well designed and implemented to minimize risks abuse and repayment," Mr; Strother adds.

He urges strong enforcement of Section 4.1(c) of the small



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