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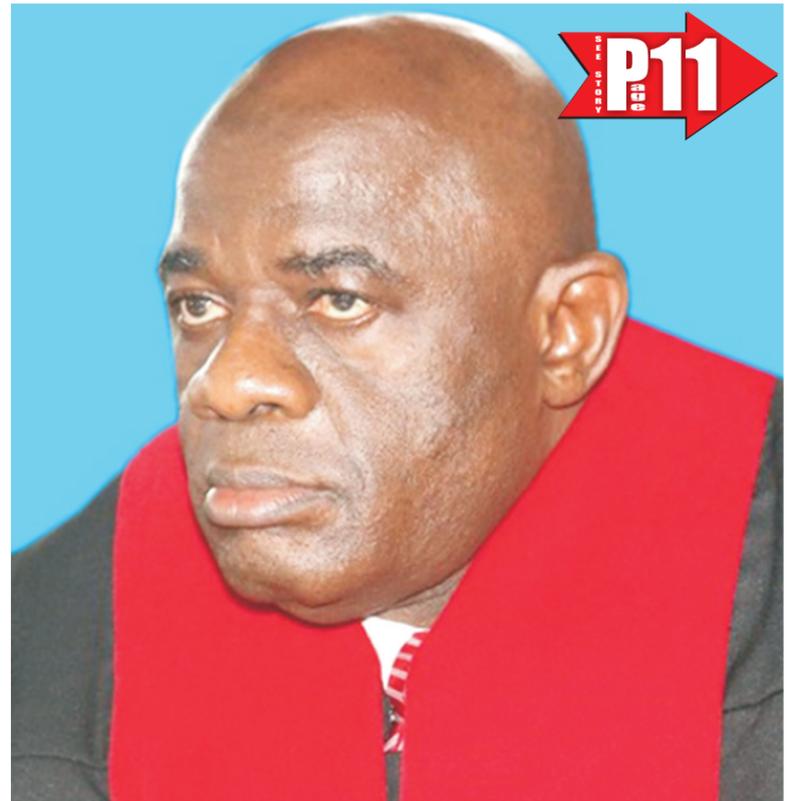
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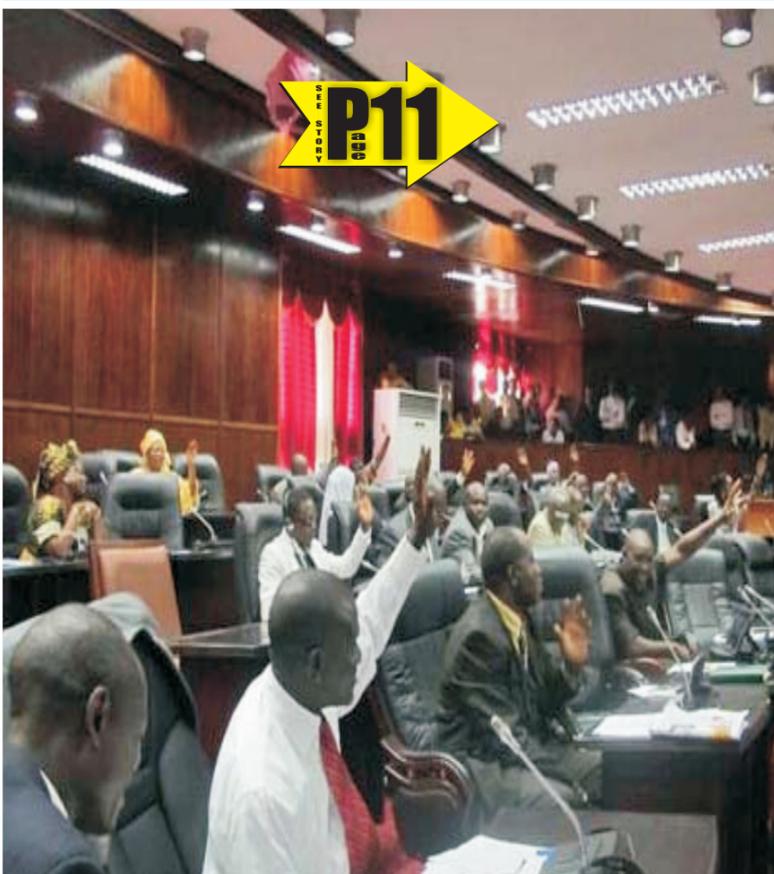
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-In Ja'neh's impeachment?



Senate risks low votes



Continental News

Dozens of pupils kidnap in Cameroon

Dozens of people, mostly school pupils, have been kidnapped from a school in the west of Cameroon.

At least 78 students and three others, including the school principal, were abducted on Monday morning in Bamenda, the capital of the North-West region, a government official has told the BBC.

Regional governor Adolphe Lele L'Afrique blamed separatist militias.

Cameroon's North-West and South-West regions have been hit by a secessionist rebellion in recent years.

Militias, who have been demanding the independence of the two English-speaking regions, have called for a school boycott.

But no group has said it carried out the kidnapping at Bamenda's Presbyterian Secondary School, which has pupils aged between 10 and 14.

'Praying for the kidnapped'
The moderator of the Presbyterian Church in

Cameroon, the Right Reverend Fonki Samuel Forba told the BBC that he had spoken to the kidnappers.

"They don't want any ransom. All they want is for us to close the schools. We have promised to close down the schools," he told the BBC.

"We hope and pray they release the kids and the

teachers," he added.

It is not the first time students have been abducted in the area, known to be a stronghold of separatist fighters, reports the BBC's Ngala Killian Chimtom.

On 19 October, five students of the Atiela Bilingual High School were taken by unidentified gunmen. Their

whereabouts are still unknown.

The separatists say that the Cameroon school system suppresses the English-speaking system that the North-West and South-West regions inherited from the British. Separatist rebellion

The militias, who want to create a new state of Ambazonia, began to emerge in 2017 after a security force crackdown on mass protests, led by lawyers and teachers, over the government's alleged failure to give enough recognition to the English legal and education systems in the

North-West and South-West.

The government was accused of relying heavily on people trained in the French legal and educational tradition to work in key posts and generally marginalising Cameroon's English-speaking minority, who make up about 20% of the population.

President Paul Biya, who has been in power since 1982, was recently re-elected for a seventh term with more than 70% of the vote.

Opposition parties allege that the poll was rigged, but legal attempts to overturn the result failed. -BBC



UK army to recruit from Commonwealth

Foreign nationals living abroad will be allowed to join Britain's Armed Forces, the UK government is set to announce.

Currently, citizens from Commonwealth countries

of 8,200 soldiers, sailors and air personnel, a report found earlier this year.

Ministers are expected to announce the change to recruitment rules on Monday.

It means people from

Tanzania says anti-gay squads are not government policy

Tanzania's government has said that a call by a local official to create a surveillance squad to track down homosexuals "does not represent" official policy.

Last week, Paul Makonda, the head of the administration for the commercial capital, Dar es Salaam, said the squad would start work on Monday.

The announcement was criticised by rights groups.

Homosexual acts are illegal in Tanzania under a colonial-era law.

Mr Makonda said last week that he wanted his team, made up of officials from the Tanzania Communications Authority, the police and media practitioners, to scrutinise social media in order to track down and arrest people in same-sex relationships.

'Against moral values'

"Give me their names," he was quoted as saying by AFP news agency. "My ad hoc team will begin to get their hands on them next Monday."

He justified it by saying that homosexuality "tramples on the moral values of Tanzanians".

Amnesty International responded by saying that the idea, which "only serves to incite hatred", should be "immediately abandoned".

At the weekend, the US embassy in Dar es Salaam warned its citizens in Tanzania of reports that LGBTI people could be arrested.

It told them to "remove or protect images and language that may run afoul of Tanzanian laws regarding homosexual practices and explicit sexual activity".

The European Union has recalled its ambassador regarding "the deterioration of the human rights and rule of law situation in the country".

'Not government policy'

But there was no specific mention of the treatment of



There are 53 Commonwealth nations

can only join if they have lived in the UK for five years.

But in a bid to recruit more servicemen and women to the Army, Navy and Air Force, the Ministry of Defence is lifting this rule.

The Armed Forces is short

Commonwealth countries - including Nigeria, Kenya, India and Australia - will be considered for roles, even if they have never lived in Britain. -BBC



Image copyright GETTY IMAGES: Stigma against same-sex relationships is widespread in Tanzania

been targeted at homosexuals.

Last year, the country's deputy health minister defended a threat to publish a list of gay people.

Tanzania also deported three South African lawyers after they were accused of promoting homosexuality.

They were among 13 people arrested for taking part in a meeting to discuss challenging a law stopping private health clinics from providing HIV and Aids services. -BBC

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 recently 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.

COMMENTARY

By J. Bradford Delong

Blame the Economists?

Ever since the 2008 financial crash and subsequent recession, economists have been pilloried for failing to foresee the crisis, and for not convincing policymakers of what needed to be done to address it. But the upheavals of the past decade were more a product of historical contingency than technocratic failure.

BERKELEY - Now that we are witnessing what looks like the historic decline of the West, it is worth asking what role economists might have played in the disasters of the past decade.

From the end of World War II until 2007, Western political leaders at least acted as if they were interested in achieving full employment, price stability, an acceptably fair distribution of income and wealth, and an open international order in which all countries would benefit from trade and finance. True, these goals were always in tension, such that we sometimes put growth incentives before income equality, and openness before the interests of specific workers or industries. Nevertheless, the general thrust of policymaking was toward all four objectives.

Then came 2008, when everything changed. The goal of full employment dropped off Western leaders' radar, even though there was neither a threat of inflation nor additional benefits to be gained from increased openness. Likewise, the goal of creating an international order that serves everyone was summarily abandoned. Both objectives were sacrificed in the interest of restoring the fortunes of the super-rich, perhaps with a distant hope that the wealth would "trickle down" someday.

At the macro level, the story of the post-2008 decade is almost always understood as a failure of economic analysis and communication. We economists supposedly failed to convey to politicians and bureaucrats what needed to be done, because we hadn't analyzed the situation fully and properly in real time.

Some economists, like Carmen M. Reinhart and Kenneth Rogoff of Harvard University, saw the dangers of the financial crisis, but greatly exaggerated the risks of public spending to boost employment in its aftermath. Others, like me, understood that expansionary monetary policies would not be enough; but, because we had looked at global imbalances the wrong way, we missed the principal source of risk - US financial misregulation.

Still others, like then-US Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, understood the importance of keeping interest rates low, but overestimated the effectiveness of additional monetary-policy tools such as quantitative easing. The moral of the story is that if only we economists had spoken up sooner, been more convincing on the issues where we were right, and recognized where we were wrong, the situation today would be considerably better.

The Columbia University historian Adam Tooze has little use for this narrative. In his new history of the post-2007 era, *Crashed: How a Decade of Financial Crises Changed the World*, he shows that the economic history of the past ten years has been driven more by deep historical currents than by technocrats' errors of analysis and communication.

Specifically, in the years before the crisis, financial deregulation and tax cuts for the rich had been driving government deficits and debt ever higher, while further increasing inequality.

Making matters worse, George W. Bush's administration decided to wage an ill-advised war against Iraq, effectively squandering America's credibility to lead the North Atlantic through the crisis years.

It was also during this time that the Republican Party began to suffer a nervous breakdown. As if Bush's lack of qualifications and former Vice President Dick Cheney's war-mongering weren't bad enough, the party doubled down on its cynicism. In 2008, Republicans rallied behind the late Senator John McCain's running mate, Sarah Palin, a folksy demagogue who was even less suited for office than Bush or Cheney; and in 2010, the party was essentially hijacked by the populist Tea Party.

After the 2008 crash and the so-called Great Recession, years of tepid growth laid the groundwork for a political upheaval in 2016. While Republicans embraced a brutish, race-baiting reality-TV star, many Democrats swooned for a self-declared socialist senator with scarcely any legislative achievements to his name. "This denouement," Tooze writes, "might have seemed a little cartoonish," as if life was imitating the art of the HBO series "Veep."

Of course, we have yet to mention a key figure. Between the financial crisis of 2008 and the political crisis of 2016 came the presidency of Barack Obama. In 2004, when he was still a rising star in the Senate, Obama had warned that failing to build a "purple America" that supports the working and middle classes would lead to nativism and political breakdown.

Yet, after the crash, the Obama administration had little stomach for the medicine that former President Franklin D. Roosevelt had prescribed to address problems of such magnitude. "The country needs...bold persistent experimentation," Roosevelt said in 1932, at the height of the Great Depression. "It is common sense to take a method and try it; if it fails, admit it frankly and try another. But above all, try something."

The fact that Obama failed to take aggressive action, despite having recognized the need for it beforehand, is a testament to Tooze's central argument. Professional economists could not convince those in power of what needed to be done, because those in power were operating in a context of political breakdown and lost American credibility. With policymaking having been subjected to the malign influence of a rising plutocracy, economists calling for "bold persistent experimentation" were swimming against the tide - even though well-founded economic theories justified precisely that course of action.

Still, I do not find Tooze's arguments to be as strong as he thinks they are. We economists and our theories did make a big difference. With the exception of Greece, advanced economies experienced nothing like a rerun of the Great Depression, which was a very real possibility at the height of the crisis. Had we been smarter, more articulate, and less divided and distracted by red herrings, we might have made a bigger difference. But that doesn't mean we made no difference at all.

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O-PED

By Klaus Schwab

Grappling With Globalization 4.0

GENEVA - After World War II, the international community came together to build a shared future. Now, it must do so again. Owing to the slow and uneven recovery in the decade since the global financial crisis, a substantial part of society has become disaffected and embittered, not only with politics and politicians, but also with globalization and the entire economic system it underpins. In an era of widespread insecurity and frustration, populism has become increasingly attractive as an alternative to the status quo.

But populist discourse elides - and often confounds - the substantive distinctions between two concepts: globalization and globalism. Globalization is a phenomenon driven by technology and the movement of ideas, people, and goods. Globalism is an ideology that prioritizes the neoliberal global order over national interests. Nobody can deny that we are living in a globalized world. But whether all of our policies should be "globalist" is highly debatable.

After all, this moment of crisis has raised important questions about our global-governance architecture. With more and more voters demanding to "take back control" from "global forces," the challenge is to restore sovereignty in a world that requires cooperation. Rather than closing off economies through protectionism and nationalist politics, we must forge a new social compact between citizens and their leaders, so that everyone feels secure enough at home to remain open to the world at large. Failing that, the ongoing disintegration of our social fabric could ultimately lead to the collapse of democracy.

Moreover, the challenges associated with the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) are coinciding with the rapid emergence of ecological constraints, the advent of an increasingly multipolar international order, and rising inequality. These integrated developments are ushering in a new era of globalization. Whether it will improve the human condition will depend on whether corporate, local, national, and international governance can adapt in time.

Meanwhile, a new framework for global public-private cooperation has been taking shape. Public-private cooperation is about harnessing the private sector and open markets to drive economic growth for the public good, with environmental sustainability and social inclusiveness always in mind. But to determine the public good, we first must identify the root causes of inequality.

For example, while open markets and increased competition certainly produce winners and losers in the international arena, they may be having an even more pronounced effect on inequality at the national level. Moreover, the growing divide between the precariat and the privileged is being reinforced by 4IR business models, which often derive rents from owning capital or intellectual property.

Closing that divide requires us to recognize that we are living in a new type of innovation-driven economy, and that new global norms, standards, policies, and conventions are needed to safeguard the public trust. The new economy has already disrupted and recombined countless industries, and dislocated millions of workers. It is dematerializing production, by increasing the knowledge intensity of value creation. It is heightening competition within domestic product, capital, and labor markets, as well as among countries adopting different trade and investment strategies. And it is fueling distrust, particularly of technology companies and their stewardship of our data.

The unprecedented pace of technological change means that our systems of health, transportation, communication, production, distribution, and energy - just to name a few - will be completely transformed. Managing that change will require not just new frameworks for national and multinational cooperation, but also a new model of education, complete with targeted programs for teaching workers new skills. With advances in robotics and artificial intelligence in the context of aging societies, we will have to move from a narrative of production and consumption toward one of sharing and caring.

Globalization 4.0 has only just begun, but we are already vastly underprepared for it. Clinging to an outdated mindset and tinkering with our existing processes and institutions will not do. Rather, we need to redesign them from the ground up, so that we can capitalize on the new opportunities that await us, while avoiding the kind of disruptions that we are witnessing today.

As we develop a new approach to the new economy, we must remember that we are not playing a zero-sum game. This is not a matter of free trade or protectionism, technology or jobs, immigration or protecting citizens, and growth or equality. Those are all false dichotomies, which we can avoid by developing policies that favor "and" over "or," allowing all sets of interests to be pursued in parallel.

To be sure, pessimists will argue that political conditions are standing in the way of a productive global dialogue about Globalization 4.0 and the new economy. But realists will use the current moment to explore the gaps in the present system, and to identify the requirements for a future approach. And optimists will hold out hope that future-oriented stakeholders will create a community of shared interest and, ultimately, shared purpose.

The changes that are underway today are not isolated to a particular country, industry, or issue. They are universal, and thus require a global response. Failing to adopt a new cooperative approach would be a tragedy for humankind. To draft a blueprint for a shared global-governance architecture, we must avoid becoming mired in the current moment of crisis management.

Specifically, this task will require two things of the international community: wider engagement and heightened imagination. The engagement of all stakeholders in sustained dialogue will be crucial, as will the imagination to think systemically, and beyond one's own short-term institutional and national considerations.

These will be the two organizing principles of the World Economic Forum's upcoming Annual Meeting in Davos-Klosters, which will convene under the theme of "Globalization 4.0: Shaping a New Architecture in the Age of the Fourth Industrial Revolution". Ready or not, a new world is upon us.

OPINION

By Ashoka Mody

Angela Merkel's Tragedy

BERLIN - What we care about most is often our undoing. So it was for Angela Merkel, who recently announced her intention to step down as leader of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) in December and as Germany's chancellor in 2021.

History placed Merkel amid raging storms: a series of eurozone crises that drove wedges between Europeans; economic tensions at home that fueled social fragmentation; and the largest migration wave since World War II, which intensified European and domestic anxieties. But, rather than rocking the boat, risking her survival, she chose temporary fixes that let the vulnerabilities fester.

Perhaps her nail-biting ascent to the chancellorship conditioned her. In the September 2005 election, she enjoyed a large early lead in opinion polls. Then-Chancellor Gerhard Schröder had failed to bring down the unemployment rate, which stood at almost 12%, and his Social Democratic Party had lost a string of state elections. Yet Merkel's poor communication of her policy priorities, together with a lackluster debate performance, nearly cost her the election.

In subsequent elections, Merkel refused to campaign on substantive policy matters. In 2009, her campaign was deliberately boring and banal, embracing - however reluctantly - her opponents' characterization of her as a "Mutti," an unflattering stereotype of a mother managing the family home. In 2013, she bolstered the Mutti image with the slogan "You know me."

Having established no clear policy platform, Merkel has governed largely without a mandate. After each election, various interest groups have hoped that she would adopt a position favorably aligned with their particular preferences. But she knew that refusing to do so was precisely what had enabled her to survive.

Merkel's preference for muddling through has been apparent in her approach to eurozone reform. She has long known that fixing the monetary union would require her to issue a politically risky call for financial sacrifice by Germans. The call was risky, because the former Chancellor Helmut Kohl, the man who single-handedly carried the euro across the finish line, had promised that no sacrifice would be required.

Hence, for fear of alienating Germans, Merkel has consistently done the minimum to hold the eurozone together. She agreed - after an agonizing delay - to a joint European Union-International Monetary Fund lending package to Greece in May 2010. That led to the creation of a more permanent bailout facility, the European Stability Mechanism.

Moreover, during the euro's existential crisis in July 2012, Merkel supported European Central Bank President Mario Draghi's initiative to create an "outright monetary transactions" mechanism, whereby the ECB could purchase the bonds of struggling eurozone countries. Although these fixes helped to prevent the eurozone from collapsing, they were not enough to ensure the monetary union's long-term resilience - a failing that has left the eurozone vulnerable to Italy's brewing crisis.

Merkel was felled by the one principled stand she took. In 2015, with Europe being inundated by asylum seekers and economic migrants, Merkel announced an open-door policy for Syrian refugees. When Hungary's nationalist prime minister, Viktor Orbán, suggested that Germany should build a fence to keep migrants out, she flashed rare (and raw) emotion. Recalling her East German upbringing, she said, "I lived a long time behind a fence. It is not something I wish to do again."

Merkel's humanity won her praise from the international community. But, at home, opposition to her refugee policy gathered momentum. The Alternative für Deutschland (AfD), created in February 2013 to oppose the euro, gained a new lease on life as a strident nationalist anti-migration party, siphoning supporters from Merkel's CDU and its Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union (CSU).

In 2016, Merkel successfully eased migration pressure on Europe by securing a deal to keep migrants in Turkey. But the deal remains highly controversial, not least because of humanitarian concerns. With the same model being applied elsewhere, migrants are at increasing risk.

Although Merkel's characteristically dull campaign approach won her a fourth term as chancellor last year, her electoral base has weakened considerably - a trend that has been reinforced by domestic economic failures. Merkel has to cope with the legacy of Schröder's controversial labor-market and welfare reforms, which, among other things, made it easier to fire workers and, by reducing unemployment benefits, forced many unemployed people to take insecure jobs with few benefits. The reforms helped to reduce the jobless rate, but at the cost of stagnant inflation-adjusted wages and widespread personal financial stress.

To be sure, rising inequality, wage stagnation, and working-class frustration are evident across the developed world. Merkel, like her counterparts elsewhere, did little to address the problems. This is not because Merkel lacked vision: in April 2010, she described a Germany powered by improved education and innovation. Only a society that advanced technologically, she concluded, could provide decent opportunities for all.

But, unwilling to challenge the domestic political consensus on fiscal austerity, Merkel refused to invest in Germany's future, say, by repairing decaying infrastructure and upgrading educational opportunities. Instead, she made flailing efforts to protect the increasingly obsolete diesel technology base of Germany's car producers. Such delays in reinvigorating the country's auto industry could drag down the entire economy.

Merkel's failure to reverse social fragmentation led to rising support for the AfD. In the 2017 election, AfD voters tended to be men between the ages of 30 and 59 with only secondary education or vocational training, working blue-collar jobs - often with little job security - in small cities and rural areas. Many such voters once supported the CDU and CSU, but were attracted by the AfD's nationalist, xenophobic platform. The CDU has been weakened, and Merkel's hold over her own party has eroded. It is time for her to step down.

Merkel held the ship steady, but the storms continued to rage. Amid continuing widespread popular frustration and political turmoil, future chancellors could easily be swept away.

LIBERIANS DEBATE

With Sally H. Gaye Cell#: 0886726282 Email:sh0770291004@gmail.com



The issue about the missing billions in Liberia seems to be dying down, as not much is being heard despite ongoing investigation. The New Dawn randomly asks some Liberians in Monrovia what they think of the growing silence and the investigation.

The New Dawn randomly asks some Liberians in Monrovia what they make of the offer by the President and its impact on the country's educational system.



Joyce Quaye

"This is the problem with us Liberians; we just make noise and can't go to the end of things. This is one of the reasons why I don't join people in the name of speaking for our rights. Up to now, no update on the missing money and nobody gets problem with it, and we are going around like nothing happening in the country.

The government is waiting for another protest in the streets of Monrovia before talking."



Allison Joko

"For me, I always said we Liberians are our own problem, because we want all within a day. We all cry for investigators here when the government set up a team, we complained of them; now that we have international investigators, we are saying they are silent. This is not a Liberian man's thing, so we need to give them time in doing their work. They visited

the former president and others so let see what will happen. Protesting all around will not help us but give us bad name out there."

Royce Toe

"The way our president and the investigators are doing this thing is making me to think the other way about them. I see this case dying slowly like other cases in the past. The government wants another mass protest soon to seek update into ongoing investigation relative to the "missing" billions of Liberian Dollars. SUSTAINED PRESSURE IS NEEDED to send strong message to the government and USIAD about their silence."



Chie Pearson

"I think this money issue is dying as the days pass by in Liberia. For Liberia to get better, we need to think as young people and not let others use us. I agreed at this time the international investigators are to say something to us, but we all know that in the U.S. and other countries, it takes months to come out with reports. Let's look up to USAID to know what will come out. As a Liberian, I hope to see what will come out of this because it was kicking off the step to fighting corruption."



Sam Jallah



"As long as the independent investigators, Liberian government and USAID agreed that whatever findings established by the team will be made public, and they are carrying on some meetings with key people in the country, I see nothing wrong with it. Investigating is not just a play thing but needs to be very careful with. For me, I think

the silence is not from the government but the investigators are to making all the information free to the public. It is not just a government's thing but international people alone with USAID is a part, so let them tell us something or let's wait for the end. Thus, are young people of today are looking for ways to take the streets in the name of protest or speaking for their right, but let's take a time off and think too."



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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

UMU expels students over alleged nude video

The administration of the United Methodist University (UMU) has expelled five of its students who were involved in an alleged nude video saga that went viral on social media here. According to a release, UMU interim president Dr. Albert Coleman recently announced the expulsion of the victim who allegedly self-

The student in return sued her friends that are alleged to be linked to the distribution of the video.

She had earlier complained them to the Liberia National Police (LNP) concerning the alleged distribution of the nude video.

The four suspects were charged by the LNP following investigation, with the crime

handbook states that no student, whether male or female, shall sexually harass another student. This includes unwanted gesture, touching or verbal.

Also, students are advised not to expose sexual areas to fellow students.

Meanwhile some former and current students of the United Methodist University



recorded her nude video including the four other students who also circulated it. The UMU administration's recent action comes in the wake of ongoing court processes regarding the video in which it is alleged that one of the student had recorded herself before her friends and school mates accessed the video from her phone and distributed it on social media.

of dissemination of obscene materials. Those expelled with immediate effect include the victim (name withheld) and suspects Stephanie Ajavon, Charlotte Dixon, Anita Woods, and Deddeh Yarsiah.

Dr. Coleman in the release states that the students violated count 18 of the student handbook of the University.

Count 18 of the student

have expressed mixed reactions on the decision taken by the university.

Some of the students of the UMU welcome the decision while others frowned at the administration of the University for taking a decision viewed by some as being "hasty" and allegedly done without any investigation.--
Press release

MYS, Orange Liberia sign agreement

By Sally Gaye

The Ministry of Youth and Sports (MYS) and telecommunication company Orange Liberia have signed a partnership agreement in preparation for the upcoming National County Sports Meet. The 2018/19 National County Sports Meet will kick off on the 16 of December, according to the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

The Organizers of the annual national sporting event say the venues for the group activities have been selected and have paired the various counties into groups.

The 2018/19 National Sports Meet will formally kick off in Sanniquellie, Nimba County where the usual opening ceremony will take place for the first time.

Defending Football Champions Montserrado County will begin the defense of their title against 2004 Champions Gbarpolu County in Group A's second match on the opening day.

Montserrado County who will be aiming for their third title will also face Nimba, and Sinoe Counties in Group A.

Sports Stadium in Zwedru.

Kickball Defending Champions, Grand Bassa County who were given what



Group B matches will come on between Grand Gedeh, Maryland and Grand Bassa Counties at the Albert T. White

appears to be an easy group, will begin their defense of the title against Maryland County on Tuesday, 19 December.

Clerks, Judges, Get Enhancement Training

A human rights organization Prison Fellowship of Liberia and the James A. A Pierre have engaged in building the capacity of clerk, judges and other staff of the judiciary branch of Liberia.

The initiative is part of the two entities effort to boost the Liberian Government effort to manager the various courts record effectively.

Speaking over the weekend, and during the opening of a weeklong training in Bomi county, the head of the Prison fellowship Liberia Rev. Francis Kollie said the training is intended to help Clerks, including those who are reasonable for the management of the various

He further narrated that the training of those within the justice system will ensure that the record system of the various courts is measurable in line legal process. He also disclosed that during the period when the United Nations mission in Liberia UNMIL were in the country, the record system were in order and those measures were in place as well as the rights of those within the prison.

Rev. Kollie urged the clerks and judges and those reasonable for record management in their respective courts who are undergoing the training to take the training important so that they can help in building a vital legal



courts across Liberia.

According to Rev. Kollie, Prison Fellowship of Liberia and James A. A Pierre are conducting the training in the first round of chapter project that included Montserrado, Bomi, Gbapolu and Grand Cape Mount Counties to build the capacity of Clerks, and judges within their respective counties. The human right advocate disclosed that the project is a joint efforts with the Prison Fellowship and the local government officials of the Ministry of Justice with support from the open society initiative for West Africa, the judicial Training institute and the supreme court of Liberia.

system.

Also speaking during the opening of the training was the Residence Judge of the circuit court located in Bomi County Cllr. William Sando said with such knowledge been acquire by those with in the justice system of chapter one that included Montserrado, Bomi, Gbapolu and Grand Cape Mount Counties is critical in the transformation of the legal system of Liberia. Cllr. Sando noted that with the record management the clerks will be in the position to work effectively in their respective areas of assignment.

Read The NewDawn Online Daily

Margibi County will host Lofa, Cape Mount and Grand Kru Counties at the Nancy B. Doe Sports Stadium in Kakata in Group C.

Bomi will do likewise with Bong, River Gee and Rivercess Counties in Group D.

The winners and runner-ups

from each group will qualify to the quarter final stage of the National County Sports meet which will take place at the Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Stadium in Paynesville, Montserrado County.--**Edited by Winston W. Parley**

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

ALJA proposes mandatory reporting law

-following alleged rape scandal at More Than Me Academy

In wake of the recent reported rape scandal at the More Than Me (MTM) Academy, the Association of Liberian Journalists in the Americas (ALJA) is proposing that the Liberian government legislate a law that would require individuals working with children, women and the helpless to serve as mandatory reporters.

In a release issued on Sunday, 4 November, ALJA calls on the Liberian government to institute rigorous oversight on individuals and organizations establishing non-profit organizations in the country.

ALJA wants government to ensure that individuals and organizations establishing non-profit organizations here meet the requisite qualifications and their conduct and operations are in conformity with the laws of Liberia.

ALJA says the scandal currently engulfing the MTM Academy is symptomatic of a system which does no criminal background check of individuals responsible for the care of the country's vulnerable population especially, children.

According to a release

signed by ALJA Secretary General Akai Awuletey Glidden, the Association notes that in most countries, mandatory reporting law

end to the culture of silence where adults conveniently turn the other way while children and women are being sexually abused and exploited



requires professionals including teachers, health care workers, social workers, child care providers, among others to report suspected abuse as soon as possible.

The Association expresses hope that such law will put an

by individuals they look up to for guidance and support.

Meanwhile, ALJA says the Academy's leadership including founder Katie Meyler and the entire board of directors must be held accountable and permanently replaced if, the ongoing

investigation finds them culpable in the sexual abuse of the disadvantaged girls that the charity was established to protect.

The America - based Liberian journalists organization also, recommends that all local staff of the institution who had prior knowledge of the sexual abuse and failed to alert the authorities should also, be held accountable.

A recent news documentary produced by Pro Publica in partnership with Time Magazine provided disturbing accounts of systematic rape and abuse of a number of girls at More Than Me Academy by Mr. Macintosh Johnson, a former senior employee of the school. Mr. Johnson, who is now dead, suffered from HIV. According to the documentary, as many as 30 girls were raped by Mr. Johnson and some of the girls are reported to have tested positive for HIV as well.

Following the publication of the documentary, More Than Me founder, Katie Meyler, announced that she was temporarily stepping down as Chief Executive Officer while the Chairman of the School's Board of Directors, Skip Borghese, resigned.

The School said it would

conduct its own in-depth investigation into the matter.

In the meantime, ALJA is commending the Liberian government for announcing the conduct of a full-scale investigation into the scandal and calls for the process to be transparent and the findings and recommendations be released to the public.

The Organization says the Liberian government should ensure that no organization, no matter how altruistic its motivations and goals are, is above the laws of Liberia.

According to Liberia's Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection, from January to September 2017, a total of 892 sexual and gender-based violence cases were reported, of which 506 were rape cases, and 475 involved children.

ALJA says while the country has made significant strides in enacting legislations that protect women's rights, it is urging the Liberian government to ensure that perpetrators of rape and gender-based violence against women are made to face the full weight of the law.--*Press release*

“Nine-month” juju imported from Guinea, Ivory Coast -Nimba Chief reveals

By Emmanuel Mondaye

The head of traditional chiefs and elders in Nimba County Peter Ballah confirms here that the much talked about “nine months” juju or charm to kill men who have sexual affairs with wives of other men was imported from neighboring Guinea and Ivory Coast.

Speaking with reporters in Monrovia he says Nimba County does not have such a dangerous charm that kills people in such a faction.

The traditional chief also discloses that individuals possessing such charm do not live a fabulous lifestyle, adding that they do not wear even fitting pairs of slippers.

He wants government to arrest and prosecute anyone in possession of juju to take away lives, which is criminal.

Chief Ballah cautions that if concrete steps were not taken by the government to bring the situation under control, people who want to go to Nimba for development purposes would be afraid.

He appeals to the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) to take a stance on the matter because it is causing grave embarrassment to people of the county who have no idea about such strange engagement.

According to reports from the county, men are implanting the charm into their wives so that men who have sex with them would die nine months after such relationship.

Chief Ballah explains men in possession of the charm usually deceive their wives in believing that it is intended to cure infections and sexually transmitted diseases, only to later realize it is a killer charm. -*Editing by Jonathan Browne*



MFDP launches Dashboard project

By Lewis S. Teh

The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning or MFDP launches a dashboard project to capture every governmental project at various line ministries and agencies across the country.

Giving overview of the project, Deputy Finance Minister for Economic Management, Augustus J. Flomo says it is aimed managing aid to all government direct funded projects.

“This project is going to deal with large volume of aid over and above the size of the national budget, including PSIP tracking”, Minister Flomo explains.

According to him, low visible project tracking and effective reporting highly fragmented large number of different development partners’ and sectorial government projects.

He notes that since 2012, an aid management platform for capturing aid data was provided by development gateway, and such initiative was very helpful to the government especially, the ministry, because it helps staff to understand its needs and

potential benefit of a web base system.

He adds that the MFDP and BSI are currently working together to review users needs and develop a new open source platform that will be more suited to the Liberian context which he says is being supported, by the Government of Sweden.

He says the objective of the data collection is to inform GOL decision making in the MTEF budget process by managing domestic and external flows and improving the linkages expenditure and result over medium term.

“This project will also support timely and predictable counterparts funding disbursement for the successful execution of PSIP.”

The launch, which took place on the second floor of the ministry, brought together officials of government from line ministries, and agencies including development partners from USAID, World Bank, EU, ADB, among others. -*Press Release*

Français

Disparition des 16 milliards de dollars libériens : où en est l'enquête ?

Il semble y avoir un silence assourdissant sur l'enquête qui était censée faire la lumière sur la disparition mystérieuse des 15,5 milliards de dollars libériens de la banque centrale du Libéria.

La semaine dernière, l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf a admis avoir reçu la visite de certains enquêteurs, mais elle n'a pas précisé de quel groupe il s'agit. Mme Sirleaf n'est montée sur le crédo pour nier les informations relayées par les médias qui lui prêtaient des propos selon lesquels elle aurait dit qu'elle était trop âgée pour se souvenir de quoi que ce soit à propos des 15,5 milliards de dollars prétendument portés disparus. L'ancienne présidente vient juste de fêter son 80e anniversaire de sa naissance le lundi 29 octobre.

L'ancienne Chef d'Etat a certes confirmé avoir reçu la visite des enquêteurs, mais cela n'aide toujours pas à donner ne serait-ce un briefing sur l'enquête sur le plus grand scandale financier du pays.

Le silence prolongé sur l'état actuel des enquêtes annoncées tambours battant dont le gouvernement dirigé par George Weah et les enquêteurs indépendants annoncés par l'ambassade américaine se rendent complices suscite des interrogations parmi les populations. Beaucoup pensent

même que l'affaire est en train de mourir d'une mort naturelle, à l'instar des autres enquêtes qui l'ont précédée. Afin, selon le style libérien quoi!

En tout cas les efforts déployés par nous auprès du ministre de l'Information, Eugene Nagbe, afin d'en savoir

un peu sur la situation de l'enquête en cours se sont soldés par un échec dimanche, car son téléphone portable a sonné si longtemps, mais sans réponse.

Cependant Maud Somah, directeur de communication du ministère de la Justice, a déclaré dimanche soir qu'il n'existait encore aucune information sur l'enquête en cours. Tout ce que nous savons à présent c'est que le gouvernement a levé l'interdiction de voyager initialement imposée aux hauts cadres de la Banque centrale du Libéria (CBL), à l'exception de l'ancien gouverneur de la banque, Milton Weeks. Cela est intervenu 15 jours après la visite d'une équipe d'enquêteurs indépendants au siège du parlement, le mois dernier.

L'Aide Américaine pour le développement international (USAID) avait annoncé, il y a près de quatre semaines, avoir conclu un accord avec le gouvernement libérien en vue d'engager des enquêteurs indépendants issus des firmes réputées pour faire la lumière sur la disparition présumée de l'argent du pays.

L'équipe des enquêteurs indépendants devrait mener une mission de cadrage qui, par la suite, aboutirait à une enquête à grande échelle, selon les conclusions qui découleraient de cette mission de cadrage. L'USAID et le gouvernement libérien avaient convenu que toutes les conclusions de l'équipe seraient rendues publiques.

Mais depuis lors, c'est silence radio.

Et plus grave, le public libérien n'a toujours pas été informé du statut de l'équipe des enquêteurs locaux constituée par le président Weah depuis que le ministre des Finances et de la Planification du Développement aurait déclaré qu'il n'y avait pas assez d'argent dans les caisses de l'Etat pour financer ses travaux.

Mais il semble également y avoir un autre problème. Selon des sources proches de l'équipe des enquêteurs locaux, l'équipe a également beaucoup de difficultés pour accéder aux documents qu'elle aurait demandés aux agences gouvernementales concernées. Ces agences, à en croire les sources, semblent refuser de coopérer, tout ça, après que le gouverneur actuel de la CBL, M. Nathaniel Patray, ait annoncé, le 2 octobre 2018, qu'aucun montant d'argent n'a disparu de la banque.

"La Banque centrale du Libéria tient à préciser au grand public et à ses partenaires que les 16 milliards de dollars libériens n'ont pas disparu, comme l'ont dit à tort les médias", a déclaré la CBL dans un communiqué de presse rendu public le mardi 2 octobre.

Cependant, pendant que le gouvernement se rend coupable de ce mutisme inouï sur l'enquête, les spéculations vont bon train au sein du public. D'aucuns font état de la volonté du gouvernement de dissimuler la vérité.



Togo : la facilitation guinéenne désapprouvée par Nicolas Lawson

Nicolas Lawson a exprimé dimanche sa désapprobation concernant la facilitation d'Alpha Conde dans la crise togolaise. Alors que pouvoir et coalition de l'opposition séjournent depuis samedi chez le président guinéen pour faire le point de l'évolution de la

crise, le président national du Parti du Renouveau et de la Rédemption (PRR) soutient que le Togo "mérite mieux que Conde comme facilitateur". Il appelle les protagonistes à travailler ensemble et à faire des compromis pour décriper eux-mêmes la tension dans le

pays.

Selon Nicolas Lawson, le président guinéen n'est pas un modèle pour assurer la facilitation dans la crise togolaise. Il estime qu'en Guinée les droits de l'homme ne sont pas respectés et que la population végète dans la misère ambiante à cause d'une mauvaise politique du Chef de l'Etat.

"Celui qu'on appelle aujourd'hui second facilitateur je vois ce qu'il fait chez lui. Des femmes qui sont tabassées, des jeunes gens dans la misère alors que ce pays est un scandale de richesses", a-t-il déclaré chez nos confrères de pyramide Fm.

M. Lawson ajoute que le président guinéen n'est pas un exemple en alternance, d'autant plus qu'il est venu au pouvoir à 70 ans et ne manifeste aucune envie d'y quitter. Nicolas Lawson accuse la CEDEAO d'avoir choisi deux facilitateurs dans la crise togolaise. Pour lui, seul Nana Akufo-Addo est intègre pour jouer ce rôle.



Articles traduits

Par Valéry G. Guhéna

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"Si on choisit un ghanéen Akufo-Addo, oui. Parce qu'il n'acceptera pas que les togolais viennent se réfugier au Ghana pour des problèmes politiques. Mais quel est le cas du guinéen qui n'arrive pas à gérer son pays, il n'arrive pas à maintenir la paix et à respecter les règles étatiques", a dézingué l'ancien candidat à la présidentielle.

Pour le président national du PRR, seuls les togolais peuvent régler leurs problèmes puisqu'ils en sont au coeur. Il invite à cet effet, la classe politique à se départir du sectarisme, l'intolérance et de l'outrecuidance.

"Les gens doivent comprendre qu'ils ne peuvent pas se dire, moi je suis d'UNIR, moi je suis de l'ANC donc je moi suis opposant, je ne peux pas faire travailler avec celui-ci ou celle-ci. L'esprit partisan est nocif et nuisible pour une nation" a-t-il conseillé.

Par ailleurs, il rappelle que si le problème politique togolais n'est toujours pas résolu malgré le CPDC rénové et le projet de loi du gouvernement relative à la limitation de mandats envoyé à l'assemblée nationale en septembre 2017, c'est parce que les deux camps en face ont refusé des compromis.

Français

Editorial

Gaspiller 100 000 USD en quelques heures a quoi à voir avec le programme pour les pauvres ?

Les Libériens ont toujours du mal à comprendre comment dépenser la bagatelle 100 000 USD pour soi-disant une retraite parlementaire qui ne dure que quelques heures dans un hôtel luxueux peut contribuer au programme du gouvernement dit favorable aux pauvres.

C'est hélas exactement ce que les membres de la Chambre des représentants de la 54ème législature libérienne ont fait il y a un mois à Monrovia sous le prétexte de se réconcilier, après s'être insultés à flot par médias interposés. Ils ont dépensé cette somme d'argent pour se divertir de 8h00 à 17h00 et sont sortis de cette rencontre avec plus de désaccords sur à peu près tout qu'auparavant.

Certains ont boycotté la prétendue retraite, tandis que d'autres ont affirmé n'avoir pas reçu leur part, c'est-à-dire 1 000 USD, à la fin de la journée. Ils ont fait des dépenses si énormes au moment où l'économie libérienne était en berne, où l'hyperinflation, la flambée des prix des denrées alimentaires et des produits de base et la dépréciation rapide du dollar libérien, le tout couronné par l'amenuisement du pouvoir d'achat des populations, se disputaient la première place en termes de gravité.

La retraite, dit-on, était une occasion pour les dirigeants de la Chambre des Représentants dirigée par son Président Bhofal Chambers et les membres de réparer les torts qu'ils se sont causés par leurs déclarations unilatérales et parfois contradictoires sur la disparition présumée des milliards de dollars libériens.

Cependant, nous pensons que cela ne peut en aucun cas justifier des dépenses aussi énormes en moins d'une seule journée en ces temps de conjoncture économique sans précédent. Nos législateurs, en particulier les dirigeants de la Chambre des représentants, devraient comprendre que, sur le plan économique, le pays traverse un très mauvais temps.

Le gouvernement a si désespérément besoin d'argent qu'il quémante des prêts ici et là afin de procéder à la mise en œuvre des projets de développement des infrastructures routières et autres tant dans la capitale qu'à l'intérieur du pays, tandis que le mystère entourant la disparition présumée des 16 milliards de dollars libériens n'a pas encore été résolu.

A quoi sert-il de planifier et de dépenser tant d'argent sur une retraite de quelques heures qui n'a aucun impact positif sur le bien-être social. Au fait, dans quel intérêt la retraite a-t-elle eu lieu, si ce n'est dans l'intérêt des législateurs eux-mêmes ?

Ont-ils besoin d'interrompre leurs vacances annuelles pour se réunir dans un hôtel et dépenser 100 000 USD pendant que les citoyens à travers le pays continuent de sombrer dans une pauvreté extrême ? Nous disons absolument non !

C'est une insensibilité absolue à l'égard du sort des personnes qu'ils prétendent représenter au sein du premier pouvoir de l'Etat. Comment les membres de cet auguste organe peuvent prétendre souscrire au programme du gouvernement en faveur des pauvres et procéder à de telles dépenses inutiles ?

Nous demandons au Président Bohfal Chambers et à l'ensemble des dirigeants qui siègent à Capitol Hill de fournir une justification raisonnable du gaspillage de l'argent des contribuables en si peu de temps sur des choses qui ne rapporteront rien à la Patrie.

COMMENTAIRE

Par J. Bradford DeLong

La faute aux économistes ?

BERKELEY - Alors que nous assistons aujourd'hui à ce qui ressemble à la baisse historique de l'Occident, cela vaut la peine de se demander quel rôle ont pu jouer les économistes dans les désastres de la dernière décennie.

A partir de la fin de la Seconde Guerre mondiale jusqu'en 2007, les dirigeants politiques occidentaux se sont au moins comportés comme s'ils cherchaient à réaliser le plein emploi, la stabilité des prix, une distribution suffisamment équitable des revenus et de la richesse, ainsi qu'un ordre international ouvert dans lequel tous les pays bénéficieraient du commerce et de la finance. Il est vrai que ces objectifs ont toujours été en tension, de sorte que nous avons parfois mis les incitations en faveur de la croissance avant l'égalité des revenus, et l'ouverture avant les intérêts de travailleurs ou d'industries spécifiques. Néanmoins, l'orientation générale des politiques a toujours été la recherche des quatre objectifs.

Puis est arrivée 2008, l'année où tout a changé. L'objectif du plein emploi est sorti du radar des dirigeants occidentaux, même s'il n'y avait ni menace d'inflation, ni avantages supplémentaires à tirer d'une plus grande ouverture. De même, l'idée de créer un ordre international qui bénéficie à tout le monde a été promptement abandonnée. Les deux objectifs ont été sacrifiés dans l'intérêt de restaurer la fortune des super riches, peut-être dans un lointain espoir que la richesse « ruisselle » un jour vers le reste de l'économie.

Au niveau macro, l'histoire de la décennie post-2008 est presque toujours comprise comme un échec de l'analyse et de la communication économiques. Nous, les économistes, ne serions pas parvenus à expliquer aux politiciens et aux bureaucrates ce qui devait être fait, parce que nous n'aurions pas analysé la situation de manière complète et adéquate en temps réel.

Certains économistes, comme Carmen M. Reinhart et Kenneth Rogoff de l'Université Harvard, ont vu les dangers de la crise financière, mais ont par la suite grandement exagéré les risques de dépenses publiques en vue de stimuler l'emploi. D'autres, comme moi, ont compris que les politiques monétaires expansionnistes ne seraient pas suffisantes; mais, parce que nous regardions les déséquilibres mondiaux dans le mauvais sens, nous avons raté la source de risque principale - la mauvaise régulation financière des États-Unis.

D'autres encore, comme le président de la Réserve fédérale américaine de l'époque, Ben Bernanke, ont compris l'importance de maintenir les taux d'intérêt bas, mais ont surestimé l'efficacité des instruments de politique monétaire supplémentaires comme l'assouplissement quantitatif. La morale de l'histoire est que, si seulement nous, les économistes, avions parlé plus tôt, nous aurions raison et nous aurions reconnu là où nous avions tort, la situation aujourd'hui serait beaucoup meilleure.

L'historien de l'Université Columbia Adam Tooze a peu d'égards pour ce récit. Dans sa nouvelle histoire de l'ère post-2007, *Crashed: How a Decade of Financial Crises Changed the World*, il montre que l'histoire économique des dix dernières années a été davantage façonnée par des courants historiques profonds que par des erreurs d'analyse et de communication de technocrates.

Plus précisément, durant les années précédant la crise, la déréglementation financière et les réductions d'impôts pour les riches avaient générés

des niveaux de plus en plus élevés de déficit et de dette publics, tout en continuant à accroître les inégalités. Pire encore, l'administration de George W. Bush a décidé de mener une guerre malavisée contre l'Irak, qui a eu pour conséquence concrète de dilapider la crédibilité de l'Amérique pour diriger l'Atlantique Nord au cours des années de crise.

C'est également à cette époque que le Parti républicain a commencé à souffrir d'une dépression nerveuse. Comme si le manque de qualifications de Bush et le bellicisme de l'ancien vice-président de Dick Cheney ne suffisaient pas, le parti a redoublé de cynisme. En 2008, les Républicains se sont ralliés à la colistière de feu le sénateur John McCain, Sarah Palin, une démagogue rustique encore moins adaptée à la fonction que Bush ou Cheney; puis, en 2010, le parti a été accaparé par le Tea Party populiste.

Après le krach de 2008 et ce qu'on a appelé la Grande Récession, plusieurs années de faible croissance ont jeté les bases d'un bouleversement politique en 2016. Alors que les Républicains se ralliaient autour d'une star de télé-réalité brutale et raciste, beaucoup de Démocrates se pâmaient d'admiration devant un sénateur autoproclamé socialiste sans presque aucune réalisation législative à son actif. « Ce dénouement », écrit Tooze, « aurait pu paraître un peu caricatural, » comme si la vie imitait la série HBO « Veep ».

Bien sûr, nous n'avons encore parlé d'un personnage clé. Entre la crise financière de 2008 et la crise politique de 2016 s'est déroulée la présidence de Barack Obama. En 2004, alors qu'il était encore une étoile montante au Sénat, Obama avait mis en garde qu'un échec à construire une « Amérique pourpre », subvenant aux besoins des classes ouvrières et moyennes, conduirait à une hostilité aux immigrants et une rupture politique.

Pourtant, après le crash, l'administration Obama a été peu encline à utiliser le remède que l'ancien président Franklin D. Roosevelt avait prescrit pour traiter des problèmes d'une telle ampleur. « Le pays a besoin ... d'expérimentation ambitieuse et persistante », avait déclaré Roosevelt en 1932, au cœur de la Grande Dépression. « Il est logique de choisir une méthode et de l'essayer; en cas d'échec, de l'admettre franchement et d'essayer autre chose. Mais surtout, d'essayer quelque chose ».

Le fait qu'Obama n'ait pas pris de mesures énergiques, alors qu'il en avait précédemment reconnu la nécessité, est une illustration de l'argument central de Tooze. Les économistes professionnels ne sont pas parvenus à convaincre les personnes au pouvoir de ce qui devait être fait, parce que les détenteurs du pouvoir fonctionnaient dans un contexte de rupture politique et avaient perdu la crédibilité américaine. Etant donné que l'élaboration des politiques avait été soumise pendant des années à l'influence néfaste d'une ploutocratie croissante, les économistes appelant à « une expérimentation ambitieuse et persistante » nageaient à contre-courant - même si les théories économiques justifiaient précisément ce type d'action.

Néanmoins, je ne trouve pas que les arguments de Tooze soient aussi forts que ce qu'il pense qu'ils ne sont. Les économistes, ainsi que nos théories, ont réellement changé quelque chose. À l'exception de la Grèce, les économies avancées n'ont connu rien de similaire à une répétition de la Grande Dépression, ce qui était une possibilité très réelle au pire de la crise. Si nous avions été plus intelligents, mieux organisés, moins divisés et distraits par une série de diversions, nous aurions pu avoir un impact encore plus important. Mais cela ne signifie pas que nous n'avons fait aucune différence.

ARTICLES

Africa Hopes For Russia's Investment

By Kester Kenn Klomegah

For the past two decades, Southern African leaders have been looking for external support and genuine foreign investment in infrastructure, agriculture and industry. Besides these economic spheres, the leaders plan to boost significantly business ties with foreign partners and seek effective ways to strengthen exports on foreign markets.

In this regard, Southern African countries welcome investors from all over the world. Russia has a long history of bilateral engagements with the Southern African countries, which constitute the Southern African Development Community.

The Memorandum of Understanding renewed in October 2018 envisages strengthening ties in a broad range of fields and it further shows that SADC remains comparatively as one of Russia's key regional partners in Africa.

According to official documents, Russian Foreign Ministry [MFA] first signed a Memorandum on Cooperation with Southern African countries on September 1, 2003 during an indepth meeting held between then Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and SADC Executive Secretary Prega Ramsamy.

That agreement primarily aimed at strengthening the diplomatic relations and coordination between the Russian Federation and SADC. The document outlined the most promising areas, as well as the forms and methods of mutually beneficial cooperation in the trade-and-economic and scientific-and-technical areas, transport and communications, energy and mineral resource development, public health, education and culture.

It sets out the mutual desire of Russia and the SADC member countries to step up the many-sided ties between the parties, including the importance of intensifying political contacts at various levels. Both sides as a top priority task emphasized in the document the necessity of making the maximum use of the existing considerable potential.

Since 2003, Russia has had a staggering economic profile in the African region. Indeed, 15 years have elapsed and not much significant have been achieved due to multiple factors, highly experienced experts say in separate interviews as reported here.

Stergomena Lawrence Tax, Executive Secretary of SADC, said "Russia and Africa have been partners for many years, and expressed a desire to achieve a new level in the relationship."

According to SADC Executive Secretary, Russia has not been visible in the region as compared to China, India or Brazil. But, for past few years, it is encouraging that Russia has made enthusiastic efforts towards repositioning itself to be a major partner with Southern Africa.

Stergomena Lawrence Tax, a Tanzanian by birth and educated in Japan, was appointed in September 2013 at the 33rd Summit of the Heads of State and Government in Lilongwe, Malawi. She is the first woman to hold the position in the history of the regional bloc, SADC.

Rex Essenowo, Member of the Board of Trustees of Nigerians in Diaspora Europe [NIDO] and Senior Executive of Asian Africa Trade, a Moscow based business lobbying NGO, pointed to Russia's tremendous growing interest in the Southern African region. Similarly, he first welcomed the new development that the agreements have been renewed after 15 years, but this time, there should be some level of commitment - not just signing the Memorandum of Cooperation.

He noted that the key issue emerging from many policy experts is a fresh call on Russian Government to seriously review and change some of its policy approach currently implemented in Africa. The experts called for more commitment towards development-oriented policies that would help the continent overcome its development problems.

Essenowo, however, expressed optimism that "if Russia intensifies efforts in understanding the African



development needs, there could be smooth flow of effective operations. It is important to note that financial commitments, investment guarantees or some sort of financial stimulus plan are needed to improve trade and investment programmes, so as to make policies more effective than mere declaration of interests."

"In addition, African financial banks and related economic institutions must get up to the task. There is nothing much to talk about without adequate funding and effective management of our resources. We should expect a boost in trade balance between Russia and the SADC region, even with other key regional blocs like, East and West Africa," the Trade Expert concluded.

Professor Gerrit Olivier from the Department of Political Science, University of Pretoria in South Africa, noted that Russian influence in Africa, despite efforts towards resuscitation, remains marginal.

"What seems to irk Russians, in particular, is that very few initiatives go beyond the symbolism, pomp and circumstance of high level opening moves. It is still not clear how Southern Africa sees Russia's willingness [and intention] to step up its role in Africa, especially with China becoming more visible and assertive on the continent," he questioned.

While, given its global status, it ought to be active in Africa as Western Europe, the European Union, the United States and China are, it is all but absent, playing a negligible role, Olivier added.

"At present diplomacy dominates its approach: plethora of agreements have been signed with Southern Africa and various other countries in Africa, official visits from Moscow proliferate apace, but the outcomes remain hardly discernible," Olivier, who previously served as South African Ambassador to the Russian Federation, wrote in an email comment from Pretoria, South Africa.

Alexandra Arkhangelskaya, a Senior Researcher at the Institute of African Studies and a Senior Lecturer at the Moscow High School of Economics said that Russia and Africa needed each other - "Russia is a vast market not only for African minerals, but for various other goods and products produced by African countries."

Currently, the signs for Russian-African relations are impressive - declarations of intentions have been made, important bilateral agreements signed - now it remains to be seen how these intentions and agreements would be implemented in practice, she added.

Dr. Martyn Davies, the Chief Executive Officer of the South African-based Frontier Advisory [Pty], suggested to Russian officials the adoption of a model by China to readily fund its companies interested in investing in Africa. He explained that the Chinese model of financing various infrastructure and construction projects in Africa had enhanced investments by the Asian country into the continent. China, the world's second-biggest economy after the United States, is currently Africa's largest trading partner.

There are an estimated 1500 Chinese corporations doing business in Africa, most of which are private companies

investing in the infrastructure, industry, agriculture, energy and banking sectors.

Davies said the main factor that had assisted this speedy market engagement between Africa and China was that Russian banks had "de-risked" the projects in Africa from a financial perspective, finally explained that "Russia's banking sector operates quite differently."

Kelvin Dewey Stubborn, South African based Senior Analyst on BRICS and African policy, observes that Southern African region presents attractive growth opportunities for both foreign private and public investment.

"It seems Russia has to change its approach, move forward to deliver on overarching pledges and promises, [long-overdue step] in order to win the hearts of Africans. Undoubtedly, African leaders are not looking for Soviet-era level of relationships."

He maintains that Russia is determined to support African peace and security initiatives, to end conflicts on the continent of Africa but how much its [Russia's] overall economic footprint and influence will contribute to improving stability is less certain. As already known, Russia has shown interest in the settlement of various conflicts in Africa, primarily in countries such as South Sudan and the Central African Republic, and the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa.

Stubborn explained the hidden public interpretation that African politicians have become political tourists, passionately going forth and back for diplomatic consultations with little impact on the economic development in Africa. Russia has been engaging with African political elite for many years and this has to reflect on the economy.

According to him, "the world is witnessing how Western, European, Asian and the Gulf states are using economic diplomacy and effectively addressing development needs under the principle of mutual respect, equal cooperation, and mutual benefit for Africa. It's completely a new era that requires comprehensive system of strategies, get engaged or get disengaged - a totally different reality, a new paradigm shift on the African landscape."

For many policy practitioners such as these mentioned here in this article, Russia's engagement efforts should necessarily include African experts, civil society representatives and the media - some aspects of public diplomacy as its aim is to appeal and attract partners rather than coerce them into a relationship in one form or the other. Russians have to find ways while dealing with investing into Africa's future.

Foreign Affairs Minister Sergey Lavrov has acknowledged that Russia's economic cooperation is not as far advanced as political ties but would do well to raise trade and economic ties to a high level of political cooperation by promoting joint activity in order to make broader use of the huge potential of Russian-African trade and investment cooperation.

On the other hand, Lavrov indicated that "Russia is not only committed to long-term cooperation but also ready for large-scale investments in the African markets with account of possible risks and high competition. Equally important is African businesspeople who are looking to work on the Russian market."

Russia ultimately intends to regain its leading position and influence in Africa. Quite recently, among the initiatives that were designed to strengthen overall ties between Russia and Africa, Lavrov informed that "Russia-Africa forum will be held at the parliamentary level in the near future, followed by a Russia-Africa business forum. All of that will serve as important steps for laying the way to a full-blown Russia-Africa summit, as discussed at the meeting of the BRICS member countries with their African partners in Johannesburg in July."

The Southern African region is the integrated market resulting from a combined population of approximately 327 million people, and a collective GDP of US\$ 600 billion [2016], which is supported by generally favorable weather conditions in most parts of the region.

*Kester Kenn Klomegah writes frequently about Russia, Africa and BRICS.

Web of conspiracy

By Winston W. Parley

River Gee County Senator Comany Wesseh is warning of the danger of illegally impeaching Associate Justice Kabineh M. Ja'neh, saying it has the propensity to throw Liberia into chaos when those expressing disagreement react with "unconstitutional" actions.

"This war in Liberia, if you listened to all the different factions, they said that something was done unconstitutionally. When Mr. Doe made his coup d'etate, he said, they said misuse of power, this that, corruption, and all of that and people were killed," Sen. Wesseh recalled during a live talk show at OK FM in Monrovia Monday, 5 November.

According to him, when you do things that are wrong, there are other people who express their disagreement by fighting back on it "unconstitutionally."

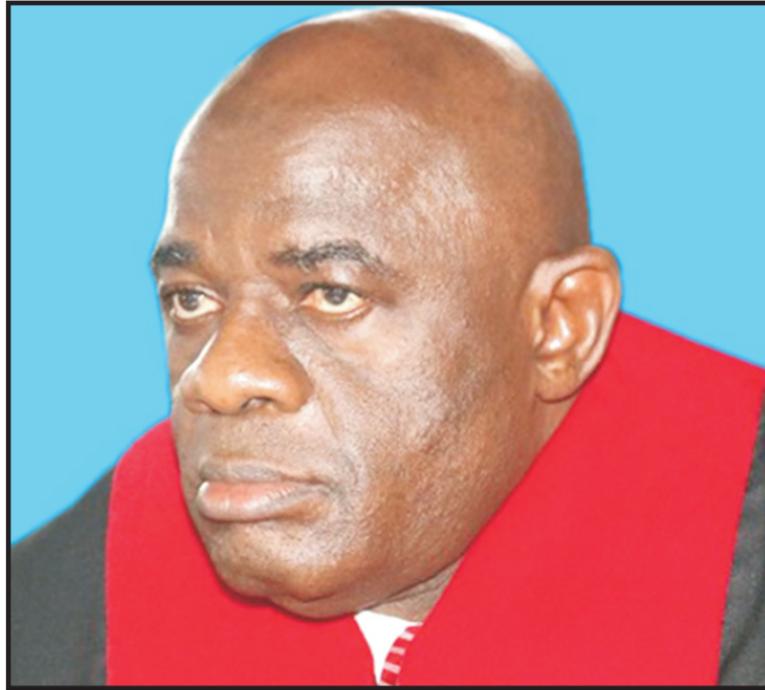
Sen. Wesseh recalls that "This was the same advice that we were giving to president [Samuel] Doe ... and Doe

thought people hated him."

"When I see something that will lead us into trouble I know it," he says, adding that the danger in all of this is that

it has the potential to throw our country into chaos, into more confusion," he emphasizes.

In response to speculations



when "we" begin [to violate] the Constitution, you don't know how far it will go.

"It's not just that it is wrong, you know, it is also that

that President George Manneh Weah might be behind Justice Ja'neh's impeachment, Sen. Wesseh says he does not believe so because he hasn't

heard President Weah demanding Ja'neh's impeachment.

Instead, Sen. Wesseh challenges lawmakers that are demanding Justice Ja'neh's impeachment to bear responsibility for their actions.

He says his colleagues should know that the same way this impeachment seeks to hang Justice Ja'neh, it will be the same way that it "will hang the president and it will hang the vice president," the chief justice, associate justices and judges of lower courts.

Sen. Wesseh says "as we speak," there is no impeachment procedure set by the Legislature (House of Representatives and Senate combined); and everything that was done in the House of Representatives was not in conformity with the law.

"There is no procedure as we speak. Everything that was done in the lower House was not in conformity with Article 43. So we don't have a procedure," Sen Wesseh notes.

He warns that "we are on an unconstitutional path," adding: "that is why it will not work."

According to Sen. Wesseh, even if all the Senators are voting and one Senator decides that the Supreme Court should give the definition of Legislature, the simple thing is for the Supreme Court to interpret what Article 29 is saying.

In Article 29, the Constitution says the legislative power of the Republic shall be vested in the Legislature of Liberia which shall consist of two separate houses: a Senate and a House of Representatives, both of which must pass on all legislation.

Article 43 of the Constitution partly says "The Legislature shall prescribe the procedure for impeachment proceedings which shall be in conformity with the requirements of due process of

law."

It says the House of Representatives is vested with the power to prepare a bill of impeachment while impeachment power is solely vested in the Senate.

"But that's the point that I'm making, I'm saying that we are not respecting the Constitution," Sen. Wesseh says further in response to a question posed by his host on OK FM as to how kind the lawmakers are proceeding when they have no rules for impeachment.

As per Sen. Wesseh's assessment of the unfolding events here, it seems that some of his colleagues have forgotten that impeachment procedures are not made for individuals.

But Sen. Wesseh believes that those that are seeking Ja'neh's impeachment will be shocked because they will not get the two-thirds majority they need.

In reaction, ruling party CDC lawmaker and one of the leading masterminds of the Ja'neh impeachment campaign, Rep. Moses Acarus Gray says it's a sign of defeat if you hear a veteran politician says it will end at the Supreme Court.

In his thought, Sen. Wesseh's suggestions of seeking Court interpretation means that his fight has already been defeated on legislative floor.

Rep. Gray and another CDC Rep. Thomas Fallah have been leading the campaign to impeach Ja'neh over claims of corruption, proved misconduct and other charges.

The House has drafted, passed and forwarded to the Senate, an impeachment bill against Justice Ja'neh, in defiance to a Supreme Court stay order that followed Ja'neh's petition for a writ of prohibition.

Senate risks low votes

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Information coming from the corridors of the Liberian Senate indicates members of the senate, who are opting for the impeachment of embattled Associate Justice Kabineh Ja'neh may not generate the needed numerical strength to effect impeachment, as the Senate plenary seems divided on the matters.

A very reliable source in the senate indicates that senators are hugely divided on political party lines with senators from the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change grouping themselves to strongly campaign for Justice Ja'neh's impeachment.

On the other hand, senators from the opposition Liberty Party, including its political leader, Grand Bassa County Senator Nyonblee Karnga Lawrence, LP national Chairman Steve Zargo, Grand Bassa County Senator Jonathan Kaipee along with Senators Daniel Naatehn (Unity Party) and Armah Jallah (National Patriotic Party) of Gbarpolu, Dr. Henrique Flomo Tokpa of Bong, Margibi Oscar Cooper, Nimba Senators Prince Yormie Johnson and Thomas Grupee, and River Gee Senator Conmany Wesseh (Unity Party) appear unwavering in defending Ja'neh. The two senators from Grand Gedeh Alphonso Gaye and Marshall

Dennis seem undecided on the impeachment battle.

Senators against the impeachment argue the proceedings are just not timely, but illegal. They want government and their colleagues in the senate fronting for the impeachment to instead, prioritize resolving the missing billions issue.

Senators championing the campaign include Pro-Tempore Albert Chie, Unity Party Chairman emeritus Varney Sherman, Henry Yallah of Bong County, Saah Joseph of CDC, Dr. Peter Coleman of Grand Kru, Dallas Gueh and Francis Paye of Rivercess, J. Gble-bo Brown of Maryland, and Morris Saytumah and Sando Johnson of Bomi County, respectively.

Senators Geraldine Doe Sheriff of Montserrado County and Edward Degoseh of Grand Cape Mount County are on sick beds, indicating they may not participate in the process.

According to Rule 63 section 24 of the Senate Standing Rule, two-thirds of the senate membership shall vote to effect an impeachment.

Rule 63, Section 24 states: On the final question whether, the impeachment is sustained, the yeas and nays shall be taken on each article of impeachment separately; and if the impeachment shall not upon any of the articles presented, be sustained by the votes of two-thirds of the members present, a judgment of acquittal shall be entered;

but if the person accused in such articles of impeachment shall be convicted upon any of said articles by the vote of two-thirds of the members present, the Senate shall

proceed to pronounce judgment. The certified copy of such judgment shall be deposited in the Office of the Secretary of the Senate.



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CICO ready for ELWA Junction-Parker Paint Road



Chongqing International Construction Corporation or CICO, a Chinese engineering and construction company which successfully completed the Red Light to Gbarnga Road Project is now set to implement another key road project in Liberia.

Public Works Minister, Mabusu Vlah Nyenpan, says the existing and original contract, Red Light-15-Gate-Gbarnga

route, which commenced in January 2012, will end in September 2023, covering a length of 176 kilometers within eleven years and eight months period.

An official of the Ministry of Public Works explains that a dual four lane carriageway with footways both sides and street lights from ELWA Junction to Parker Paint Road is expected to be constructed, while a single road two lane

carriageway measuring 10.5 meters including hard shoulders on either side will be constructed also.

President George Manneh Weah in July this year led an array of government officials and international partners at official ground breaking ceremonies for the rehabilitation of the Coca Cola Factory to ELWA Junction Road from two lanes to four lane.

President Weah said he was particularly grateful to the international community for reassuring support to the government development agenda.

The President noted that reassurance signifies that the international community is more committed to helping Liberia achieve its development goals.

Accordingly, the project will be completed within two years at an estimated cost of US\$ 10.5 Million and is being implemented by the Infrastructure Implementation Unit (IIU) at the Ministry of Public Works.

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Ts & Cs apply

Messi named in squad for Inter clash

Barcelona have included Lionel Messi in their squad for Tuesday night's Champions League clash at Inter Milan.

The Argentine has been on the sidelines since fracturing his right arm in the 4-2 victory over Sevilla on October 20.

Messi, 30, has subsequently missed four matches, including last

week's 5-1 Clasico thrashing of Real Madrid.

Ernesto Valverde's side have won all four games without the Argentine and defeated Rayo Vallecano 3-2 on Saturday night, with Luis Suarez scoring twice.

Now Messi could return at San Siro, after being included in a 22-man squad.

However, Barcelona have conceded that the five-time Ballon d'Or winner will travel

"without [the] medical all-clear".

Messi returned to training this week and Ernesto Valverde admitted after the win over Rayo that he could return against Inter.

"I think we all play better with Messi in the side," Valverde told reporters. "We will see how he is in training [on Sunday] with regards to the Inter game this week."



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