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The New Dawn

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TRULY INDEPENDENT

#Revoke rock and sand mining licenses from Chinese and Lebanese#

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Most useless branch of gov't

-Muslim cleric describes Legislature

P11



Chief Imam Sheikh Ali Krayee



Continental News

Madagascar elections: Rivals vie for presidency

People in Madagascar are voting in a presidential election that sees the incumbent president battling against two of his predecessors.

There are 36 candidates in all to lead the Indian Ocean island, which in recent years has been hit by periods of political instability.

In May, the army threatened to take over amid huge street protests.

The main candidates promised to boost the economy in a country where 80% of the population live in poverty.

The front-runners have criss-crossed the nation to hold huge rallies.

President Hery Rajaonarimampianina and his two main rivals, former Presidents Marc Ravalomanana and Andry Rajoelina, are all wealthy men, fuelling claims by civil society groups that they used their time in office to enrich themselves.

Something which they all deny.

But they are believed to

have spent large amounts of money on their campaigns, as the electoral law sets a very high spending limit, reports BBC Monitoring.

There are more than nine million registered voters out of a population of nearly 25

million people.

In order to win in the first round of voting a candidate needs more than 50% of the votes cast. Otherwise the top two candidates go through to a second round on 19 December.

There have been reports of

long queues of voters and the European Union observer team says that no anomalies have been detected so far, Reuters news agency says.

A history of instability

At the end of 2001, self-made millionaire Mr Ravalomanana won a disputed poll, which led to a seven-month crisis, with the defeated candidate Didier Ratsiraka refusing to step down.

In 2009, after weeks of protests, media mogul Mr

Rajoelina, ousted Mr Ravalomanana in a power grab that was backed by the army.

This year, President Rajaonarimampianina faced protests over an electoral law that was said to favour him.

The issue sparked protests that quickly escalated to political paralysis which ended in a compromise after the military threatened a takeover.

A unity government took over to pave way for the elections.-BBC



Image copyrightREUTERS/AFP
caption Marc Ravalomanana (left) Hery Rajaonarimampianina (centre) and Andry Rajoelina are the three front-runners

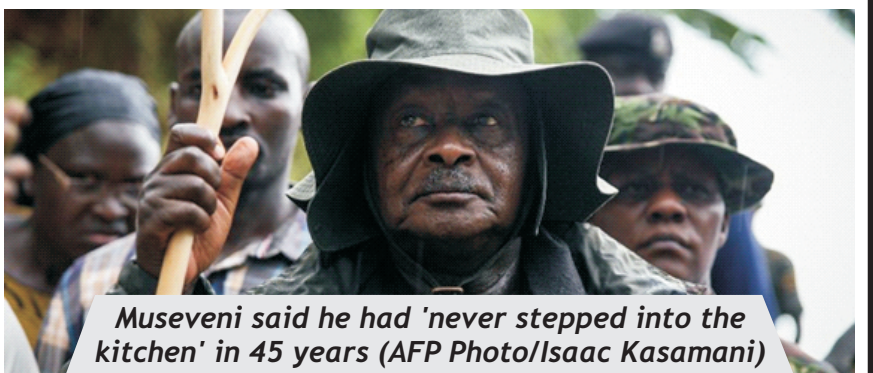
Uganda's Museveni under fire for saying men shouldn't cook

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni came under fire Monday for saying he had not stepped into the kitchen since he got married, and that it was not a man's role to cook.

"The head of the home never goes into the kitchen. It is now 45 years with Mama Janet, I have never stepped into the kitchen. That is how it should be," he said on Sunday in a

"When cooking, cleaning and doing other domestic chores are left to women, they are denied an equal chance to raise incomes or to be politically active."

Beatrice Alaso from the opposition Forum For Democratic Change told AFP: "Museveni has revealed to the world what he has always believed in: that women can never be the same as their male



Museveni said he had 'never stepped into the kitchen' in 45 years (AFP Photo/Isaac Kasamani)

statement, as an example of how politicians and civil servants should stick to proscribed roles.

Oxfam's International Executive Director, Winnie Byanyima, hit back at the 74-year-old president on Twitter, saying she was "disappointed".

"Cooking isn't a woman's job. It's a life skill. All people - men and women should cook," she wrote.

counterparts."

Online news website Watchdog Uganda however defended Museveni's comments as consistent with the country's culture which sees men cooking as "taboo", saying some ethnic groups in the country have a word referring to men who cook as a "transvestite or a man dressing and behaving like a woman.-AFP

Cameroon kidnap: Bamenda students freed

Students kidnapped from a boarding school in Cameroon's North-West region have been freed, officials say.

The 78 students and three others were seized early on Sunday in the region's capital, Bamenda.

A driver was also released, but the school's principal and a teacher are still being held.

The government and separatists in the English-speaking region have been accusing each other of being behind the kidnapping.

A video purportedly showing some of the kidnapped students from Bamenda's Presbyterian Secondary School has been shared online, sparking outrage.

An Anglophone separatist movement took up arms last year to demand independence for the North-West and South-West regions - the two English-speaking regions in a country where French is the most widely spoken official language.

It is unclear who kidnapped the students and why they did so, but authorities say the freed students are being questioned before being reunited with their parents.

How were the children freed?

According to the Presbyterian Church of Cameroon, the students were abandoned in one of their buildings in the town of Bafut, about 24km (15 miles) from Bamenda.

"The release was done peacefully... by unidentified gunmen. They [students] were brought into the church premises," Rev Fonki Samuel, the Presbyterian moderator of the Bamenda school, told the BBC's Newsday programme about the release.

"The first information we

got from them [kidnappers] is their call and they were telling us they intended to release the children yesterday [Tuesday] morning... but unfortunately it rained so heavily that could not happen.

"So [on] the evening of yesterday [Tuesday], surprisingly and by God's grace, the children were brought back to us."

Rev Samuel told the BBC that 78 students, not 79 as

earlier reported, had been released.

The Presbyterian Church also revealed that Sunday's kidnapping was the second such case at the same school in less than a week.

In the earlier 31 October incident, 11 boys were taken and then released. It is unclear who the kidnappers were.

The army had been deployed to try and find the children.-BBC



Image copyright: The pupils were taken from the Presbyterian Secondary School in Bamenda

EDITORIAL

Liberia doesn't need referendum for war crimes tribunal

LIBERIA'S MINISTER OF Foreign Affairs Milton Gbehzongar Findley thinks a referendum is necessary in determining whether or not, the country should establish a war crimes tribunal to prosecute former warlords and ex-fighters who committed heinous crimes and crimes against humanity during the Liberian Civil War. But we respectfully differ with the Minister that Liberians should go to referendum to bring war and economic criminals to book.

MINISTER FINDLEY REPORTEDLY said on a local radio talk show in Monrovia that a referendum is the most likely option to deciding on establishing any war crimes court for Liberia.

"I UNDERSTAND THAT there are Liberians who want the war crimes court but also what are the results from the majority of the people of the country? Do we go to a referendum for this? Let's go to a referendum. If people are not happy then let's advocate for a referendum for the Liberian people to decide the way forward on this matter", Findley said on a recent talk show.

HIS COMMENT SEEMS to suggest Liberians first need to vote on adhering to international criminal law that has no status of limitation. In other words, whether majority of Liberians are supportive or against prosecution of people who allegedly committed heinous crimes and crimes against humanity such as massacres and other mass killings that occurred here, they have no choice because it's beyond the jurisdiction of Liberia.

WE MUST CONFORM as a member of the comity of nations, for how could we have, as a nation, turned to the international community for help after butchering one another for more than a decade and now want to brush aside sincere effort by the very international community to help us keep impunity in check? It is just not understandable, but highly deceitful to want to portray such posture.

LEST WE FORGET, it took huge resources and human sacrifice of the international community to ensure cessation of hostilities, disarmament of belligerent armed factions, and conduct of free, fair democratic elections to restore Liberia as member of the comity of nations and the corresponding peace we enjoy today. And a key foundation for genuine and sustainable peace in any nation is justice, which we shouldn't ignore.

THIS IS WHY U.S. Congressman Representative Don Donovan terms Foreign Minister Findley's proposition as not only vague, but falls short of a genuine and robust commitment to establishing a war crimes tribunal for Liberia.

IN A RECENT letter to U.S. Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, as published in Monrovia, Congressman Donovan reminds that from 1991 to 2002, civil war devastated both Liberia and Sierra Leone, and the violence took the lives of over 200,000 people, displaced over 1,000,000 persons and saw horrific cases of murder, amputation, mass rape, and other human rights abuses, saying, "The heinous crimes that occurred during this time are unspeakable, yet many of the perpetrators hold positions in Liberia's government.

SPECIFICALLY, HE POINTS that with the presence of Senator Prince Y. Johnson and others, the world is watching Liberia's slowly creep backwards towards the murderous mayhem of its civil war era, and crave intervention of the U.S. Department of Defense and Department of State to encourage Monrovia to establish a war crimes tribunal for the country.

WE AGREED WITH Representative Donovan that the last thing the rest of the world, wants to see in Liberia is the cycle of violence start yet again. He fears that is exactly what would happen should the perpetrators of vicious crimes be allowed to escape responsibility, as Liberia's Foreign Minister Milton Gbehzongar Findley seems to be insinuating by calling for a referendum to establish a war crime tribunal.

COMMENTARY

By Joseph S. Nye

The Cooperative Rivalry of US-China Relations

The US and China have entered a new phase in their relationship, but talk of a new cold war is misleading. The US retains the upper hand strategically, and, on a growing number of issues, neither side can afford to go it alone.

CAMBRIDGE - On a visit to Beijing in October, I was often asked whether US Vice President Mike Pence's recent harsh criticism of China marked the declaration of a new cold war. I replied that the United States and China have entered a new phase in their relationship, but that the cold war metaphor is misleading.

During the Cold War, the US and the Soviet Union targeted tens of thousands of nuclear weapons at each other and had virtually no trade or cultural ties. By contrast, China has a more limited nuclear force, annual Sino-American trade totals a half-trillion dollars, and more than 350,000 Chinese students and three million tourists are in the US each year. A better description of today's bilateral relationship is "cooperative rivalry."

Since the end of World War II, US-China relations have gone through three phases that lasted roughly two decades each. Hostility marked the 20 years after the Korean War, followed by limited cooperation against the Soviet Union during the phase that followed President Richard Nixon's famous 1972 visit.

The Cold War's end ushered in a third phase of economic engagement, with the US helping China's global economic integration, including its entry into the World Trade Organization in 2001. Yet in the first post-Cold War decade, President Bill Clinton's administration hedged its bets by simultaneously strengthening the US-Japan alliance and improving relations with India. Now, since 2017, the US National Security Strategy focuses on great power rivalry, with China and Russia designated as America's main adversaries.

While many Chinese analysts blame this fourth phase on US President Donald Trump, Chinese President Xi Jinping is also to blame. By rejecting Deng Xiaoping's prudent policy of maintaining a low international profile; by ending presidential term limits; and by proclaiming his nationalistic "China Dream," Xi might as well have been wearing a red hat reading, "Make China Great Again." The conventional wisdom on China within the US had already begun to sour before the 2016 presidential election. Trump's rhetoric and tariffs were merely gasoline poured on a smoldering fire.

The liberal international order helped China sustain rapid economic growth and reduce poverty dramatically. But China also tilted the trade field to its advantage by subsidizing state-owned enterprises, engaging in commercial espionage, and requiring foreign firms to transfer their intellectual property to domestic "partners." While most economists argue that Trump is mistaken to focus on the bilateral trade deficit, many support his complaints about China's efforts to challenge America's technological advantage.

Moreover, China's growing military strength adds a security dimension to the bilateral relationship. While this fourth phase of the relationship is not a cold war, owing to the high degree of interdependence, it is much more than a typical trade dispute like, say, America's recent clash with Canada over access to that country's dairy market.

Some analysts believe this fourth phase marks the beginning of a conflict in which an established hegemon goes to war with a rising challenger. In his explanation of the Peloponnesian War, Thucydides famously argued that it was caused by Sparta's fear of a rising Athens.

These analysts believe that China's rise will create a similar fear in the US, and use the analogy of World War I, when a rising Germany set hegemonic Britain on edge. The causes of World War I, however, were far more complex, and included growing Russian power, which created fear in Germany; rising nationalism in the Balkans and other countries; and the risks deliberately taken by the Habsburg Empire to stave off its decline.

Even more important, Germany had already surpassed Britain in industrial production by 1900, while China's GDP (measured in dollars) currently is only three-fifths the size of the US economy. The US has more time and assets to manage the rise of Chinese power than Britain had with Germany. China is constrained by a natural balance of power in Asia in which Japan (the world's third-largest economy) and India (about to surpass China in population) have no desire to be dominated by it.

Succumbing to the fear that Thucydides described would be an unnecessary self-fulfilling prophecy for the US. Fortunately, polls show that the American public has not yet succumbed to a hysterical portrayal of China as an enemy as strong as the Soviet Union was during the Cold War.

Neither China nor the US poses an existential threat to the other the way that Hitler's Germany or Stalin's Soviet Union did. China is not about to invade the US, and it is unable to expel America from the Western Pacific, where most countries welcome its presence. Japan, a major part of the so-called first island chain, pays nearly three-quarters of the host nation costs to keep 50,000 US troops based there.

My recent visit to Tokyo confirmed for me that the alliance with the US is strong. If the Trump administration maintains it, the prospects are slight that China can drive the US from the Western Pacific, much less dominate the world. The US holds better strategic cards and need not succumb to Thucydidean fear.

There is another dimension, however, that makes this fourth phase a "cooperative rivalry" rather than a Cold War. China and the US face transnational challenges that are impossible to resolve without the other. Climate change and rising sea levels obey the laws of physics, not politics. As borders become more porous to everything from illicit drugs to infectious diseases to terrorism, the largest economies will have to cooperate to cope with these threats.

Some aspects of the relationship will involve a positive-sum game. US national security will require power with China, not just over China. The key question is whether the US is capable of thinking in terms of a "cooperative rivalry." Can we walk and chew gum at the same time? In an age of populist nationalism, it is much easier for politicians to create fear about a new cold war.

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O-PED

By Michael Burleigh

Brexit vs. the Irish Question

LONDON - On Brexit day - March 29, 2019 - the HMS *Buccaneer Britannia* will set sail in search of the riches of the "Anglosphere." But there is a hitch: Someone has forgotten to raise the anchor, which remains planted firmly in Ireland.

This isn't surprising. Of all the Euroskeptic Conservative politicians I know, not one has ever mentioned Northern Ireland, let alone the sovereign country to the south of it. The only thing on the Brexiteers' minds is the quest for parliamentary sovereignty and liberation from the supranational "superstate" in Brussels.

This blinkered view may simply reflect ignorance. Even an erstwhile "Remainer" like Karen Bradley, the current Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, recently confessed that, "[...] when I started this job, I didn't understand some of the deep-seated and deep-rooted issues that there are in Northern Ireland." In other words, until very recently, she has been incurious about one of the central issues of nineteenth- and twentieth-century British history.

Conservative politicians who find themselves in such a position would do well to know that conflicts over the "Irish question" have resulted in more than 3,600 violent deaths. They might also benefit from knowing that successive Conservative prime ministers, from Edward Heath to Margaret Thatcher to John Major, struggled and failed to resolve the issue before it was put to rest by the 1998 Good Friday Agreement.

In addition to military decommissioning, the Good Friday Agreement brought together antagonistic communities by mandating smooth trade between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, under the aegis of the EU customs union. The fact that 55.8% of Northern Irish voters backed "Remain" in the 2016 referendum partly reflects this astonishing achievement.

Anyone with an ounce of foresight should have known that the status of Northern Ireland would become a stubborn conundrum at the center of the Brexit negotiations. In fact, the problem is so intractable that conspiracy-minded Brexiteers now suspect EU negotiators of using it to delay or stymie *Buccaneer Britannia's* glorious departure.

Ironically, many in the EU also think that a plot is afoot. The EU has long insisted that a legally binding divorce settlement must be concluded before there can be any discussion of future UK-EU relations. But now Britain is suspected of exploiting the Irish question to insinuate a detailed "political declaration" about future relations into the formal exit agreement.

The key problem is the so-called Irish backstop, which would prevent the establishment of a hard border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland in the absence of a wider deal on the future of UK-EU relations. In December 2017, all parties concurred that such a backstop was necessary to preserve the peace under the Good Friday Agreement. But there has been disagreement over the translation of this into legally binding language. Failing an agreement, "the territory of Northern Ireland would be part of the customs territory of the European Union."

For its part, the UK government insisted that it can address the border issue by remaining in close alignment with EU customs rules and deploying customs-monitoring technologies that have yet to be invented - which is to say, by magic. Yet the Irish government has insisted that every detail of the backstop be nailed down and included in the legally binding withdrawal treaty.

But this preliminary agreement immediately posed a problem for May, whose majority in the House of Commons depends on ten Democratic Unionist MPs from Northern Ireland. And, because her own party and the cabinet are divided on the kind of Brexit they want, the Irish Republic and the rest of the EU are in the position of spectators to a colossal act of national self-harm. If the province were to remain in the EU's customs and regulatory orbit, there would have to be a border in the Irish Sea. That would jeopardize not just the workings of the UK's internal customs union, but also the constitutional integrity of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Worse, the fudging language invited a "we, too" riposte from Scottish nationalists, who rightly argued that if special arrangements were going to be made for Northern Ireland's Remain majority, then the Scots, who also voted to remain, should be offered a similar deal. Failing that, they would demand a rerun of the 2014 Scottish independence referendum. This time, however, Scottish nationalists would not have to worry about the Unionist argument that independence implies a de facto withdrawal from the EU.

The EU rejected British offers to remain temporarily in the customs union after Brexit, because that would allow the UK to enjoy the benefits of tariff-free trade without having to permit the free movement of EU citizens. On this occasion, the EU once again suspected the UK of using Northern Ireland as a Trojan horse to gain an unfair advantage, and the Brexiteers accused May of capitulating to the extortionist gangsters in Brussels. May's "Brexit secretary," David Davis, immediately resigned, and he was soon followed out the door by then-Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson (who needed a moment to consider his own prospects of replacing May).

Negotiators have since been exploring the surreal idea of a "backstop to the backstop" in the event that the first backstop ends up being "time-limited" instead of "all-weather," to use their deadly jargon. Emphasis has now shifted to how the entire UK can remain in the customs union, with the proviso that "one day" it might be able to escape. But the basic point remains: Predominantly English Brexiteers have given no serious thought to the Irish question, nor even to the likelihood that crashing out of the EU might take the UK back to the dark ages. Many of them would rather lose Northern Ireland and Scotland than forgo Brexit.

Instead, they have been busy constructing a fanciful world of limitless possibility, based on a national mythology featuring Sir Francis Drake, Sir Walter Raleigh, the British Raj, and standing "alone" in 1940. Psychologically, some of them seem to be reliving an imaginary war with our closest neighbors and trading partners.

Most sensible people live in the present. And wherever one looks, from Trump's trade wars to Russia and Moldova vowing to block Britain's post-Brexit accession to the World Trade Organization, reality is ineluctably crushing Brexiteers' fantasies of English importance.

OPINION

By Mark Suzman

Digital Disruption's Silver Lining

SEATTLE - Technology is often oversold as either a panacea for the world's problems or an unshakeable curse inflicting disruption and displacement on the most vulnerable. But historically, neither of these characterizations is accurate. From the steam engine to the personal computer, inventions have transformed societies in complex ways. On balance, however, technology has always created more jobs and economic opportunities than it has destroyed. That trend is likely to continue.

Why am I so upbeat? Because everywhere I look, leaders are repositioning their economies to ensure that technological change and automation are assets rather than liabilities. As the University of Oxford-based Pathways for Prosperity Commission recently observed, with "optimism and collective action," so-called frontier technologies can empower even the poorest countries.

For much of modern history, export-driven industrialization and natural-resource wealth were viewed as the only mechanisms for sustained growth in the developing world. But today, new technologies, and the ability to combine them with old innovations, have given people more say over their economic fortunes.

For example, the Africa Soil Information Service, which is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, has combined remote sensing software and open-source data to lower the cost of soil mapping by 97%. This has given Africa's smallholder farmers new tools for making evidence-based decisions about their operations, thereby increasing crop yields and reducing operating expenses.

Similarly, Twiga Foods in Kenya is using technology to optimize its supply chain by matching rural fruit and vegetable growers with small- and medium-size vendors in Nairobi. Twiga's approach has helped farmers access more lucrative markets, increased consumer choice, and dramatically reduced post-harvest losses and waste. Digital inclusion can be a powerful force, particularly for women. Go-Jek, a ride-sharing and food-delivery service in Indonesia, has increased drivers' income by an average of 44% while connecting many of its suppliers, who are usually women, to banking services for the first time.

To be sure, capitalizing on the transformative potential of technology will require investing more money in people, particularly in women and children. As we argued in this year's Gates Foundation Goalkeepers Report, better health care and education - two pillars of the World Bank's "human capital index" - can unlock productivity and innovation, reduce poverty, and generate prosperity. These gains are essential to countries' ability to achieve the targets set by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Harnessing technology will also require sensible economic reforms, better infrastructure, more capable institutions, and strategies to deliver digital solutions to marginalized populations. Some countries are already taking these steps. Indonesia, for example, has launched an ambitious program to connect an additional 100 million people to broadband, a recognition of the importance that connectivity plays in fostering economic opportunity.

And yet, for the bulk of the world's "bottom billion," basic phone and Internet services remain prohibitively expensive. That is why governments, donors, and the private sector must work together to create business and pricing models that allow for cost recovery while still providing an adequate level of digital service to the poorest consumers. One poverty-reduction strategy worth exploring is communal access to technology.

Affordability is not the only factor that keeps technology out of the hands of the poor. The digital divide mirrors larger patterns of social discrimination, especially for women. Wherever women live, they are about 40% less likely than men to have ever used the Internet, which suggests that social inequities are also driving disparities in digital access. Closing this gap is vitally important. When women have access to the full range of digital services - from mobile banking to telemedicine - they are generally wealthier, healthier, and better educated.

As policymakers in both developed and developing countries make decisions and investments that will shape the landscape in which technological change unfolds, it is gratifying to see countries engaging in meaningful dialogue about their digital futures. As long as citizens who understand technology and its ramifications are included in these conversations, it is possible to design solutions that meet everyone's needs.

Today's cutting-edge technologies are evolving at a dizzying speed. But with foresight and preparation, the world can minimize the disruption they will inevitably cause to ensure lasting and inclusive growth. If we coordinate our investments in people with our spending on innovation, the new "digital age" will leave no one behind.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Haywood Mission receives guests from America

A high-powered delegation of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, Inc. (PAW) from the United States of America is in Liberia as guest of the Haywood Mission Institute (HMI) in the Old Road community and the Liberian branch of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, Inc. (PAW).

Members of the delegation include Pastor Dr. Kandy Morrell, Chairlady; Suffrage Bishop Walter Oliver, District Elder Jeffrey Akers, 2nd Vice Chairman and Pastor of Bethesda Temple Church, District Elder Julian Johnson, St. Louise Missouri sister Ida Flanigan, Chairlady, Las Fidelas Matrons, and Sister Faye McCocoy, among others.

They are in the country to assess some of the conditions of PAW-run institutions throughout the country, including the Samuel Grimes memorial Institute in Margibi County.

At a brief ceremony, Haywood Mission Institute Principal and Chief

Administrator Bishop Dr. Leo Simpson welcomes the delegates to Liberia and describes the visit as historic

Mission Institute and the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, Inc. in Liberia was pre-ordained by God, noting "This

Institute Campus." Haywood Mission Institute is a Christian institution founded in 1931 by Mrs. Manogna (M.C.)

in the bowels of slavery, married, born and reared her children, and became a devout Christian.

Mrs. Bennette, a former slave, had a burning desire to one day return to her native land-Liberia to contribute to her people.

The school was named Haywood in honor of Bishop G.T. Haywood, a renowned African American preacher and founder of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, Incorporated, who devoted his entire life to the welfare of humanity.

Speaking at the program, the members of the delegation laud Bishop and Mrs Simpson for their dedicated services in providing quality education to Liberian children for the growth and development of the country.

Also Speaking Pastor Dr. Kandy Morrell, Chairlady, and International Mission Department Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, Inc. announced that they have brought to the country a modern Science laboratory equipment to be turned over to the Haywood Mission Institute. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



The visiting PAW delegation from the USA

and timely.

Bishop Simpson told members of the delegation that their visit to Haywood

Angelic group, with a steel-like resolved has single-handedly the light flickering on the Samuel Grimes memorials

Bennette of the Vai tribe in Liberia. She was taken away from Liberia at a very young age as a slave to the United States of America and grew up

House's security chair wants stern action against illicit drugs

By Emmanuel Mondaye

The national security chair in the House Gbarpolu County Representative Alfred B. Koiwood strongly detests importation of illicit drugs and substances to Liberia, which he says threatens the country's peace and security.

Speaking with reporters on

government should embark on stringent security measures to minimize daily influx of dangerous substances in the Liberian market.

Representative Koiwood observes that since the inception of the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC)-led government, the Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency or LDEA

prison without allowing them to go through rehabilitation.

He warns that if nothing were seriously done to revisit the drug law in the country, it would have serious consequences on citizens and the government respectively.

The national security chair was amongst several international drug experts who attended an extraordinary conference in Brussels on Drugs Abuse and Illicit Importation in Africa, which most experts considered as dumping ground for drugs trafficking and abuses that may affect millions of lives.

He notes that the conference discussed series of issues regarding drugs abuse, summing up to some countries that attempted to legalize drugs trade and importation within their respective countries.

He stresses a need to organize a national drugs conference where key stakeholders would be invited to share their experiences and suggest a way forward.

Rep. Koiwood however, admonishes Liberian youth, most of who fall prey to substance abuse, to desist from taking in dangerous drugs, which could destroy their future and remain focused and determined towards a productive life. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



Wednesday, 07 November in Monrovia, he calls a control mechanism and rigid enforcement of laws on the book by prosecuting people involved in illicit drugs importation and distribution. He recommends that

has made series of arrests of illicit drugs dealers, some of whom have been placed behind bars for illegal possession of illicit substances, but only to find out that these suspects are released from

#Revoke rock and sand mining licenses from Chinese and Lebanese#
#To empower Liberians, enforce the exclusive Liberians business act. #
#It's shame that only in Liberia foreigners are siphoning billions thru sand and rock mining.#
#For the Pro-Poor Agenda to succeed undo the errors by your predecessors. #
#Stop prioritizing foreign businesses over Liberian businesses!#

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Chambers hails China's partnership with Liberia

Speaker Bhofal Chambers says China remains one of Liberia's top development partners, during a recent meeting with a Chinese parliamentary delegation here to Liberia.

According to a press release, Speaker Chambers furthers that Liberians are grateful to China for the level of achievement made, saying there are several development projects that Liberians can point to, solely done by China.

The meeting was held in the new Capitol Building, House of Representatives Wing Annex, constructed by the People's Republic of China.

The meeting was held when Speaker Chambers received in audience at his Capitol Building Office, the visiting Chinese Parliamentary Delegation on a follow-up mission of China's development commitments to

Liberia, following the just-ended Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) Summit in Beijing.

The press release indicates that Chambers assured his Chinese counterparts of the readiness of the Liberian Legislature to accelerate its relationship with the Chinese Parliament in several areas of cooperation in the interest of their respective peoples.

Speaker Chambers then accepted the invitation of the Chinese Parliamentary Delegation and promised to pay an official visit to China in the soonest possible time.

The Chinese Parliamentarian Members Delegation was headed by Mr. Wan Gang, Vice Chairman of Central Committee of the China Zhi Gong Party.

Mr. Wan, while in Liberia, held talks with senior Liberian government officials and subsequently climaxed the



Speaker Bhofal Chambers

delegation's mission and discussions with the Liberian Legislature, headed by Speaker Chambers.

Mr. Wan Gang told Speaker Chambers that his government is committed to supporting Liberia in its bid to mitigating

the development challenges the country is faced with.

Speaking through his interpreter, the Chinese official assured his Liberian counterpart that their visitation to Liberia is a follow-

up in commitment to the gains made by the Liberian Government delegation headed by President George Manneh Weah to the just-ended Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) Summit in Beijing, China.

At that Forum, Liberia secured a commitment from the Chinese Government in several areas of its national challenges, specifically in infrastructural development.

Mr. Wan concluded his assertion to Speaker Chambers during the meeting, when he pledged the Chinese Parliament's readiness to work closely with the Liberian Legislature and exchange know-hows and experiences in meeting the needs of their respective peoples.

He then extended an invitation to Speaker Chambers to visit the Chinese Parliament.--Press release

100 students to benefit from China AID

By Sally Gaye

The Ministry of Youth and Sports in partnership with the Embassy of China has launched a 45-day overseas vocational and skills training program at the Monrovia Vocational and Training Center (MVTC) in Monrovia.

The 45 days training is going to be in three phases for the electrical automation, Construction and car repair.

Speaking recently at the program, Vice President Jewel Howard-Taylor challenged the 100 students that are privileged to be accepted from among thousands and are about to start the technical vocational education and training (TVET) program to take advantage of the opportunities given them.

She says the choice is for the students to either use it as a stepping stone in their march to a secured future or miss the opportunities it provides and thus remain in the seemingly endless cycle of poverty and despair.

Meanwhile, Vice President Taylor has encouraged the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MYS) to think about taking training programs out of Monrovia at other vocational schools in other areas.

She argues that if "we waited" for the Monrovia Vocational Training Center (MVTC) facility to be the only fully functional institution to train all of the young people across the nation, Liberia's development will remain at a



snail pace.

Earlier giving the overview of the training program, Mr. Cai Hon Chang, Shan Dong Foreign Trade Vocational College says the purpose of the training is mainly to improve the level of theoretical knowledge and basic skills in the areas of building design, construction electrical automation and car repair.

Chinese Ambassador to Liberia Fu Jijun, says human resources development is also a significant field of china-Liberia collaboration.

"I have the pleasure to assure you that in future, China will provide more scholarships and training opportunities to Liberian brothers and sisters and try to do its best for supporting Liberian government and people," he says.

For his part, Youth and Sports Minister D. Zeogar Wilson says, working on the pro-poor agenda to give power to the people is not only about giving jobs to the youth, but also developing them through other skills.

According to him, if the program was held in China, only three to four persons would have taken part because of the cost.

But he thanks the Chinese people for letting 100 Liberian to benefit.

He says there are over thousands of youth out there that are looking for such opportunity, but 100 of them were chosen.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Chinese operated vehicle kills 4 in Bong

-Residents in anger
By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

Saye-Weh town in Kokoyah District, Bong County was a scene of sorrow and weeping on Monday afternoon, 5 November when a vehicle belonging to a hired

in Saye-Weh Town with three other persons riding with him on the bike when they collided with a vehicle descending the same hill.

The victims include a girl and two boys that were riding with the motorbike operator. Our sources say the driver of

up allegedly belonging to the hired Chinese company in that collided with the motorbike.

Meanwhile, our sources are saying that the people of Kokoyah Statutory District, the region where MNG - Gold operates, are expressing dissatisfaction with the workings of the company.

Of recent, there have been reports of school - going kids falling ill when a well from which they allegedly drink reportedly got contaminated from alleged chemical waste.

The contaminated waste site is allegedly constructed approximately three minutes' walk away from the school campus where the well is dug.

Our sources say authorities of Bong including Senator Henry Yallah, Representative Albert Hills and Superintendent Esther Walker visited the area to ascertain the situation.

The visitation saw the reopening of the school in the area.

Our Bong County correspondent says some residents have been arrested following a house - to - house search conducted by the Liberia National Police in Bong for materials that were allegedly taken from the Company.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



Chinese contracted company under the Turkish mining Company MNG-Gold allegedly killed four persons instantly.

According to our sources, the motorcyclist whose name is withheld was climbing a hill

the hired Chinese company under the MNG - Gold fled the scene for of being harmed by angry mob.

But angry mob is said to have set ablaze the TOYOTA Land Cruiser four - doors pick-

Bong residents cry for clinic, safe drinking water

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

Residents of Mafelah Town in Bong County are calling on the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Public Works and the WASH sector to help provide safe drinking water for them in the area.

Mafelah Town is located in Suakoko District, Bong County and is represented at the House of Representatives by Edward Karfiah for a second term.

The Town has a population of approximately 1,250 inhabitants with only one

diarrhea, cholera and other waterborne diseases.

The affected people, many of whom are children are also finding it difficult to seek medication as a result of the lack of public clinic in the area.

"We are suffering for safe drinking water in this community and our children die on a daily basis from strange diseases. No clinic, no roads. Even when our children get sick, we find it difficult," some of the residents stressed.

Speaking on behalf of the

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functional hand pump which runs out of water during the dry season.

Our correspondent says when the hand pump runs out of water, residents survive from an opened well which is not safe for them.

According to our correspondent who toured the area recently, the lack of safe drinking water has led to many people becoming ill as a result of drinking from nearby creeks.

Some of the residents are currently suffering from

citizens of the area, the Youth president of the town David Flomo appealed to the

The youth leader says he wants the Bong County lawmaker to construct hand pump and latrine facilities for the community dwellers.

The local residents also appeal to the government, partners and non - governmental organizations to assist with the construction of hand pumps to save lives in that part of the country.--

Edited by Winston W. Parley

Political Parties Youth Leagues end retreat

By Lewis S. Teh

The Forum of Political Parties Youth Leagues, a conglomeration of youth leaders from registered political parties in Liberia ends its first national retreat aimed at cementing a better relationship of peace and nonviolent approaches among young people before, during and after electioneering period.

Addressing reporters at the retreat over the weekend, officials of the organization said the forum was meant to create awareness on violence-free elections throughout the country and promote a much more youthful integration into the governance and political system of the country.

The Forum of Political Parties Youth Leagues was established few months ago, following the dissolution of the Association of Opposition Political Youth Leagues, previously umbrella organization for all young people aspiring for leadership



either through their respective political parties or individual political ambition.

The daylong national congress was held at the Eco Hotel in Sinkor and brought together a cross section of political parties youth leaders or representation from almost all of the registered and

recognized political institutions in Liberia.

Climaxing with the election of its first legitimate leadership to stair the affairs of the Forum, MOVEE youth leader, Sampson Kamayan emerged as National Chairman whilst, LINU's Andrew M. Cooper secured the Vice Chair

for administration, as RDC's Yancy Gegeh took the Vice Chair for Mobilization post.

Others elected are, CLP's Nyemah William, Vice Chair for International Affairs; ALP's Ike Moore, Vice Chair for Political & Governmental Affairs; DJP's Bloyay Davis, Vice Chair for Finance & Investment; MPC's Gardour Catherina, Vice Chair for Gender; ULD's Micheal F. Tar, Deputy Secretary for Press & Communication; CDC's Emmanuel Johnson, Vice Chair for Planning & Program; NLP's Emmanuel Smith, Deputy Secretary for Research; ALCOP's Mohammed V. Kamare, National Treasure and LFP's George Doe, National Chaplain General.

The governing Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC), Movement for Democracy and

Reconstruction (MDR), All Liberian Party (ALP), Movement for Economic Empowerment (MOVEE), Movement for Progressive Change (MPC) and the United People's Party (UPP) were among parties in attendance.

Other parties present were the grand old True Whig Party (TWP), Vision for Liberia Transformation (VOLT), Liberia Transformation Party (LTP), Liberia Restoration Party (LRP), Coalition for Liberia Progress (CLP), Change Democratic Action (CDA), Democratic Justice Party (DJP), Redemption Democratic Congress (RDC), Union of Liberia Democrats (ULD), All Liberian Coalition Party (ALCOP), New Liberia Party (NLP), and Liberia for Prosperity (LFP).

Français

Guinée : les séquelles d'Ebola, les vérités de Dr Saran Daraba

A l'instar de la Sierra Leone et du Liberia, la Guinée a été durement éprouvée par la fièvre à virus Ebola et qui a fait plusieurs milliers de morts dans ces trois pays. Dr Saran Daraba, ancienne ministre de la Promotion féminine et de l'Enfance sous feu le général Lansana Conté se rappelle encore de cette terrible maladie quelque 4 ans après son éradication.

Témoignant sur le livre du Dr Baba Diané ce weekend, elle a regretté le fait qu'il n'y ait plus d'éducation de base en Guinée. « Ce qui se passe dans notre pays, c'est que nous n'avons plus d'éducation de base. Tout l'enseignement repose sur les six, les dix, les douze premières années de la scolarisation d'un enfant. Qu'ils deviennent professeurs après, qu'ils deviennent techniciens après, il faut qu'ils sachent lire et écrire correctement, qu'ils sachent calculer correctement. Cela, nous ne



l'avons plus dans ce pays. Et ce qui est plus grave, il n'y a pas de débat autour de cela. Personne n'ouvre le débat : ni les enseignants, ni les parents d'élèves, ni les gouvernants, ni ceux qui sont chefs d'entreprise et qui ont grand

besoin de tous ces techniciens », a fustigé l'ancienne Secrétaire générale de la Mano River Union.

Poursuivant, l'oratrice a déclaré avoir demandé la dernière fois au sujet des

préparateurs en pharmacie, vu qu'il y a, dit-elle, 700 thèses de mémoire à l'université de Conakry sur les plantes médicinales.

« Et je suis allée en Suisse pour leur demander qu'on vienne faire un laboratoire galénique comme celui qui existe en France et qui ravitaille les hôpitaux en préparation galénique. Il n'y a pas de préparateurs en

pharmacie. Nous n'avons même pas de sages-femmes. Quand mes enfants doivent accoucher, je vous jure, je prends ma tête. Parce que ce sont des jeunes étudiants des facultés de pharmacie ou de médecine qu'on emmène devant les femmes qui doivent accoucher. Or, le médecin ne remplace pas la sage-femme », a enseigné Saran Daraba.

S'insurgeant contre le fait qu'« on ne forme plus de sages-femmes et laborantins dans ce pays », elle a levé un coin du voile sur le virus Ebola notamment dans sa propagation.

« Ebola est passé. Je peux vous dire, parce que j'étais à la tête du Secrétariat de la Mano, on a perdu beaucoup de vies humaines, parce que tout simplement il n'y avait aucun laborantin guinéen dans les laboratoires. Tous les laborantins qui faisaient des tests étaient des étrangers. Et je peux vous dire aujourd'hui -et c'est grave-,

que beaucoup de gens infectés ont été libérés, je ne dirai pas de manière volontaire, ils ont continué la chaîne de contamination », a révélé Saran Daraba Kaba.

Côte d'Ivoire : grève dans le milieu hospitalier

En Côte d'Ivoire, depuis ce lundi les agents de santé des établissements publics sont en grève. Ils réclament des augmentations d'indices, des primes et des indemnités, dont certaines sont versées depuis l'an dernier à d'autres

fonctionnaires. Ils dénoncent aussi leurs conditions de travail et le délabrement de certains établissements.

En ce mardi, dans la salle de consultation du CHU de Cocody à Abidjan, rares sont les patients à avoir tenté leur

chance. Les quelques-uns qui sont assis sur les bancs ne savaient pas pour la grève : « On m'a dit, c'est la grève. Je me repose avant de rentrer. Je suis venue pour rien ».

Un peu plus d'activités aux urgences ou un service minimum est assuré, comme en néonatalogie, en salle d'accouchement ou en réanimation. Pour le reste, l'hôpital est à l'arrêt.

Si les syndicats de médecins ne se sont pas associés au préavis déposé par 12 organisations d'agents de santé, certains d'entre eux soutiennent le mouvement, comme cet hématologue : « Je suis d'accord. On a qu'à cesser de déplacer les problèmes. Ces problèmes ont trop duré. Le ministre connaît les problèmes. Donc ils n'ont qu'à venir nous donner une réponse claire et nette. Nous, on veut travailler. Donc il faut que nos infirmiers, nos sages-femmes viennent. Un gynécologue sans sage-femme n'est pas

gynécologue. Que cela réglé aujourd'hui ».

Indemnités de logement, de risque sanitaire, de résidence, revalorisation de point d'indice ou de prime d'intéressement... Des revendications pendantes depuis l'an dernier qui n'ont pas trouvé d'écho au gouvernement, comme le souligne Antoine Niamien, secrétaire général adjoint du Syndicat national des infirmiers de Côte d'Ivoire (Synici) : « Les gouverneurs nous disent, il n'y a pas de moyens alors que nous voyons

qu'ailleurs, il peut y avoir des moyens. Quand c'est la politique, il y a l'argent. On dégage beaucoup d'argent. Mais quand on dit qu'un secteur est prioritaire, il faut poser des actes forts pour que les gens sentent qu'effectivement, c'est un secteur prioritaire ».

Lundi, les syndicats étaient reçus au ministère de la Fonction publique. La Coordination des syndicats du secteur de la santé décidera ce mercredi de la suite à donner au mouvement.



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Français

Éditorial

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 54^{ème} 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 en quelques heures sur une retraite 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 Bhofal 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 JOSEPH S. NYE

Les relations sino-américaines : une rivalité coopérative

CAMBRIDGE - En visite à Pékin, au mois d'octobre, je me suis souvent entendu demander si les sévères critiques émises par le vice-président des États-Unis, Mike Pence, à l'égard de la Chine pouvaient être considérées comme la déclaration d'une nouvelle guerre froide. À quoi j'ai répondu que les États-Unis et la Chine étaient entrés dans une nouvelle phase de leurs relations, mais pour laquelle la métaphore de la guerre froide était trompeuse.

Durant la guerre froide, les États-Unis et l'Union soviétique pointaient l'un contre l'autre des dizaines de milliers d'armes nucléaires et n'entretenaient pour ainsi dire aucunes relations commerciales ou culturelles. L'arsenal nucléaire de la Chine est plus limité, les échanges sino-américains se montent à 500 milliards de dollars tandis que plus de 350 000 étudiants et trois millions de touristes chinois séjournent chaque année aux États-Unis. La notion de « rivalité coopérative » offre une meilleure description de ce que sont aujourd'hui devenues les relations bilatérales.

Depuis la fin de la Seconde Guerre mondiale, les relations entre les États-Unis et la Chine sont passées par trois phases, ayant duré chacune une vingtaine d'années. Une période d'hostilité a marqué les vingt années qui ont succédé à la guerre de Corée, suivie par une coopération limitée tournée contre l'Union soviétique lors de la phase consécutive à la célèbre visite du président Richard Nixon en 1972.

La fin de la guerre froide a ouvert la voie à une troisième phase, d'engagement économique, les États-Unis contribuant à l'intégration économique de la Chine dans le monde, notamment à son admission au sein de l'Organisation mondiale du commerce, en 2001. Lors de la première décennie qui suivit la fin de la guerre froide, l'administration du président Bill Clinton prit néanmoins ses précautions en renforçant simultanément l'alliance des États-Unis avec le Japon et en améliorant les relations avec l'Inde. Depuis 2017, la stratégie de sécurité nationale met l'accent sur la rivalité entre grandes puissances, Chine et Russie étant désignées comme les principaux adversaires de l'Amérique.

Si beaucoup d'analystes chinois rejettent la responsabilité de cette quatrième phase sur le président des États-Unis Donald Trump, le président chinois, Xi Jinping en porte lui aussi sa part. Après avoir rompu avec la politique internationale mesurée et la prudence de Deng Xiaoping, puis supprimé les limites du mandat présidentiel et réveillé le nationalisme en proclamant haut et fort son « rêve chinois », Xi pourrait lui aussi arborer une casquette rouge ornée du slogan : « Rendre à la Chine sa grandeur ». L'image qu'on se fait de la Chine aux États-Unis a commencé de se ternir avant les élections présidentielles de 2016. Les discours de Trump et les barrières douanières n'ont fait que jeter de l'huile sur un feu qui couvait.

L'ordre libéral international a soutenu la croissance économique rapide de la Chine et la réduction considérable de la pauvreté permise par celle-ci. Mais la Chine a aussi fait pencher les échanges à son avantage en subventionnant ses entreprises publiques, en recourant à l'espionnage commercial et en exigeant des entreprises étrangères qu'elles transfèrent leur propriété intellectuelle à leurs « partenaires » locaux. Si la plupart des économistes affirment que Trump se fourvoie en accordant autant d'importance au déficit commercial bilatéral, nombre d'entre eux soutiennent ses récriminations à l'encontre des procédés qu'emploie la Chine pour concurrencer la suprématie technologique américaine.

En outre le renforcement militaire de Pékin ajoute une dimension sécuritaire aux relations bilatérales. Si cette quatrième phase des relations ne peut être qualifiée de guerre froide, étant donné le niveau d'interdépendance d'ores et déjà atteint, elle se situe néanmoins bien au-delà du classique différend commercial, qu'illustre, par exemple, le récent conflit avec le Canada concernant l'accès à son marché des produits laitiers.

Certains analystes pensent que cette quatrième phase marque le commencement d'un conflit qui verra l'actuel hégémon partir en guerre contre une puissance montante qui le défie. Ainsi Thucydide explique-t-il la guerre du Péloponnèse par la crainte causée à Sparte de l'essor d'Athènes.

Ces analystes pensent que l'essor de la Chine créera aux États-Unis une crainte similaire, et soulignent l'analogie avec la Première Guerre mondiale et une Grande-Bretagne hégémonique irritée par la montée de l'Allemagne. Les causes de la Première Guerre mondiale furent toutefois beaucoup plus complexes, et comprennent notamment le renforcement de la puissance russe, qui effrayait l'Allemagne, la flambée du nationalisme dans les Balkans et dans d'autres pays, ainsi que les risques délibérément encourus par l'Empire des Habsbourg pour conjurer son déclin.

Fait plus notable encore, la production industrielle allemande surpassait dès 1900 celle la Grande-Bretagne, tandis que le PIB actuel de la Chine (calculé en dollars) ne représente encore que trois cinquièmes de l'économie américaine. Les États-Unis ont plus de temps et plus de ressources que n'en avait la Grande-Bretagne face à l'Allemagne pour maîtriser l'essor de la puissance chinoise, entravée par le rapport de forces inhérent à l'Asie où ni le Japon (troisième économie mondiale) ni l'Inde (dont la population est sur le point dépasser celle de la Chine) n'entendent se laisser dominer par leur voisin.

Succomber à la peur que décrit Thucydide serait céder, pour les États-Unis, à une inutile prophétie auto-réalisatrice. Fort heureusement, les sondages montrent que l'opinion américaine ne s'est pas encore rangée au portrait hystérique d'une Chine en ennemi aussi puissant que l'était l'Union soviétique durant la guerre froide.

Ni la Chine ni les États-Unis ne posent à l'un ou à l'autre une menace existentielle du type de celle que faisaient peser l'une sur l'autre l'Allemagne d'Hitler et l'Union soviétique de Staline. La Chine n'est pas sur le point d'envahir les États-Unis, et elle est incapable d'expulser les Américains du Pacifique occidental, où la plupart des pays apprécient leur présence. Le Japon, maillon essentiel de la première chaîne d'îles, comme on dit, assume au titre de pays hôte presque les trois quarts des coûts du maintien sur son sol de 50 000 soldats américains.

Un récent voyage à Tokyo m'a confirmé que l'alliance avec les États-Unis était solide. Si l'administration Trump la conserve en l'état, il y a peu de chances que la Chine puisse chasser les États-Unis du Pacifique occidental, encore moins dominer le monde. Les États-Unis ont de bien meilleures cartes stratégiques à jouer et ne doivent pas céder à une peur thucydienne.

Un autre aspect du problème confirme que cette quatrième phase est bien une « rivalité coopérative » plutôt qu'une guerre froide. La Chine et les États-Unis doivent relever des défis transnationaux dont ils ne pourront venir à bout l'un sans l'autre. Le changement climatique et la montée des eaux obéissent à des lois qui ne sont pas politiques mais physiques. À l'heure où les frontières deviennent de plus en plus poreuses, traversées par les drogues illégales, les maladies infectieuses et le terrorisme, les principales économies devront coopérer pour vaincre ces menaces.

Par certains côtés, les relations entre les deux pays iront de pair avec un jeu à somme positive. La sécurité nationale des États-Unis exigera la construction une puissance commune avec la Chine et non seulement de maintenir leur avantage sur elle. La question centrale demeure de savoir si les États-Unis sont capables de penser en termes de « rivalité coopérative ». Pouvons-nous assumer en même temps les deux aspects de la relation ? À l'âge du nationalisme populiste, il est beaucoup plus facile aux politiciens d'instiller la peur d'une nouvelle guerre froide.

FEATURE ARTICLE

After years of Wrangle: Madina Town, Nimba Point Feud settled

By Throble Kaffa Suah, Freelance Journalist

Some chiefs and elders at the plantation posed for photo after the meeting.

The recent resolution of a serious feud between Nimba Point and Madina Town people in Madina Township, Garwula District in Grand Cape Mount County, which seems to have stall Madina Town, factored as one of the project affected communities in the database of Sime Darby Plantation has been settled.

This follows traditional and colorful ritual performed considered as sign of purity from the people of Nimba Point to the people of Madina Town brought chiefs and elders as well as ordinary people of both towns together in Madina Town on Sunday, 4 November, 2018.

Kola nuts and white chicken were presented to Madina Town by Nimba Point residents rendering unconditional apology to their host (Madina Town) which has been accommodating them for almost a century.

Making the presentation on behalf of the people of Nimba Point, Madam Nyamah Augustine, Chairlady of the 17 Project Affected Communities at Sime Darby Plantation in Madina Township, Garwula District, said they were being misled with unfounded information causing them to go loggerhead with their stranger fathers.

She stated among many things that Nimba Point people are squatters and not town owners, a wrong perceptions they have kept for years in their heads against Madina Town regarding the establishment of the town (Nimba Point) but that must come to an end.

“Having realized that we were being fed with half-baked information,” Madam Augustine continued: “we have no option but to come to our parents and grandparents to render them apology asking for forgiveness to enable us live in Nimba Point without confusion any longer.”

She was buttressed by Francis Cooper, a resident and spokesman of Nimba Point delegation saying their presence at the talks was intended to make peace and live in harmony with their host community (Madina Town).

He stated that stranger(s) can never fuss with their host, adding that anyone who does that do not understand custom and tradition of the people of that community.

Cooper, a classroom teacher at one of the schools at Sime Darby Plantation, believes living and working together as one people has been the wishes of the squatters in Nimba point.

He indicated how they did not know the past of Nimba Point but now they have understood same. He said this understanding has prompted them to appeal to the consciousness of the chiefs and elders of Madina Town for peaceful co-existence.

In response, Madina Town welcomed and thanked Nimba Point for the effort to resolve the internal wrangling between the two towns having understood the facts surrounding Nimba Point coming into being in 1948 when President William V. S. Tubman declared his “Open Door Policy.”

Madina Town Chief, Folley Sherman then commended Nimba Point for the gesture and now

they have realized in the aftermath of their first position which is as a result deemed wrong from misinformation provided Nimba Point’s residents.

For Alieu Gbany kiandole, Chairman of Madina Town Land Committee, praised the people of Nimba Point for their understanding of the truth on the matter that Madina Town give birth to Nimba Point.

In a strong worded comment, Alfred Quayjandii, Lead Negotiator/Spokesman on Madina Town Land Dispute with Sime Darby Planation for almost a decade now, first paid tribute to Nimba Point for the bold step taken.

He said Madina Town do not want any confusion with their strangers but emphasized the need to work together as one body for the common good of the affected communities and generations to come.

Quayjandii indicated that Nimba Point was considered as one of the project affected communities because of the farmland and crops it

Madina Town and Nimba Point had being oe of the sticky issues which had over time prevented authorities at the Plantation from factoring in Madina Town as one of the project affected communities. Sime Darby Plantation had repeatedly raised these concerns at numerous talks held with Madina Town, since its inception a nearly a decay ago.

In their last meeting held in Kon-Town, Madina Township on Saturday, 20 October 2018, the Plantation represented by Dao Metzger, Human Resource Manager; Zulu Seh, Industrial Relations Manager and Samwar Fallah, Public Relations Manager, the issue of perceived “scarce-mongering” among the two towns was brought to the fore.

They reminded Madina Town to have in-house discussion with Nimba Point before any paperwork of recognizing them as one of the project affected communities could be respected.

The resolution of the confusion between the two is a



had but that should not be the basis for the Planation not factoring in Madina Town into its database as one of the project affected communities. “Madina Town delisted and does not want sour relationship with the Plantation they been cool about things because our people have been deprived of job opportunities while Nimba Point residents who are strangers benefiting,” he noted.

In a short statement, Morris O. Dosii, a septuagenarian and dean elder of Madina Township, Garwula district appreciated Nimba Point for the peace talk upon learning the truth about the town’s establishment. But before proceeding the elderly man (Dosii) asked Nimba Point delegation as to why Town Chief, James Mator, Sr. who stand accused of spreading fake information allegedly was not present?.

This question was never answer despite brainstorming among the strangers to reply. However, progress was made in ending the differences between Madina Town and Nimba Point. This aged old matter, which sprung up between

breakthrough and cardinal for the survival of the Plantation as well as the peaceful co-existing of these communities after years of internal wrangling.

Though Madina Township Commissioner, Stephen Perry, the one who has been initiating these dialogues between Sime Darby Plantation and Madina Town on one hand, and Nimba Point and Madina Town on the other, was absence but this did not stop the peaceful resolution.

However, Nimba Point was represented by Abarku Goa, Zombon Dennis, Francis Cooper, Sekou Kamah, Emmanuel N. Yonkendeh and Saah Joseph, Jr. Others are Joseph S. Fayiah, Mother Nyamah Augustine, Fallah Larmie, Tenekai Kiazolu, Hilton K. Porka and Joshua W. Briggs.

While Madina Town delegation was comprised of Morris S. Dosii, Alfred Quayjandii, Lead Negotiator/Spokesman; Madina Town Chief Folley Sherman; Alieu Gbany Kiandole, Chairman of Madina Town Land Committee; Boima Freeman, Chairman Concerned Citizens of Madina Land among others.

Most useless branch of gov't

By Winston W. Parley

Liberia's Chief Imam, Sheikh Ali Krayee says the Legislature here is the most useless branch of government, suggesting the need to abolish it.

"...So in my view the legislature has been the most useless branch of Liberian Government because throughout history, we have seen them only seconding the motion from the presidency," Sheikh Krayee told local broadcaster Prime FM Wednesday morning, 7 November in Monrovia.

In reaction to President George Manneh Weah's proposal to the Legislature to repeal tenured positions, Imam Krayee says he has no interest because former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf wanted those positions created "and the Legislature created them."

According to him, now that President Weah wants tenure positions repeal, he is sure that the Legislature will also abolish them.

"And anybody who understands, we are talking about tens of millions of United States Dollars spent on

people to second president's motion, then why not abolish them?" Sheikh Krayee wonders.

He recalls that during the

Sheikh Krayee recalls that when Doe shouted, Legislators panicked; and when imprisoned former President Charles Taylor roared, "they



Chief Imam Sheikh Ali Krayee

True Whig Party (TWP) era, the Legislature was about "so say one, so say all," saying why Liberians should continue to pay "for so say all."

Even during the regime of slain President Samuel Doe,

fell in line."

Similarly, in former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf's regime, the senior Muslim Cleric says he "saw the dribbling that took place from the Executive, the

Legislature."

"Oh, one moment it was [dethroned former House Speaker Edwin] Snowe, another moment it was [dethroned former House Speaker Alex] Tyler," he continues.

In as much as lawmakers here can only stand for what the president says, Sheikh Krayee suggests that they should rather not be there to burden Liberian taxpayers with spending of unnecessary money to keep them at the Legislature.

"Let the one say ... and let us accept it because what the one says is what they always say," he explains.

The Senior Muslim Cleric further said that he knows it's in the Constitution, but he sees it as an issue for national debate, even though he avoids suggesting the need for referendum on abolishing the Legislature.

"I said, I do not expect, based on my utterance ... that the legislature will be abolished. I know it's a constitutional issue. But I'm speaking this way so that they will stand up to their responsibility," he continues.

Sheikh Krayee observes that the people are not impressed by the working of the Legislature, saying he will explain himself if he were called by lawmakers on the

basis of what he has expressed against them.

The Chief Imam indicates that he is not unaware that there are honorable people among them, but the general image of the Legislature throughout history has not been encouraging.

"But we are saying that the general image of the Legislature throughout our history has not been encouraging and they have to work on it," he adds.

Sheikh argues that in less than a year, there is already a report that 44 percent of [those surveyed] say the performance of the Legislature is poor.

He expresses serious disappointment over the operation of the legislature here.

What appears even more troubling, Imam Krayee says often after elections, elected lawmakers would abandon the parties on whose tickets they were elected and jump ship to the ruling party.

Out of sudden, he says these lawmakers would say this president is the best. He said they soon change their tongues soon after that president's tenure expired. These, lawmakers he continued, would again run to the party of the next president and say it is the best.

Advocate accuses Sime Darby ex-Manager

A social justice advocate in western Liberia, Charles Brown has accused the former General Manager of Sime Darby David Parker, of instituting instabilities at the plantation in western Liberia and wants him probed by state security.

He made the allegations on Tuesday on Red Power FM when asked about current affairs at the plantation. Brown, over the years, has been one of the critical persons in the county, criticizing operations of the company. At one point, he was accused of lashing at Sime Darby for clearing land in Grand Cape Mount and Bomi

counties, respectively for concession.

He claims some citizens of the counties hinted him that Parker was holding secret meetings with people to stage instability, noting that if such allegations are correct, then, David Parker, a British national should be interrogated by the government.

"He needs to be invited by the NSA to answer these allegations," Brown adds.

He continued, if this is true, will be counterproductive to the spirit of friendly investment climate in Liberia.

This paper is yet to independently confirm these

allegations, but in May this year, about 50 citizens from both counties signed a petition addressed to House of Representatives' Specialized Investigative Committee on Sime Darby Operations in Liberia headed by Tiberosa S. Tarponweh, requesting the removal of Mr. Parker from the company as General Manager.

The House swiftly invited Parker and his team for questioning, and following investigations, the company was mandated to improve living standards of employees, which was done. Brown further alleges Parker is still influencing people at the plantation to carry out demonstrations and set up road blocks.

"The Liberian government through the security agencies should invite David Parker to explain what he is doing in Liberia since he was dismissed by the company," Brown said. Parker has been in Liberia since 1996.

When this paper contacted Parker's office on the Old Road, he was said to be out of the office. When called, his phone rang without any answer. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



Mr. David Parker taking oath during recent appearance at the Capitol

#Revoke rock and sand mining licenses from Chinese and Lebanese#

JUDICIAL BRANCH
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA



SITTING IN ITS OCTOBER TERM A.D. 2018

BEFORE HIS HONOUR:.....J. VINTON HOLDER,.....JUDGE, MONTHLY & PROBATE COURT:

IN RE: THE PETITION OF CIATA B, VICTOR OF THE CITY OF PAYNESVILLE, MONTERRADO COUNTY, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, AND JEANNINE V. TOE, OF 8239 MUMPHREY LN., MANASSAS, VIRGINIA, PRAYING COURT TO BREAK THE SEAL OF THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF THE LATE VYRLE M. RICHARDS.

NOTICE!

NOTICE!!

NOTICE!!!

THIS IS TO NOTIFY THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE INSTRUMENT PURPORTED TO BE THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF THE LATE VYRLE M. RICHARDS, WAS BROUGHT TO THE MONTHLY AND PROBATE COURT FOR MONTERRADO COUNTY AND SAME READ IN OPEN COURT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW OF LIBERIA ON THE 31ST. DAY OF OCTOBER A.D. 2018.

THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS FURTHER INFORMED THAT IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, ALL PERSONS HAVING LEGAL OR FORMAL OBJECTIONS TO THE ABOVE MENTIONED "PETITION" ARE TO FILE SAME IN THIS HONORABLE COURT THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE AFORESAID COURT ON OR BEFORE THE 30TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, A.D. 2018, AT THE HOUR OF 10:00 A.M.

FAILURE TO DO SAME WITHIN THE PERIOD INDICATED HEREINABOVE, WILL LEAVE THIS HONORABLE COURT WITH NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO ORDER SAID "PETITION" GRANTED AND LETTERS TESTAMENTARY ISSUED.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF COURT THIS 31ST. DAY OF OCTOBER A.D. 2018



EDWIN S. BOIMAH, SR.,
CLERK, MONTHLY & PROBATE COURT
MONTERRADO COUNTY, R.L.

Liberia drops on MCC scorecard



The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) has released its 2019 scorecard this week.

In this 2019 scorecard, Liberia dropped below the

minimal of 10 indicators, passing only 8, including control of corruption, an MCC release issued in Monrovia says.

The MCC says the scorecard rates the governance

performance of countries, mainly developing nations.

MCC scorecard is used to determine qualification of countries that benefit from MCC compact grants to promote economic growth and reduce poverty.

Liberia already signed a compact grant in 2015, but still has to keep passing, the release says.

According to the scorecard, Liberia poorly scores 27 percent on political rights; 35 percent on civil liberties; 0.12 on control of corruption; -0.45 on government effectiveness; and -0.07 on rule of law and 59 percent on freedom of information.

On the economic side of the scorecard, Liberia scores -4.4 on fiscal policy; 60.1 on trade policy; 12.4 on inflation; and -0.15 on regulatory quality, among others. -- Press release

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Wenger in 'advanced talks' with Milan to replace Gattuso

Milan are reportedly set to hire former Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger as their new boss, replacing the under pressure Gennaro Gattuso.

Wenger spent over 20 years in charge of the Gunners before parting ways with the Londoners during the summer. He has since been replaced by ex-Paris Saint Germain boss Unai Emery and it seems like he is

poised to take on his first job since leaving the Emirates.

That is according to France Football, who claim the Frenchman has been in talks with the Serie A giants for several weeks and that he is close to taking over from Gattuso at San Siro following I Rossoneri's wobbly start to the season.

Gattuso, meanwhile, has been on the job with Milan - the club he represented as a

player for 13 years - for less than 12 months. The Italian guided the side to a sixth placed finish in Serie A last season and the club currently sit fourth in the standings after 11 games played this term.

The team is in a bit of form at the moment, having won three successive games, but their last two wins were helped by last-minute goals.



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