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The New Dawn

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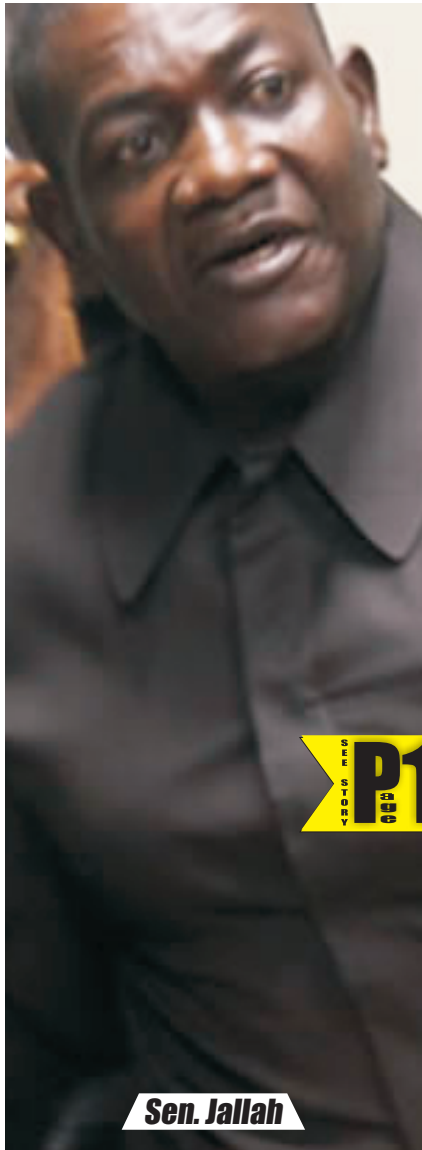
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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2018

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Sen. Jallah



Charles Sirleaf

P11

Sen. Jallah dares Charles Sirleaf

Liberia retrogressing



P11

-Finance Minister Samuel Tweah



Continental News

At least 30 drown in Uganda pleasure boat disaster

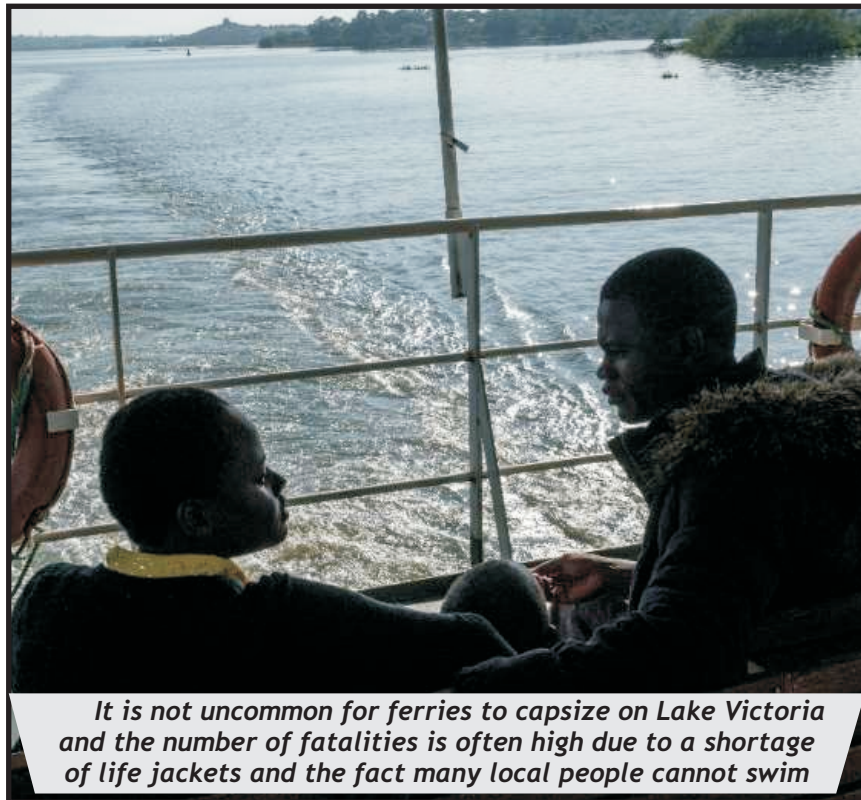
Thirty people drowned and more than 60 were feared dead after a pleasure boat sank in Lake Victoria, Ugandan police said Sunday, in the latest such incident on Africa's largest body of water. "Thirty bodies have been recovered and 27 people rescued," said police spokesperson Zura Ganyana, adding the boat had sunk 150 metres (yards) from the lakeshore. "According to one of the survivors there were more than 90 people on board," said Asuman Mugenyi, director of operations for the Uganda police. Witnesses claimed the vessel may have been rushed back into service following a renovation in order to take advantage of the profitable end-of-year party season. The boat carrying nearly 100 revellers sank in bad weather on Saturday in the latest deadly incident to affect passenger boats on Africa's largest lake. Lawn games at the Mutima Country Resort, close to the capital Kampala, were pushed aside Sunday to make way for an open-air morgue

where police collected the bloated bodies of victims. Boat rides, with drinking, dancing and music, are popular on the lake. "It's a big party," said Washington Serunjogi, whose sister Justine Namayanja was missing after taking the cruise on Saturday. "Justine had been

on three cruises before and I knew something was wrong yesterday because she always updated her WhatsApp and Facebook with selfies but last night she didn't," Serunjogi said. Serunjogi said that, like many Ugandans, his sister did not know how to swim. James

Matovo, a 26-year-old youth leader at the Buzindere fish landing site who saw the boat capsize on Saturday evening, said it had been "cold and very windy" when the boat pitched over. Rescuers became victims. He said that rescue services were slow to respond. "If people had help earlier so many more people would have survived," Matovo said. Instead, local fishermen went to help. "We rushed to help but the passengers couldn't swim and when we got beside them with our boats they grabbed us," he said. Matovo said some of the rescuers also drowned as a result. "People kept coming on the fishing boats and (one man) was overwhelmed. He was pulled down and he drowned," he said. "I've seen a lot of accidents but nothing as bad as this," said Matovo, who - along with other witnesses - had recently seen the boat being fixed up. Richard Kikongo, a local official, described the distinctive boat - which sported shark-style teeth painted on the bow - as "not in good condition". The

boat's owner and his wife were among the dead. Mugenyi said overloading and bad weather were likely to blame. "We expect (the number of passengers) is beyond the capacity of the boat. It was overloaded and unfortunately people were drunk," Mugenyi said. "We suspect the mechanical condition of the boat and the weather contributed to the sinking." Police spokesman Emilian Kayima said rescue efforts were continuing. Lake Victoria is the site of many boat disasters. In September, hundreds died when the MV Nyerere passenger ferry sank on the Tanzanian side of Lake Victoria. With a surface area of 70,000 square kilometres (27,000 square miles), the oval-shaped lake is roughly the size of Ireland and is shared by Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya. Ferry accidents are not uncommon on the lake and the number of fatalities is often high due to a shortage of life jackets and the fact that many local people cannot swim. In 1966, more than 800 people lost their lives on Lake Victoria when the MV Bukoba sank off the mainland town of Mwanza, according to the Red Cross. AFP



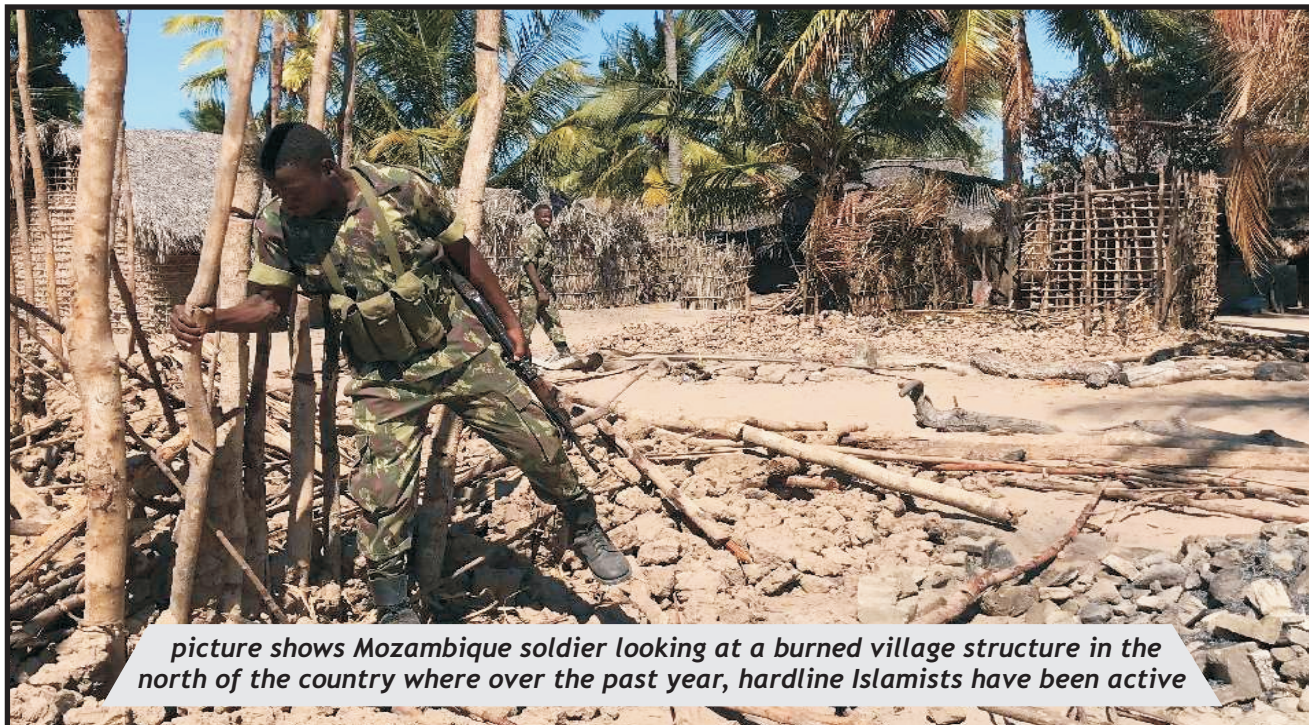
It is not uncommon for ferries to capsize on Lake Victoria and the number of fatalities is often high due to a shortage of life jackets and the fact many local people cannot swim

12 dead in suspected Mozambique Islamist attack

Twelve people have been killed in a suspected Islamist attack in northern Mozambique, with thousands of villagers fleeing the area into neighbouring Tanzania, police sources said Sunday. Early Friday, "there was an attack in Nangane district, where there are no security patrols. The attackers killed 12 people, mostly women and children,"

a police source in Cabo Delgado province, who asked not to be named, told AFP. The attack took place in the village of Chicuaia Velha, just a few kilometres (miles) from Tanzania, forcing several thousand people to cross the border to seek safety, police said. A local journalist said the villagers were killed by machete or died when their houses were set on fire by the

attackers. It was the third such incident in the last month in Cabo Delgado, leaving 20 dead in all. The authorities have responded with a crackdown, rounding up some 200 suspects. Over the past year, hardline Islamists have been active in the region, stoking unrest just as the government in Maputo is pushing ahead with oil and gas development in the province. AFP



picture shows Mozambique soldier looking at a burned village structure in the north of the country where over the past year, hardline Islamists have been active

Nigeria leader speaks after army base attack

Nigeria's leader has vowed to close the "loopholes" which allowed militants to reportedly kill dozens of soldiers at a base in north-eastern Borno state.

President Muhammadu Buhari addressed last Sunday's attack publicly after the army acknowledged it had taken place.

It had been reported that at least 40 soldiers died when an Islamist militant group targeted the base in Metele.

But the army refused to confirm the reports until Friday, when they put out a release disputing the death toll. The army did not provide a different figure. President Buhari said he was deeply shocked by the news in a statement released on Saturday. The president - who faces an election in three months time - added no responsible leader "would rest on his oars... to allow terrorists to endanger the lives of its military personnel and other citizens". As a result, he planned to meet

with military and intelligence chiefs "in the coming days" to plan their "next steps". Mr Buhari came to power in 2015 after promising to defeat Boko Haram militants, who have caused havoc in Nigeria through a wave of attacks as they attempt to overthrow the government and create an Islamic state. But while the army has retaken most of the territory the militants once controlled, they are still able to carry out deadly attacks. In a statement, released on Friday evening, the army admits that it is operating in "trying times", which is a rare if veiled admission that the military is experiencing serious setbacks in the fight against the jihadists, says BBC Africa editor Will Ross. On Monday, a Boko Haram faction loyal to the Islamic State group, known as the Islamic State West Africa Province, said it had carried out the attack and put the death toll at at least 40. President Buhari's political opponents in the Senate said 44 soldiers had died. AFP

EDITORIAL

The tyrant Sen. Prince Johnson!

LIBERIA'S WAR CRIMES prime suspect Senator Prince Yormie Johnson is becoming vicious and dreadful by the day, reminiscent of his war era, threatening to go after just about anyone and everyone, including his own kinsmen who dare support calls here for the establishment of a war crimes tribunal for Liberia.

THE COURT WOULD enable ex-rebel leaders and generals face prosecution for atrocities committed during the 14 years Liberian Civil War that left Over 200,000 people dead, including women and children.

BUT EVEN BEFORE THE suggestion is approved by Liberians and the International community, Senator PYJ, leader of the defunct Independent National Patriotic Front of Liberia (INPFL) rebels has gone wild, threatening to mobilize men armed with single barrel guns into the bushes to resist his indictment and subsequent arrest for prosecution for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

HE ALSO THREATENED recently to target homes of three of his kinsmen, including Nimbe County Lawmakers Larry P. Younquoi, Samuel G.Korga and Cllr.Tiawan Gongloe for their alleged involvement in the campaign for a war crimes tribunal for Liberia. As if this weren't enough, Senator PYJ issued his latest threat fortnight ago to shut down community radio stations in Nimba, for giving air times to critics to bad mouth him.

APPARENTLY PARANOID BY news of the coming of war crimes tribunal for Liberia where he may be dragged to court to account for heinous murders and massacres committed under his command and watch, PYJ has adapted scarce tactics to subject the entire population here to silence while impunity flourishes.

BUT THIS TIME around, we tell him in the face that it's time to end the tyranny in him. PYJ cannot continue to have his way taking innocent lives and gets rewarded with political positions to live with impunity while victims of his abuses cry for justice.

WE BELIEVE VERY strongly that real justice is in sight with the recent passage of Resolution 1055 by the United States House of Representatives, overwhelmingly affirming strong United States-Liberia ties and support for democratic principles, and calling for full implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations, including the establishment of an Extraordinary Criminal Tribunal for Liberia.

RESOLUTION 1055, INTRODUCED by former Republican Lawmaker Daniel Donovan and co-leader Hank Johnson, is a strong signal from the international community especially, the United States of America, Liberia's traditional and historical partner that the willful killings and destruction of properties under so-called freedom and redemption should end in Liberia to give way to genuine peace, sustainable development and growth.

SENATOR PYJ AND all other former warlords in this country ought to have known that this time would come one day for them to account for their deeds - bad or good. Therefore, we consider these threats as nothing but empty noise to distract attention from the substantive issues - willful murders, pillage, and corruption that have stagnated this nation for the past two decades and more.

TRUTH OF THE matter is, if we peace-loving Liberians don't rise up now to join the international campaign to stamp out impunity, another vicious group could be waiting just at our door step to unleash similar terror with unimaginable consequences that posterity might not be able to bear. Our silence and inaction today could feed such bleak future.

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

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COMMENTARY

By Kent Harrington
& John Walcott

How Kim Has Played Trump

Since the historic summit between US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in Singapore in June, the North Koreans have reaped significant benefits without having to make any real concessions. In his desperation to clinch a major diplomatic victory, Trump has allowed Kim to get the better of him.

ATLANTA - North Korean leader Kim Jong-un is eager to hold a second summit with US President Donald Trump. Since their first meeting in Singapore in June, Kim has consistently outmaneuvered his counterpart. Trump may still fancy himself a world-class dealmaker, but the truth is that Kim - like Russian President Vladimir Putin - has got Trump's number.

Kim's bonhomie (real or feigned) and promises of denuclearization have muted Trump's threats, brought the South Korean government closer to his side, and eroded international sanctions against his regime. Kim has accomplished all of this without diminishing his regime's nuclear capacity, and he appears to have continued ballistic-missile development at 16 hidden sites. Having gone from nuclear-armed pariah to presidential negotiating partner, it is little wonder that Kim would want a second summit to consolidate his newfound international legitimacy and position in the global limelight.

Kim has already outdone his forebears. His father and grandfather both tried and failed to create a high-level channel to the US government. The relationship that Kim has forged with Trump is thus an historic and personal success. After six reclusive years in power, the 35-year-old scion of North Korea's dynastic regime has made a remarkable debut on the world stage, both managing an erratic, ego-driven president and setting the terms of the negotiations.

By contrast, the Trump administration has little to show for its efforts. Since the Singapore summit, US officials have reportedly been pushing the Kim regime to lay out a path to denuclearization. But the North Koreans have refused to turn over even the most basic facts about their arsenal. This stonewalling suggests that Kim has read Trump well. As Trump himself contends, "I am the only one that matters."

Trump's narcissism, hunger for the spotlight, and desperation to match former President Barack Obama's Nobel Peace Prize are all that Kim needs to know about the man. The only question is how far Trump will go to secure something that he can hawk as an unprecedented deal with North Korea. By agreeing to another summit while slow-rolling preliminary talks, Kim is reconnoitering Trump's bottom line.

Recall that, as its up-front price for serious denuclearization talks, the North initially pushed for diplomatic steps, such as a treaty to end to the Korean War. In Singapore, Trump promised to do just that, surprising American allies and US officials alike. Then, in talks last month with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Kim upped the ante by also calling for an end to the international sanctions against his regime. No doubt, Kim is hoping that Trump's impulsiveness will lead him to fold. This month, Kim's foreign ministry issued a public threat

that North Korea could restart its weapons program if the US does not soften its position on sanctions.

As Pompeo pursues further talks in Pyongyang this month, Kim will surely hold his ground. Since declaring in June that North Korea is "no longer a nuclear threat", Trump has backpedaled on virtually all of his demands, dropped his draconian deadlines, and failed even to hint that Kim's foot-dragging is a cause for concern. In October, Pompeo made no headway toward defining even the basic vocabulary of a future agreement. According to officials who are familiar with the talks, on at least two occasions, the North Koreans asked him if he wanted to step out and call his boss. As matters stand, the Kim regime and the US have yet to agree on the definition of terms such as "denuclearization," "verifiable," and "irreversible."

To be sure, playing Trump and reneging on promised steps toward denuclearization has its risks. In May, Trump temporarily canceled the Singapore meeting in response to North Korean statements, and he did the same with talks between Pompeo and the North Koreans in August. There is no guarantee that he will not repeat that gambit.

And yet, even if he does, Kim's own penchant for drama - from firing missiles over Japan to carrying out frequent purges at home - suggests that he knows how to command the stage and bring Trump to the table. Moreover, his ego-stroking personal letters to Trump show that he has a good fix on the president's psyche. So far, he has proved to be highly effective at keeping the bromance alive, and the forthcoming summit on track.

Regardless of when the second summit occurs, the North Korean regime will continue to reap dividends at America's expense in the meantime. Trump's cancellation of two major US-South Korean joint military exercises already has commanders from both countries worried about their military readiness. And international support for economic sanctions - particularly on the part of China and Russia - has been steadily eroding since even before the Singapore summit.

With a fourth 2018 summit between Kim and South Korean President Moon Jae-in now in the works, it is clear that Moon's political future is tied to rapprochement. During his October trip to Europe, Moon lobbied hard for the easing of sanctions, reflecting his government's desire to engage, not embargo, the North.

It is time for the self-described master of the "art of the deal" to admit that he doesn't have one. Trump prefers hype to the hard work of hammering out arms-control agreements, so controlling his craving for the spotlight will not be easy. Nonetheless, when it comes to Kim, a bit of 54-year-old wisdom from Barry Goldwater, another outsider-turned-Republican Party icon, still applies: "The only summit meeting that can succeed is the one that doesn't take place."

O-PED

By Robert J. Shiller

Silent Inflation

NEW HAVEN - In many countries, inflation has become so low and stable in recent decades that it appears to have faded into the woodwork. Whereas galloping inflation was once widely viewed as the number one economic problem, today most people - at least in the developed countries - hardly ever talk about it or even pay attention to it. But "silent inflation" still has subtle effects on our judgment, and it may still lead to some consequential mistakes.

Since New Zealand's central bank set the first example in 1989, monetary authorities around the world have increasingly pursued a policy of setting inflation targets (or target ranges) that are substantially above zero. That is, policymakers plan to have inflation, but steady inflation. What used to be a dirty word is now announced publicly, and moderation is enforced.

Central Bank News tabulates these targets for 68 countries. The European Central Bank targets annual inflation in 2018 at "below, but close to, 2%." In Canada, Japan, South Korea, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States, the 2018 inflation target is 2%. China and Mexico target 3% annual price growth. In India and Russia, the target rate is 4%. It is 5% in Ukraine and Vietnam, and 6% in Azerbaijan and Pakistan.

Some countries have had double-digit inflation targets. Egypt has set a target of 13%, plus or minus 3%, for this year. But most countries have set their 2018 inflation targets at between 2% and 6%.

It is worth translating these annual inflation targets to longer-term inflation, assuming that the target is not changed in coming years. Inflation of 2% per year implies 22% inflation over a decade, or 81% inflation over 30 years. That will make numbers measured in currency look a lot bigger over time, even if nothing real is changing.

It is a lot worse if one considers a 6% inflation rate. At that pace, prices would rise 79% in ten years and almost six-fold in 30 years.

Such policies cause a sort of magnification of the present in the minds of most people. Suppose you ask someone who has been living in the same house for 30 years what he or she paid for it. The purchase price will probably look ridiculously small. If one is not careful to remember the effects of inflation on all prices, it might seem that we are living in a magnificently successful new era. With silent inflation, it can be easy to forget that the truth is much less dramatic.

At the same time, in an age of Internet rumors and fake news, the world today can look a little unmoored from history. That might create a sense of real risk.

Inflation targeting has other effects, too, which seem to be more on the minds of central bankers.

In his influential 1998 book *Inflation Targeting*, Ben Bernanke and his co-authors advised policymakers to announce a target inflation rate because it "communicates the central bank's intentions," which would "reduce uncertainty." The announced rate should be substantially positive, they wrote, because if officials tried to get it close to zero, any mistake could result in deflation, which "might endanger the financial system and precipitate an economic contraction." As Federal Reserve Chair from 2006 to 2014, Bernanke formally introduced inflation targeting in the United States in 2012, setting the annual rate at 2%, where it has remained ever since.

But reducing uncertainty about prices by keeping the inflation target at 2% or more might actually increase a sense of uncertainty about real things like home values or investments. While it is right to worry about massive deflation, the historical relationship between deflation and recession is not all that strong. In a 2004 paper, the economists Andrew Atkeson and Patrick Kehoe concluded that most of the evidence of a relationship comes from just one case: the Great Depression of the 1930s.

The news media's tendency to fixate on new records serves their short-term interest in creating the impression that something really important has happened that justifies readers' or viewers' attention. But sometimes there is a bit of fakery in the record, especially when the record is described in nominal terms and we have steady inflation. As a result, the emphasis on records can encourage a disrespect for history and nurture a sort of disoriented feeling that we live in exceptionally uncertain times.

For example, sometimes the stock market has set a new record, whether up or down, which is nothing more than the result of inflation. On February 5 of this year, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 4.6%, far below the record 22.6% decline on October 19, 1987. But media reports chose to point out that the February 5 drop was the biggest-ever one-day decline in absolute terms (1,175 points on the DJIA). Presenting a drop this way is misleading, and might encourage some panic selling. The amplitude of stock-market point swings invariably grows with general inflation in all prices.

The money illusion even bleeds into impressions of the "strength" of the economy, as if a high level of GDP growth or a bull market are indicators of the health of something called the economy. GDP growth numbers are conventionally reported in real (inflation-adjusted) terms, and unemployment numbers are unit-free. But reporting of just about every other major economic indicator is generally not corrected for inflation.

An inflation target of a few percentage points may seem to promote stability, and perhaps it really does. But we need to consider the possibility that it may lead to subtle misperceptions that have the opposite effect on the stability of our judgments.

OPINION

By Tony Blair

Uniting Africa for Power

LONDON - African countries are increasingly coming together. A landmark free-trade agreement was concluded earlier this year. East Africa has made great progress on free movement of people. And a commitment to a single market for air travel has been revived, potentially connecting countries better than ever before.

Each step toward greater cooperation and unity on the continent is, on its own, an important one. Together they show how a new generation of African leaders understand that power in the twenty-first century reflects strength in numbers.

But, for Africa, power requires power in another sense: a lack of electricity continues to hold back the continent's progress. And here, too, integration is essential to scale and connect markets, reduce consumer costs, and drive growth.

Despite advances in recent years, more than 600 million Africans still lack access to electricity. Solar technology has improved, and its declining cost has made it a viable option. Rising inflows of private capital have been accompanied by large-scale national energy-sector reforms, which should help increase the availability of electricity. But pushing down the price of power and making it available across growing cities and vast territories remains a daunting, and yet central, task.

All of the African leaders with whom I speak tell me that making electricity affordable is a top-priority issue, and most have set ambitious targets for power generation and transmission. But achieving these targets requires adopting a mix of technologies, which is hard enough in the best circumstances, but even more so when countries try to go it alone.

The fact is that resources are not evenly distributed among countries. Some have gas, others hydrological resources. Some have no particular resources and build thermal power plants or import expensive liquid fuels to meet their needs. Added to this are planning issues, which usually go one of two ways: either too much or too little supply.

The most efficient way to overcome these costly electricity imbalances would be through a common energy market. Much like the European Union's internal market for electricity, power trading would ideally extend across Africa and form part of the continued evolution of the African Union, which Rwandan President Paul Kagame is so admirably pushing forward. But high-volume power trading from Ethiopia to Lesotho is unlikely in the foreseeable future, and a more realistic path forward would be at the sub-regional level.

One such opportunity is through the West Africa Power Pool. Little more than half of the region's population has access to electricity, and only around 3% of power generation currently crosses borders (based on current capacity levels). With an integrated market, however, power demand could be met as countries such as Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, and Guinea produce surpluses, while others such as Burkina Faso and Mali are in deficit and reliant on costly liquid fuels.

Such a sub-regional market would yield significant benefits not only for families, but also for governments and investors. More people would be connected, exporting countries could generate more revenue, and imports would become less expensive, more reliable, and cleaner. According to modeling by the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change and the US government's Power Africa, an integrated energy market would save the region \$32 billion in energy costs in the next decade. With better infrastructure and increased supply, this figure could be many times more.

Developing a sub-regional market would also spur economic growth, create jobs, and boost income for millions of people. Private capital would be attracted to new opportunities as national markets open up for economies of scale in the production and transmission of electricity. From an environmental perspective, an integrated market would save around 23 million tons of fuel oil - roughly the equivalent of the United Kingdom's annual fuel consumption by diesel vehicles.

But to realize the potential of power trading, four conditions must be met. For starters, the politics of trying to align national policies with a regional vision must change. Those of us with a long history in the EU will understand the difficulties of this better than most, and for some West African countries, rolling back costly and inefficient but politically popular subsidies will be difficult. The gains from trade would offset the effects, but this is likely to be a hard sell for politicians to make to their publics.

Second, infrastructure needs to be developed to connect national markets. International donors already are supporting much of this work. It is crucial to complete it, so that isolated grids are integrated into a unique regional market.

Third, gas must become increasingly available. Nigeria is the most likely source; another is imports of inexpensive Liquefied Natural Gas. Without the development of reserves, countries will need to revert to liquid fuels, at higher cost and larger carbon dioxide emissions.

Lastly, regulatory harmonization is essential to ensure the right enabling environment. But so, too, is support for first-time, specific transactions - such as that along Africa's west coast all the way from Côte d'Ivoire to Mauritania - which can help countries to overcome obstacles and open the door to future, more expansive power trading.

Developing this internal market is key to West Africa's energy future. Over the next decade, it could have a major impact on the lives of more than 300 million people. It would also be a significant step in Africa's push for greater unity, more self-reliance, and an economy driven more by trade and less by aid. And it would reinforce the progress African leaders are making toward projecting strategic power in the world today.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

VP Taylor in Iceland for High-level women confab

Liberia's Vice President, Chief Dr. Jewel Howard Taylor, is in the Iceland Capital, Reykjavik, to participate in the 2018 Women Leaders Global Forum which runs from November 26 to 29.

Vice President Howard-Taylor's attendance of this high level women forum, according to a release from the office of the VP, follows her participation in an international health conference in the Ghanaian Capital, Accra, which focused on sounding a call to action in the fight against Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR).

The conference the release added was co-chaired by Vice President Howard-Taylor and her Ghanaian counterpart, Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia.

Chief Dr. Howard-Taylor, who is the President of the Liberian Senate, is in Iceland at the head of the Liberian Parliamentary Delegation, comprising includes Representatives Julie Wiah, Ellen Attoh, and Rustolynn Dennis, to attend this year's WOMEN LEADERS GLOBAL

FORUM.

The Women Leaders are convening to Power Together to fashion "IDEAS TO ADVANCE THE WORLD WITH."

They will be busy at work weighing gains made and assessing gaps in a variety of issue areas, spanning gender issues, maternal mortality, world economic outlook, peacemaking and sustenance,

digital leapfrogging, technology, as well as poverty alleviation, good governance and transparency, among others.

During this meeting the Liberian Vice President and other Women Leaders will also meet a delegation from the People's Republic of China to discuss enhancing gender matters.

The first female Vice President of Liberia, Chief Dr. Howard-Taylor will enjoy the special honor of making panel presentations at a lineup of key discussion sessions, along with eminent female personalities, among them Jose Manuel Barroso, the former Executive Chairman of Goldman Sacs.

The Liberian Vice President will also participate in a specially arranged Global Leaders Roundtable discussion, to be held in cooperation with the Council of Women World Leaders (CWWL). This will take place in the serene ambiance of the highly symbolic venue of the 1986 Ronald Reagan-Mikhail Gorbachev Meeting which was held to promote peace and put an end to the Cold War.

"PEACE" will be at the heart of the discussions among

female leaders gathering in the very same place of the historic meeting between the two leaders of the two global ideological power blocks.

Her Excellency Chief Dr Jewel Howard-Taylor, Vice President of Liberia, will also on the margins of the Women political leaders Global Forum, have a closed door meeting with the Vice Prime Minister of Romania, Ms. An Birschall.

The Women Leaders Global Forum is the platform where women leaders discuss and share ideas and solutions, by getting everyone participating to fully enter the conversation, not merely as an attendee, but an invited leader; someone who can hear what is being said, can add value to and share the passion for the conversation, thus serving as a Conversationist.



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

MTN, Orange launch pan-African mobile money

Two of Africa's largest mobile operators and mobile money providers, Orange Group (www.Orange.com) and MTN Group (www.MTN.com), today announced a joint venture, Mowali (mobile wallet interoperability), to enable interoperable payments across the continent. Mowali makes it possible to send money between mobile money accounts issued by any mobile money provider, in real time and at low cost.

Mowali will immediately benefit from the reach of MTN Mobile Money (www.MTN.cm/en/MTN-Mobile-Money) and Orange Money (OrangeMoney.orange.fr), bringing together over 100 million mobile money accounts and mobile money operations in 22 of sub-Saharan Africa's 46 markets. Mowali is ready to enable interoperability between digital financial service providers beyond MTN and Orange operations and markets, to support the existing 338 million mobile money accounts in Africa.

Mowali is a digital payment infrastructure that connects financial service providers and customers in one inclusive network. It functions as an industry utility, open to any mobile money provider in Africa, including banks, money transfer operators and other financial service providers.

The objective of Mowali is to increase the usage of mobile money by consumers and merchants. Mowali enables money to circulate freely between mobile money accounts from any operators in all countries. From the customer's point of view, this means "I can pay or receive money anywhere

from my mobile account regardless of my operator". The system will unlock further innovation in the digital financial space within the continent.

For Stéphane Richard, Chairman & CEO of Orange, "by providing full interoperability between platforms, Mowali will provide an important step forward that will allow mobile money to become a universal means of payment in Africa. Increasing financial inclusion through the use of digital technology is an essential element in furthering the economic development of Africa, particularly for more isolated communities. This solution embodies Orange's ambition to be a leading player in the digital transformation of the continent. By joining forces with another of Africa's market leaders, MTN, we aim to accelerate the pace.

of this transformation in a way that will change the lives of our customers by providing them with simpler, safer and more advantageous services."

"One of MTN's goals is to accelerate the penetration of mobile financial service in Africa, Mowali is one such vehicle that will help us achieve that objective. Furthermore, co-operation and partnerships that help us accelerate the pace of development and overcome some of the scale, scope and complexity of challenges that society faces are key. This partnership with Orange is therefore an important step in helping us play a meaningful role in supporting the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals related to eliminating extreme poverty and



LIBERIA TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION

November 26, 2018

The Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA) publishes this Notice in keeping with Part III Section 11(4) of the Telecommunications Act 2007 (the Act) and specifically in compliance with the Consultation Process Guidelines for LTA Rules, Orders and Regulations, 2009.

Pursuant to Parts III, VII and IX of the Act, and in furtherance of its function to maintain effective competition and ensure the continued viability and growth of telecommunications markets, the LTA proposes to establish a price stabilization measure on on-net voice and data services.

By this Notice, the LTA launches a process of public consultation to seek the informed views of stakeholders, other interested parties and the public on the Consultation Document to be published November 26, 2018. The Consultation Document and this Notice will be available on the LTA website (www.LTA.gov.lr). The LTA invites all interested parties to provide written comments, inputs and observations (with justifications) by email to the address below by **December 10, 2018**.

Email: consult@lta.gov.lr

The consultation process schedule is as follows:

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. Publication of Consultation Notice | November 26, 2018 |
| 2. Publication of Consultation Document | November 26, 2018 |
| 3. Deadline for Receipt of Stakeholder Input | December 10, 2018 |
| 4. Issuance of Consultation Report and Draft Order | December 17, 2018 |
| 5. Deadline for Receipt of Additional Stakeholder Input | December 24, 2018 |
| 6. Publication of Final Report & Order | January 5, 2019 |

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

NEC declares Flomo as winner

-As Augustine Chie leads senatorial race in Sinoe

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

The National Elections Commission declares Independent Candidate Edward Papay Flomo alias 'Green' winner of the November 20th by-election in Montserrado County District#13, while the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) Candidate Cllr. Augustine Chie, leads in the

Representative for District#13, replacing Saah Joseph, now an elected senator for the county.

"By the power vested in me, and acting on behalf of the Board of Commissioners of the National Elections Commission, and based on the results just announced, I hereby declare Mr. Edward Papay Flomo, Jr., as the winner of Montserrado Dist. #13

invalid.

Chairman Korkoya explains that CDC's John J. Weah obtained 4,878 or 31.6 percent of the total votes cast, trading behind Edward Flomo, who has now become the official face of the people of District #13 at the House of Representatives.

Eleven other candidates contested in the race, including Cornelia Kruah-Togba, daughter of Posts and Telecommunications Minister Cooper Kruah, who contested on the ticket of the former ruling Unity Party (UP) and Journalist Oneal Robert of Truth FM as an Independent Candidate.

In the Sinoe County Senatorial by-election Kokoya announces that 135 of the 136 polling places constituting 99.26 percent have reported and those results have already been tallied.

Of the 16,477 total votes cast, Cllr. Chie obtained 5,806, while Romeo Thomas Quiah of the United People's Party (UPP) obtained 3,568 votes or 32.0 percent. Others are: Morlu Clark Jabba of VOLT, 497 votes or 4.5 percent, and Othello Doe Nagbe of CLP, 2,980 votes, respectively.

The by-elections in both counties are intended to fill vacant seats created by the election of Montserrado's District#13 Representative Saah Joseph as Senator, and the appointment of Sinoe County Senator Cllr. Joseph Nagbe to the Supreme Court Bench as Associate Justice, replacing Justice Philip A.Z. Banks, who retired this year.

- **Editing by Jonathan Browne**



Senatorial by-election in Sinoe County, southeast Liberia, respectively.

NEC Chairman Cllr. Jerome George Kokorya in a press briefing on Friday, November 23, announced that Mr. Flomo obtained 5,310 votes, totaling 34.4 percent of the total votes cast in Tuesday's by-election thus becoming the next

Representative By-Election," Cllr. Kokorya declares.

The NEC boss reported that all of the 89 polling places in Montserrado District #13 have reported and all the results tallied in line with the Commission's procedures.

He details that 15,451 registered voters voted and of that number, 183 votes were

Big syndicate at Ganta-Guinea border

-Gas, rice and cement smuggle to Guinea

By Thomas Domah /Nimbia

The Ganta-Guinea border in District One, Nimbia County has now become a major smuggling point for gas from Liberia to Guinea right before the watch of senior commerce officials in the county.

The Government of Liberia has regulation in place that bans essential commodities such as rice, gas and cement, among others from leaving the country.

This paper gathers that more than 13 dumps of gas with over 5,000 bags of rice and cement smuggled thru the Ganta border into Guinea daily.

When contacted, the commerce inspector for Nimba, Nelson Korquoi, confirmed such goods leave Liberia for Guinea, but

clarifies not in such huge consignment. Instead, he says they are for personal use, not for commercial purpose.

Meanwhile, Inspector Korquoi threatens to shut

down business houses involved in arbitrary increase of pump of price a gallon of gas from 620 to 700 LDR.

He warns that such business practice violates the law of the country. - **Editing by Jonathan Browne**



Nimba Superintendent abandons office?

By Thomas Domah/Nimba

Nimba County Administration are said to be in disarray amid report that Superintendent Dorr Cooper has allegedly abandoned office to prepare for the next senatorial election in 2020.

Superintendent Cooper has openly told Nimbaians residing in the mining enclave Yekepa that he will vie in the pending senatorial race in 2020.

In the last two months, the Superintendent has been conspicuously absent from office, raising public concern in Nimba.

But Dorr Cooper may not be only person dreaming for senatorial seat in the county. Several other Nimbaians have similarly expressed

interest to contest in the senatorial election, and have begun holding series of secret meetings to build consensus among the local population one year ahead of such poll.

Among them are former Superintendent and two times defeated senatorial candidate Edith Gongloe-Ware, Superintendent

Dorr Cooper and Tiaa Wongbay of from the opposition Alternative National Congress or ANC, all gearing up to unseat

incumbent Senator Thomas Grupee.

Some staff from Superintendent Cooper's office who asked for anonymity, expressed disappointment that their boss has abandoned office for so long, while they continue to work without pay.

They lament that due to his prolonged absence, their salary checks are yet to be signed to enable them receive their monthly pay.

The New Dawn Nimba Correspondent, who visited the Superintendent office in Sanniquellie City, was told that Cooper was not in office.

When asked about his whereabouts, this paper was informed that he is out of Sanniquellie. Staff in the office were unable to say how soon Superintendent Cooper would return after spending two nights in the provincial city to verify this report.

Recently, he disbursed about 600,000 Liberian Dollars among women and youth groups, including students and others.

- **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

MTN, Orange launch

Cont'd from page 5

enhancing socio-economic development in the markets we operate in and beyond. Thus giving our customers access to a bright, digital future." said Rob Shuter, Group President and CEO of MTN.

The GSMA supports the Mowali initiative as interoperability at this scale is a key accelerator for both financial inclusion and Mobile Money usability across Africa.

"Today, there are over 690 million mobile money accounts around the world. Mobile money services have become an essential, life-changing tool across Africa, providing access to safe and secure financial services but also to energy, health, education and employment opportunities. The creation of Mowali will help to further transform mobile financial services throughout the African region. It demonstrates the mobile industry's continued leadership and commitment to driving financial inclusion and economic empowerment through industry

collaboration. The GSMA is proud to support its development," said Mats Granryd, Director General, GSMA.

"Interoperability of digital payments has been the toughest hurdle for the financial services industry to overcome, in support of financial inclusion. With Mowali, Orange and MTN deliver a solution that will enable them, and other companies, to scale digital financial services across Africa, faster, to everyone—including the poor," said Kosta Peric, deputy director of Financial Services for the Poor, at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation "This is a signal that a new wave of innovation, which can help alleviate poverty and drive economic opportunity, is coming. We're pleased to see an implementation of Mojaloop[1]—an open source payment platform available to operators across the sector—help achieve that." - **Press Release**

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

WATAF lauds LRA for technical assistance

The West Africa Tax Administrative Forum or WATAF lauds the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) for technical assistance to the sub-regional body.

According to a press release, LRA Commissioner General Thomas Doe Nah recently released two senior staff of the Authority, Messrs James Kerkulah, Commissioner of Internal Audit; and Wellington Jah, Manager for Strategic

two LRA technical experts developed 20 policy and strategic documents, including a three-year corporate strategic plan and several vital policy documents such as communication, travel, financial management, code of ethics, salary and benefits for use by WATAF.

The LRA has established itself as a professional institution over the years, engaging in best international

“On behalf of the WATAF Chairman, I wish to express our appreciation to you and the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) for graciously releasing Messrs James Kerkulah and Wellington Jah on a two-week technical assistance mission to the WATAF Secretariat,” reads the WATAF’s letter signed by its Executive Secretary, Babatunde Oladapo.

WATAF says within a relatively short period at hand, the LRA staff were able



Messrs James Kerkulah, LRA Commissioner of Internal Audit (2nd from left) and Wellington Jah, LRA Manager for Strategic Partnership (far right) along with officials of WATAF Secretariat in Nigeria

Partnership, on a two-week technical assistance mission to the WATAF Secretariat in Nigeria. WATAF Executive Secretary requested the Technical Assistance from the LRA to help provide staff of the Authority with the capacity to develop policies, procedures and strategic documents that the WATAF Secretariat needs to effectively operate.

During their two missions (Sept 16-22 and Nov 3-18), the

practices in its dealings. It has documented policies and standard operating procedures for every business and administrative processes.

The officers displayed a very high sense of job expertise and commitment to the achievement of the objectives of the technical assistance mission, a letter from WATAF addressed to Commissioner General Nah noted.

to discharge their responsibilities very well and provided further insights in to areas for improvement in the Secretariat’s job performance.

Babatunde Oladapo hopes such collaboration should be sustained and emulated by other WATAF member countries. The missions were fully funded by WATAF. -Press Release

ArcelorMittal renews investment commitment

By Lewis S. Teh

Liberia’s largest steel manufacturing company ArcelorMittal says it remains committed to investing in Liberia, renewing its commitment to the government here.

During a recent press briefing in Monrovia, the company noted that at no point in time did it ever talk about leaving Liberia. It terms such rumor as false and misleading.

ArcelorMittal’s head of Corporate Communication in Liberia Mrs. Amanda M. Hill told a regular press briefing at the Information Ministry that the company has maintained a commitment to investing in the people of Liberia for over 13 years.

According to Mrs. Hill, the company is actively engaging with the government of Liberia on many topics.

She says through ArcelorMittal’s constructive engagement in May 2018, it was agreed upon in principle that they would provide funding for the construction of the Ganta to Yekepa Road.

She describes this project as a key step in the development of Liberia’s infrastructure that will positively impact the community.

The Corporate Communication head narrates that ArcelorMittal continues operating with no disruption, and it is planning to produce up

to five metric tons of DSO [Direct Shipping Ore] this year.

The company official says ArcelorMittal is also considering new investment that will improve the grade of Liberian iron ore, extend the operational life of its mine beyond 2022 to increase government’s revenue stream.

According to her, the new investment will further improve training and capabilities among the Liberian employees at the company, and demonstrating confidence in the country and its future.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Hill says ArcelorMittal believes in forging a strong partnership with the government of Liberia, including the Legislature, private sector and civil society to support shared goal in building a robust and stable economy.

According to Mrs. Hill, ArcelorMittal is the world’s leading steel and mining company, with a presence in 60 countries and on industrial footprint in 18 countries.

She notes that the company is guided by a philosophy to produce safe and sustainable steel, adding that they are leading suppliers of quality steel in the major global steel markets including automotive, construction, household appliances and packaging, with world-class research and development. --Edited by Winston W. Parley

Without quality education, society spirals into waste

....LIMPAC Boss

The Guest Speaker of the 8th induction ceremony of the LUX-IN - TENEBRIS Scholars Program, Del-Francis N. Wreh said without quality education, the society spirals into waste where ignorance thrives over wisdom, dishonesty becomes the widely accepted norms, and integrity and principle-centered decisions are second to disingenuousness.

Speaking on the topic: “Preparing University Honors Students for Sustainable Contributions to National Development he said, an advanced society is not only measured by the number of students that are admitted or have graduated from the university; it is not only the number of degree holders that

are holding strategic positions; it is also not only the articulation and eloquence of the citizens; but by the level of effort which each student is required to invest while at the university, the quality of the instructions, and the technology/infrastructure

that exist.

The Guest Speaker pointed out that these factors, must at all times, drive our desire and aspirations for preparing the next generation.

Speaking on the Fendel Campus of the University of Liberia over the weekend, Mr.



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Wreh said: “We must detest any form of weakness and overt display of paper-made diploma/degrees to demonstrate our acceptance and preparation for the task in providing transformative leadership for the greater good of our society. The system for preparing our next generation must entail and instill the discipline for genuine success. It must be productive and matched by efficiency, reliability, creativity, and innovation.”

LIMPAC boss added that the education programs in Liberia must respect and reward brilliance and hard work over mediocrity and laziness; it must accept development of new ideas through an innovative and ingenious approach rather than

suppression of freedom of expression of thoughts; it must support the best and deserving students but not let the weak ones unattended; it must encourage dissent, not disrespect to authorities and fellow colleagues; it must promote full utilization of the human mind through nonacademic programs.

“Our honors students coming into this program must show true colors of scholars, determine with a strong sense of responsibility, honesty, hard work and professionalism. This is only when we will see “the light at the end of the tunnel” or “the brighter side of life.” Anything short of designing a system that underpins the above



Français

Gouvernance : la Chambre des représentants supprime les postes à durée déterminée

La Chambre des représentants a adopté une loi qui supprime tous les postes de responsabilité à durée déterminée au sein du pouvoir exécutif, à l'exception de la Commission des audits (GAC), de la Banque centrale du Libéria (CBL) et de la Commission électorale nationale (NEC).

Par sa décision, la Chambre basse vient ainsi de soulager le président George Manneh Weah qui semble avoir du mal à travailler avec certains fonctionnaires occupant des postes permanents, surtout à la tête des institutions de répression des malversations financières, telles que notamment la Commission anti-corruption du Libéria (LACC) et la Commission de passation des marchés publics et de la concession (PPCC), qui avaient été créées par l'administration précédente afin de renforcer la bonne gouvernance et lutter contre la corruption. Après avoir accumulé des défaites lors des recours judiciaires devant la Cour suprême suite à sa



nomination des personnes à des postes à durée déterminée qui sont toujours occupés par des fonctionnaires nommés par son prédécesseur, Mme Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf, M. Weah a fait recours à l'Assemblée législative, en octobre, en présentant un projet de loi portant annulation pure et simple de certains postes à durée déterminée au sein du pouvoir exécutif. Les postes à durée déterminée sont des postes de responsabilité dont les occupants, bien qu'ils aient été nommés par le chef de l'Etat, ne peuvent être limogés par ce dernier avant la fin de leurs mandats, sauf en cas d'une faute grave et avérée. La loi adoptée par la Chambre des représentants

annule ainsi tous les postes permanents, sauf la présidence de la GAC, de la NEC et de la CBL, et souhaite que les statuts des postes de responsabilité de la PPCC et de la LACC soient révisés.

Selon le Good Government Reform and Judiciary, un comité mixte auquel le projet de loi a été confié le 6 novembre 2018, le projet de loi a pour objet de corriger « l'inadéquation et l'incohérence » des postes permanents créés par les législateurs dans le passé.

Le comité a indiqué qu'il a tenu une audience le 14 novembre afin de déterminer pourquoi la Chambre des représentants devrait adopter

ce projet de loi.

Au cours de l'audience, le comité a déclaré que certains intervenants avaient été invités, à la suite de quoi le comité a recommandé que le projet de loi soit resurnommé « Loi sur la durée des fonctions au gouvernement ».

Le rapport recommande que la dernière phrase du projet de loi soit libellée comme suit : « que les institutions suivantes soient exemptées de l'article 1 de la présente loi et que leur mandat reste en vigueur conformément à la loi : Commission générale de contrôle des comptes, commission électorale nationale et gouverneur exécutif, sous-gouverneur et membres du conseil des gouverneurs de la Banque centrale du Libéria. »

Il a indiqué en revanche que le statut des postes de responsabilité de toutes les institutions de moralisation de la vie publique, à savoir notamment la Commission anti-corruption du Libéria et la Commission de la concession pour les marchés publics, soit réexaminé dans des législations distinctes conformément à l'article 35 de la Constitution, dans la mesure où des protocoles et conventions internationaux que le Libéria a ratifiés appellent à des postes à durée déterminée.

Attaque de Boko Haram : dans une vidéo, des soldats s'en prennent à Buhari

Au Nigeria, des soldats survivants de la récente attaque de Boko Haram sur la garnison de Metele, dans le nord-est du pays, s'adressent par vidéo interposée au président Muhammadu Buhari. Dans un message tourné au téléphone portable, deux soldats rescapés remettent durement en cause les autorités militaires nigérianes. Ils montrent et décrivent notamment les équipements

inadaptés selon eux pour mener la guerre contre la secte islamiste.

A aucun moment, les deux soldats nigériens qui témoignent n'apparaissent à l'image. En revanche, leurs voix scandent une colère dans ce sévère réquisitoire de près de six minutes tournés sur une séquence sans coupure. « Nous sommes des soldats de moins de 35 ans et du 21e siècle, les entend-on déclarer. Nous avons

pour la plupart d'entre nous des diplômes ».

Ce sont les seules indications à caractère personnel livrées dans cette vidéo.

Une des deux voix précise que la scène se déroule à Metele, dans le nord-est du Nigeria, où la garnison a été récemment la cible d'une attaque du groupe islamiste Boko Haram. Le duo de narrateurs déambule sur un terrain ressemblant à un camp de base. En position portrait, la caméra de leur téléphone portable montre des carcasses de chars détruits.

A chaque arrêt devant un véhicule, les voix expliquent qu'il s'agit d'un équipement datant de plus de 35 ans. La caméra passe en revue, mais sans s'attarder, ni en faisant de gros plans. La lumière des images est légèrement surexposée. On distingue aussi des hommes en uniforme. Debout devant des tentes, ils semblent ranger des affaires.

Récupération politique

Sans temps mort et toujours d'un ton énervé, les deux voix accusent de négligence les

responsables de l'armée du Nigeria. Et ils se demandent à haute voix « si ces équipements filmés dans cette vidéo correspondent bien aux budgets débloqués par le ministère de la Défense pour l'achat d'armement ». Ces deux militaires anonymes concluent en appelant à l'aide les autorités nigérianes.

Il n'y a eu aucune réaction officielle pour l'instant suite à cette vidéo amateur. Le président Muhammadu Buhari a exprimé ce 24 novembre via un communiqué de presse son choc profond suite à la mort de plusieurs dizaines de soldats à Metele. Ces militaires ont été

victimes d'un raid meurtrier lancé par la faction de Boko Haram dirigée par Abu Musab El Barnawi.

Le chef de l'Etat nigérian a demandé à la classe politique et notamment aux partis de l'opposition de ne pas chercher à surfer sur les revers subis par les forces nigérianes dans le nord-est du pays, ces derniers mois. Alors que la campagne de la présidentielle 2019 est officiellement lancée depuis une semaine jour pour jour, cette vidéo tournée par deux soldats anonymes met en lumière les faiblesses des forces de défense nigérianes.



Articles traduits

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Français

"Ce gouvernement est incompetent", (Opposant Alex Cummings)

Le chef de l'opposition et leader politique du Congrès national alternatif, M. Alexander Cummings, a qualifié le gouvernement de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) d'"incompétent et incapable" de conduire le pays à une croissance économique plus forte.

Lors d'un entretien sur la chaîne de télévision locale OK FM le jeudi 22 novembre à Monrovia, M. Cummings a déclaré que les investisseurs se montrent méfiants à l'égard de ce régime et deviennent de plus en plus réticents pour investir au Libéria depuis l'investissement du gouvernement du président George Manneh Weah cette année, et ce, en raison de son incompétence et de son incapacité à leur redonner confiance.

M. Cummings a qualifié le bilan à mis parcours de ce régime de « médiocre et décourageant », tout en se disant inquiet du risque de la naissance d'un climat de malaise social dans le pays.

Pour le chef de l'opposition, le régime actuel n'a donc d'autre choix que de redoubler d'efforts afin d'améliorer les conditions de vie des citoyens qui ont fait la queue pour voter.

Il estime en outre que la disparition présumée des milliards de dollars libériens de la banque centrale est l'un des facteurs qui favorisent la réticence des investisseurs étrangers. « Les investisseurs sérieux recherchent une réputation forte et des politiques fortes pouvant les protéger », a-t-il indiqué.

Le chef de l'opposition a proposé son remède à lui à la situation actuelle, celui de prendre des mesures sérieuses pour lutter contre la corruption, « car c'est une exigence minimale quand on veut attirer les investisseurs étrangers ». Il faut commencer par faire la lumière sur la disparition présumée des milliards de dollars libériens dans la transparence.

M. Cummings craint que la fin du calvaire des libériens ne soit pas pour sitôt si le gouvernement n'arrive pas à se blanchir

dans ce scandale financier qui est le plus grand de ce genre depuis la création de la république. Il a averti que le regard de la communauté internationale est fixé sur le Libéria.

Le leader politique craint en outre que les déclarations contradictoires des hauts responsables au sujet de la disparition présumée des billets de banque n'aient suscité un sentiment de mépris de la part de la communauté internationale à l'égard du jeune gouvernement.

« La situation qui se dessine depuis près de onze mois sous le gouvernement Weah ne laisse personne indifférent dans un pays qui a connu 14 années de crise civile amère et qui a été décimé par l'épidémie de la fièvre hémorragique à virus Ebola », s'est-t-il inquiété avant de regretter que le Libéria, en dépit de après 10 ans de stabilité socio-politique, n'ait fait aucun progrès en matière d'amélioration des conditions de vie des personnes et des infrastructures de développement.

L'homme d'affaires reconverti à la politique a ainsi appelé le gouvernement à recourir à l'agriculture pour atteindre l'auto-suffisance alimentaire. Il propose à cet effet la réouverture de la banque Libérienne de l'Agriculture et de la société de la commercialisation des produits libériens (LPMC) afin que les hommes d'affaires aient facilement accès à des prêts à un taux d'intérêt réduit. Selon lui, avec la LPMC, les libériens seront à même de commercialiser les produits fabriqués localement sur le continent et pourquoi pas dans le monde entier.

Il doute que le pays se développe sans un engagement national sincère dans l'agriculture, soulignant que l'agriculture devrait être le fondement même du développement économique recherché par le gouvernement.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Kent Harrington & John Walcott

Kim et l'art de la manipulation

ATLANTA - Kim Jong-un, le dirigeant nord-coréen, souhaite vivement rencontrer à nouveau Donald Trump. Depuis leur premier sommet à Singapour en juin, il manipule constamment le président américain. Ce dernier s'imagine toujours en négociateur hors pair, mais en réalité, Kim (de même que le président russe Poutine) est bien plus fort que lui.

La bonhomie feinte ou réelle de Kim et ses promesses de dénucléarisation ont amené Trump à changer de discours ; elles l'ont rapproché du gouvernement sud-coréen et permis d'alléger les sanctions internationales contre son régime. Il a réalisé tout cela sans diminuer les capacités nucléaires de son pays et il continue probablement à développer des missiles balistiques dans 16 sites cachés. Ayant réussi à passer du statut de dirigeant d'un Etat paria détenteur de l'arme nucléaire à celui de partenaire de négociations au plus haut niveau, il n'est pas étonnant qu'il veuille d'un nouveau sommet qui consolidera sa récente légitimité et sa position sur la scène internationale.

Il a fait déjà bien mieux que ces aïeux. Son père et son grand-père avaient tous deux essayé sans succès de créer un canal de communication à haut niveau avec les autorités américaines. La relation qu'il a forgée avec Trump constitue pour lui une réussite historique. Après six premières années passées au pouvoir sans trop s'afficher, le rejeton de 35 ans de la dynastie au pouvoir en Corée du Nord a fait une entrée remarquable sur la scène internationale en gérant un président imprévisible dominé par son ego et en fixant les termes de la négociation.

Par contre les USA n'ont pas accompli grand chose. Depuis le sommet de Singapour, les responsables américains auraient poussé Kim sur la voie de la dénucléarisation. Mais les Nord-Coréens ont refusé de communiquer ne serait-ce que les informations les plus basiques sur leur arsenal. Cette stratégie laisse à penser que Kim a bien compris qui est Trump, un personnage qui dit de lui-même, "Je suis le seul qui compte".

Il suffit à Kim d'avoir conscience du narcissisme, du besoin d'être constamment sous les feux de l'actualité et du désespoir de son homologue américain à l'idée de ne pas recevoir le prix de Nobel de la paix, honneur qui a échoué à son prédécesseur, Obama. La seule question qui se pose est de savoir jusqu'où ira Trump pour parvenir à un accord qu'il dira sans précédent, avec la Corée du Nord. En acceptant un nouveau sommet tout en freinant les négociations préliminaires, Kim teste les limites de Trump.

Initialement, en échange de sérieuses négociations sur la dénucléarisation, le Nord aurait souhaité un traité qui mette fin à la guerre de Corée. Or c'est exactement ce que Trump a promis à Singapour, tant à la surprise des alliés des Américains que de sa propre administration. Et le mois dernier, Kim a encore augmenté la mise en appelant à la levée des sanctions internationales contre son régime lors de ses discussions avec le secrétaire d'Etat américain, Mike Pompeo. Sans aucun doute, espère-t-il que l'impulsivité de Trump le conduira à accepter. Ce mois-ci, le ministre des Affaires étrangères nord-coréen a indiqué dans un communiqué que si les USA n'allègent pas ou ne lèvent pas les sanctions, la Corée du Nord pourrait reprendre son

programme d'armement.

Lors des discussions que Pompeo aura prochainement à Pyongyang, Kim restera probablement sur cette position. Depuis qu'il a déclaré en juin que la Corée du Nord "ne représente plus une menace nucléaire", Trump a fait machine arrière sur pratiquement toutes ses exigences. Il a renoncé à ses dates limites draconiennes et ne laisse même pas entendre que le fait que Kim traîne des pieds puisse être un sujet d'inquiétude. En octobre, Pompeo n'a fait aucun progrès pour définir avec ses interlocuteurs ne serait-ce que les termes de base qui pourraient figurer dans un accord : "dénucléarisation", "vérifiable", "irréversible...". Selon de hauts responsables au courant des négociations, les Nord-Coréens lui ont demandé au moins deux fois s'il voulait se retirer pour appeler son patron.

Il est vrai que manipuler Trump et revenir sur ses promesses de dénucléarisation présente des risques pour la Corée du Nord. En mai, Trump avait annulé provisoirement le sommet de Singapour en réponse aux déclarations des Nord-Coréens, et il a fait de même en ce qui concerne les discussions de Pompeo à Pyongyang en août. Rien ne dit qu'il ne va pas continuer sur cette voie.

Mais même dans ce cas, le penchant de Kim pour le drame - du tir de missiles au-dessus du Japon aux nombreuses purges dans son propre pays - laisse à penser qu'il sait comment s'y prendre pour amener Trump à la table de négociations. Les lettres qu'il lui adresse en flattant son ego montrent qu'il comprend parfaitement la psychologie du président américain. Jusqu'à présent il s'est montré très efficace pour maintenir une relation émotionnelle forte avec lui et ne pas faire dérailler le prochain sommet.

En attendant, le régime nord-coréen continue à récolter les dividendes de sa politique, aux dépens de l'Amérique. Trump ayant annulé à deux reprises des exercices militaires communs avec la Corée du Sud, les commandants des armées américaines et sud-coréennes s'inquiètent de leur niveau de préparation. Le soutien international en faveur des sanctions économiques à l'encontre du régime nord-coréen - notamment de la part de la Chine et de la Russie - fléchit depuis l'annonce de la première rencontre Kim-Trump qui a eu lieu à Singapour.

Le président sud-coréen Moon Jae-in qui a déjà rencontré Kim à trois reprises en 2018 devrait le rencontrer à nouveau prochainement. Il est donc clair que l'avenir politique du dirigeant sud-coréen est lié au rapprochement avec le Nord. Lors de sa tournée européenne en octobre, il a exprimé le souhait d'un relâchement des sanctions - reflétant le désir de son gouvernement de dialoguer avec le Nord plutôt que de le soumettre à un embargo.

Il est temps que celui qui se décrit comme maître dans "l'art de la négociation" prenne conscience qu'il n'en est rien. Trump préfère le battage médiatique au travail en profondeur que suppose l'élaboration d'un accord sur le contrôle de l'armement. Aussi ne sera-t-il pas facile de limiter son besoin d'être constamment sous les feux de l'actualité. Mais en ce qui concerne Kim, rappelons les mots prononcés il y a 54 ans par Barry Goldwater, un autre outsider devenu une icône du parti républicain : "Le seul sommet qui peut réussir est celui qui n'a pas lieu".

ARTICLE

Building a Community of Shared Future for a Poverty Stricken Liberian Society and a New Era of Sustaining Peace and Economic Growth

By: Josephus Moses Gray, PhD

At Mohammed V University in Rabat, Morocco

When the leaders of African countries and the People's Republic of China met in Beijing, the capital of the world's second-largest economy on 3-4 of September this year to map out the Forum on Africa-China (FOCAC) future development and new way forward, much of the world's attention was shifted from the ongoing trade war and protectionism to the platform of multilateralism. The successful gathering provided an opportunity to promote a modern era of development and the implementation of the Belt and Road Construction & Building a Community of Shared Future for Mankind which helps to offer socio-economic growth, industrialization, innovation, infrastructure, and human capacity building.

Considering Africa's economic apathy and development gape, the construction of a community of shared future for mankind entails instituting the right policy at the right time by the right people at the right place, while those at the helm of leadership on the continent must be proactive not reactive and worse of all passive; in paying keen attention to Chinese innovations, industrialization and a win-win diplomacy. The concept of an application of the Belt and Road Construction & Building a Community of Shared Future for Mankind highly rooted in the Chinese culture and approach towards development, can be successfully achieved, if the right people with the requisite skills, experience, qualifications, and education are accorded the task and place in the right position to drive the Chinese concept dates back more than a thousand years.

The new dynamic of the global system shows that China has energetically provided the intercontinental public with a succession of a productive public with new motivation innovations into the emerging concept of building a Community of Shared Future for Mankind and the Belt and Road. The concept of world peace promotes and helps to unify individual rights and collective rights, unifies basic principles including socio-economic, political, industrialization and innovations are geared towards promoting an era of common development and shared values.

Let me further reiterate that the concept boons the principles of universality and advocates finding the common values and norms. However, this concept can only be achieved if states outdo unilateralism and understand the importance of peace and security, the principles on which the United Nations was founded in 1945, and ratified by 193 UN members' countries.

Subsequently, there should be no distraction by the parties while African leaders and policy-makers must learn more about China's concept of Belt and Road and the Building of a Community of Share Future for Mankind, and draw lessons from the Asian Tiger and Japanese miracle. It contains the basic pursuit of common human values such as peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy freedom, as well as respect for the particularity and diversity of countries with different cultures, societies, institutions and stages of development. Every effort should be made in order to win the concerted battle against corruption and poverty on the African continent.

Also need for the exchanged ideas in the areas of promoting industrial capacity, infrastructure and agriculture, ways of increasing the voice of the parties, economic development, and means of tightening the communication gape and cooperation between African countries and China to help achieve Belt and Road and construction of Community of Shared Future for Mankind, since the concept serves as a tool for poverty reduction and the elimination of corruption.

The significance of safeguarding global peace and promoting an era of a common development squally rallied on two main dynamics, workable policy and inclusiveness backed by sincerity and fairness including good governance, respect for human right, socio-economic and industrialization; all shielded by an international best practices and standards. This tangible help to accelerate the industrialization process on the continent supports flagship projects such as road constructions for the African continent connectivity, human resource development, job creations, railways, seaports, airports, industrial parks, and economic zone.

If African leaders pay keen attention to economic independence, turn from the western concept of development and introduce Africa's own model of

development concepts, and ease foreign aid reliance from the western imperialists, focusing on flagship projects and the structure of Community of Shared Future for Mankind, the continent can ultimately overcome abject poverty, wars, political, social and cultural conflicts on the continent.

A series of new concepts and new approaches if properly managed effectively might become a path to the attainment of Building a Community of Shared Future for Mankind, where world peace is secured and protected, a common development is promoted and the Belt and Road reflectively visible across from one region to another, indeed result is bound to date prosperity. As a cue, the community of shared future for mankind includes a win-win cooperation, mutual understand and just partnership, fairness, openness, and importantly, inclusiveness which promotes harmonious interactions and exchanges among different societies and developments.

As a Chinese proposition that reflects China's wisdom, this concept is based on the long-standing cultural tradition and the advanced Chinese ideological system, representing a new perspective for international cooperation and international order and the new concepts of development, security and civilization; it offers the right direction for the ongoing efforts to improve global governance. Understandably, China and Africa's countries shared a comprehensive consensus on major international issues, common interests and a willingness to deepen their cooperation. China emphasizes the notion of "respect" for African countries, embodied in its policy of noninterference in the domestic affairs of sovereign countries and in an approach to conflict resolution on the continent that is seen as much less confrontational as Western interventions while African countries and governments similarly treat China with greater respect.

Due to the importance of the concept of a Community of Shared Future for Mankind and as an important topic on good governance and on international human rights, it is entrenched in United Nations Security Council and Human Rights Council resolutions; this demonstrates how imperative the concept is to the society and a community of mankind. However, the concept can become an unfilled reality if the right policies for the greater good of the largest population cannot be adopted and fully implemented.

African Countries and global south especially the People's Republic of China has an interest in promoting greater connectivity and solidity in their south-south cooperation. This can be attained by removing all lukewarm attitudes, well operational coordinated initiative, and transparency. But through safeguarding world peace, promoting an era of common development and the visionary Belt and Road by Building a Community of Shared Future for Mankind. In modern history, China and Africa shared similar experiences, both having suffered from aggression, plunder, and enslavement by colonialists. Therefore, the Chinese people and the people of Africa have all along rendered each other solidarity and support and shared weal and woe in their struggles against imperialism and for national independence and liberation.

Since its introduction in 2013, the BRI has grown from blueprint to roadmap, from concepts on paper to projects on the ground. When President Xi Jinping visited Duisburg in March 2014, the phrase 'One Belt, One Road' was a new phrase heard by very few people. Nowadays, this phrase is a buzzword in the media all over the world. Moreover, a glance at the map of the economic corridors reveals that the initiative has expanded from including just 'one' belt and 'one' road, into including many 'belts' and many 'roads' Recent histories have taught us that it takes more to convince people about the benefits of this kind of infrastructure program. In 1949, the birth of new China opened up a new chapter in Sino-African relations.

Since 1950s and 1960s, as more and more African countries won independence and established diplomatic relations with China, the Sino-African relationship was ushered in a new era of all-round development that is having great impacts on the lives of millions on both fronts; the presence of China in Africa's development cannot be questioned, China is visible on the continued march as evident by the hundreds of projects undertaking or completed, while new agreements have been consolidated for an effective implementation.

China and Africa have shared a comprehensive consensus on major international issues, common interests



The Author

and a willingness to deepen their cooperation. The rapid development of the Sino-Africa relationship reveals ongoing transitions that facilitate the move towards a new strategic partnership. China also emphasizes the notion of "respect" for African countries, embodied in its policy of noninterference in the domestic affairs of sovereign countries and in an approach to conflict resolution on the continent that is seen as much less confrontational as Western interventions.

The concept of Building a Community of Shared Future for Mankind which is highly rooted in the Chinese culture and approach towards development embodies the principle of harmonizing all facets of good governance and respect for global human rights, rule of law and justice, all directed towards safeguarding global peace and promotes common development across the globe. The concept demonstrates the requirements of the sustainable development of human rights and emphasizes the realization of comprehensive coordination and sustainable development, striving to remove challenges that serve as an obstacle to development.

Unlike the Western donors who tend to impose Western values like democratic ideas on Africa, China invests and provides aid without much preconditions and interference in their internal affairs which in some instances is not wealthy for some democracies and provides room for bad governances. The Chinese Government has captured the attention of many African countries including Liberia due primarily to Beijing's reasonable approaches towards socio-economic and infrastructural development, and the ways in which the Chinese Government practices win-win diplomacy and its foreign aid's policy. Beijing's "win-win" diplomatic style has featured greater accommodations with several African states, governments and leaderships including Liberia.

Therefore, it is not unimaginable that China is regarded by Africa as a more cooperative and valuable partner to the West. Africa has long proclaimed its desire to industrialize its economy in an effort to attain higher living standards and increase productive employment opportunities for its populace. Sino-African trade and economic cooperation have been advancing smoothly. For long, China has provided within its capacity foreign aid assistance to the economic development of most African countries. The flexibility of the Chinese model which exemplifies the traditional way of cooperation to western journalists the way through which China promotes multilateral cooperation lacks transparency and is unsustainable because it is not based on codified legal rules.

Generally, the African scholars in a right condemnation of Western journalists' propaganda against Beijing, offered a subtle yet sharp rebuke of global media's antiquated, anti-China economic growth and lack of conditionality toward aid to African governments and states. Interestingly, the strength of unity and mutual trust and respectability, among the Chinese and African scholars was unique, respecting each other's chosen paths, shared values, and innovation and accommodated each other's core interests and ideas.

CONT'D FROM LAST EDITION

Sen. Jallah dares Charles Sirleaf

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Former Senate President Pro-Tempore Armah Jallah dares Central Bank of Liberia Deputy Executive Governor Charles Sirleaf to show evidence that he (Jallah) granted the CBL permit to print Liberian banknotes or mint coins.

Deputy Executive Governor Sirleaf told the Plenary of the House of Representatives that no money is missing as had been reported, and that the 53rd Legislature, especially former Senate President Pro-Tempore Armah Jallah and former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf authorized the printing of additional 10 Billion Liberian Banknotes.

Mr. Sirleaf, son of former President Sirleaf, is one of the principal witnesses in an ongoing legislative inquest to determine who actually authorized the printing of additional 10.5 billion LRD by

the Central Bank of Liberia in 2017, and how the money was infused into the economy.

In her testimony before the plenary on Monday, November 12, a former Board member of

the CBL, Madam Meliseh Emeh, told the lawmakers that in order to get more clarity on the alleged missing billion banknotes, Mr. Sirleaf should be queried, because as Deputy

Executive Governor of the CBL at the time of the printing of the new currency, he was mostly at the center of the operations of the bank, as Acting Executive Governor.

But taking the witness' stand on Monday, 19 November Mr. Sirleaf said the authorization to print money was given by both the 53rd Legislature and his mother, former President Sirleaf in 2017.

But speaking to the media over the weekend, former Pro-

Tempore Senator Jallah dismissed the information is misleading, saying the Senate President Pro-Tempore and the President do not have the authority to authorize printing of banknotes and minting of coins.

"I dare Mr. Charles Sirleaf about the accusation against me. If the Central Bank has any information on the authorization of [printing] banknotes and minting coins, I request the CBL to make that public," Jallah maintains.



Sen. Jallah



Charles Sirleaf

Liberia retrogressing

By Winston W. Parley

Liberia's Finance Minister Samuel Tweah says data from the latest United States Compact eligibility report shows that Liberia is retrogressing, stressing the need for the country to pass probably 12 or 13 indicators to be better positioned for US\$500m compact.

"The latest eligibility report has come out and it does show that looking at 2017 data, the country is retrogressing," he said Saturday morning, 24 November at Bella Casa in Sinkor.

"We're looking for 500 million then we got 259, we are happy with that. We're now looking to see if we can replicate that to get probably 500 million to do some regional roads [along the Ivory Coast],"

he says.

To get that kind of envelop, Minister Tweah emphasizes that Liberia needs to pass probably 12 or 13 indicators because countries that access United States' compact money will have to meet certain eligibility criteria and they must have at least half of 20 indicators.

2017 Data from the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) report indicates that Liberia failed miserably in controlling corruption, scoring 0.12 percent and also scoring -4.4 in fiscal policy.

Liberia also scores -0.07 for rule of law; 12.4 percent in inflation; -0.15 in regulatory quality; 60.1 on trade policy; -0.45 on government effectiveness; and 56 on freedom of information, among others.

Minister Tweah says the seminar was under the auspices of the Steering Committee of the Compact's eligibility process.

At the seminar, Minister Tweah notes that countries that access the U.S. MCC compact must pass the fight against corruption indicator and rule of law and justice indicators.

He recalls that when he was working for the MCC four or five years ago, Liberia did pass the compact which has financed the Mount Coffee Hydro Power Plant and some of the road matching funds.

Minister Tweah indicates at the start of the seminar that based on the MCC report of the 2017 data, the Steering Committee has been meeting, which includes a meeting in September and another meeting some two weeks back.

Finance Minister Tweah expresses thanks to the committee members for all the works they have done, and further expresses confidence that there is no way Liberia can fail if "we go through" the new methodology that has been brought forth by the team.

He notes that in this government, they don't believe that any single entity will be responsible for the success of the government, saying where an entity is falling, another will come to push the failing entity to succeed.

H says if an entity does not succeed, it is about the entire government and the country.



MNG Gold Management

Starts from back page

suspects including 64 men and 3 women have been charged with armed robbery, rioting, arson, burglary, criminal conspiracy, criminal mischief and theft.

This paper is informed that following the looting of the MNG Gold facilities by residents, these police investigators were deployed in Kokoyah by their bosses with some alleged arrangements that they would have received feeding and money for their upkeep from the Liberia National Police (LNP).

But our source complains that since November 5 up to press time, there has been no response or support from the LNP authorities.

Our source points out that the abandoned officers are now depending on the MNG mining company to feed them and take care of their daily needs while they continue to carry out their investigation.

Our source continues that all efforts and communications to the police headquarters in Monrovia have fallen on deaf ears.

When this paper contacted Police Spokesman Moses Carter on Sunday, 25 November, he did not deny the claim, saying it is the sole responsibility of MNG mining company to feed and support those officers that were posted in Kokoyah.

According to Mr. Carter, the LNP officers are paid monthly to do their job, arguing that being deployed in Kokoyah, Bong County is part of their job.

He continues that the police authorities have played their part by deploying the investigators there, and it's the sole responsibility of the company to take care of them.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

Without quality education

Cont'd from page 7

aspirations and elements of a balanced and supportive education system will lead to chaos in the larger society," he stressed.

The Liberian financial expert said for the honor students to make sustainable contributions to National Development; the Pro-Poor Agenda for prosperity & Development and other future development agenda, those within the government, academic community, and

private sector must provide needed incentives for our students / scholars to rise up to the challenges of the academic environment and society.

The Guest Speaker warned the students: "To our honor students, your contributions to national development must not be skewed and hinged predominantly on your membership or relationship with the ruling party or a particular opposition political party.

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MNG Gold Management feeds police investigators

-In accident probe



By Ben P. Wesee

This paper reliably gathers that police authorities have allegedly abandoned their investigators in the hands of MNG Gold mining company for feeding and daily upkeep while they probe a recent accident involving a vehicle hired by the company that led to death of four persons and subsequent

retaliatory looting of its facilities by residents.

This paper has been reliably informed that a team of officers from the Liberia National Police (LNP's) Emergency Response Unit (ERU) and Police Support Unit (PSU) were dispatched at MNG Gold mining site in Kokoyah, Bong County following the deaths and subsequent looting

of MNG Gold's facilities.

But our source says the officers have been abandoned by police authorities and they are left to be cared for by the Turkish mining company MNG Gold management, why investigating the cause of the demonstration on the company's properties.

The police have already charged 67 persons with multiple offenses following preliminary investigation and sent them to court for prosecution.

The four persons whose death caused the demonstration were said to be riding on a motorbike when the company's vehicle allegedly collided with the motorbike and killed all occupants, including the bike operator. It led to the looting of MNG Gold facilities by angry residents.

According to police sources, the



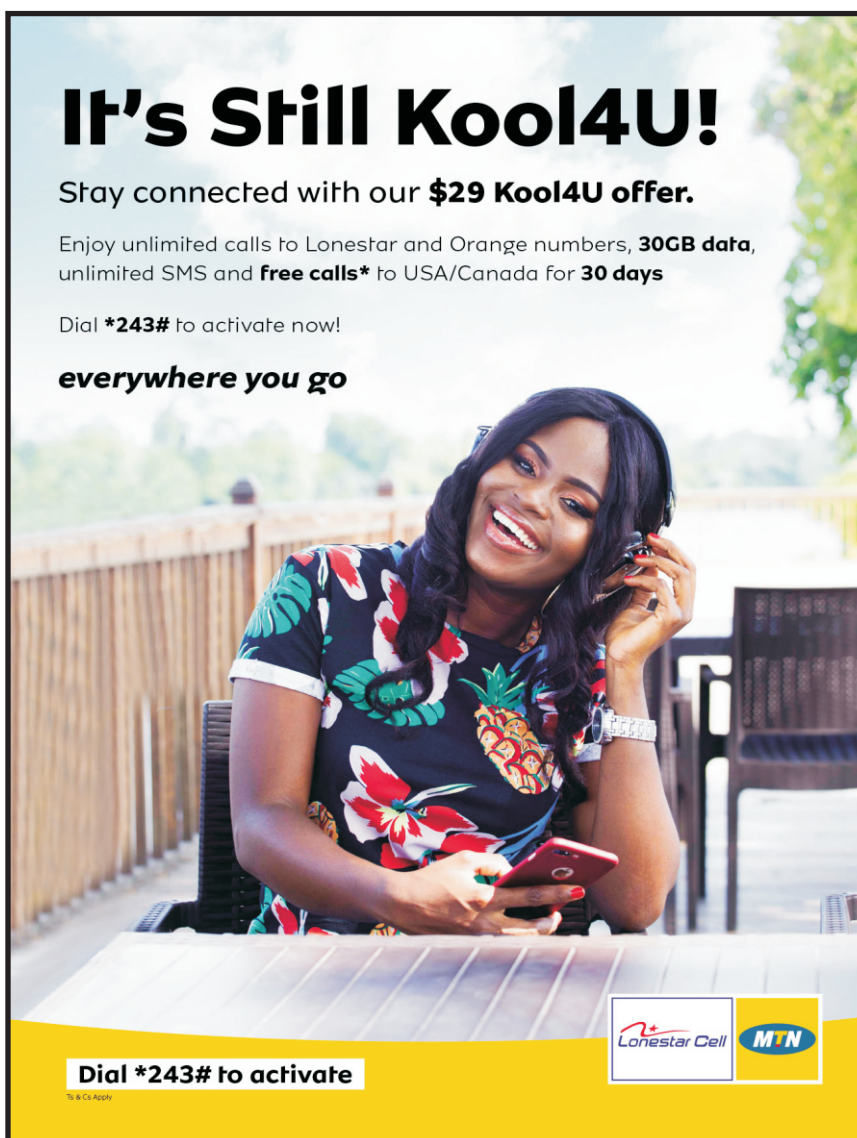
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Jose Mourinho says Man Utd players lack heart

Jose Mourinho confirmed he is ready to axe Manchester United's stars after accusing his players of lacking heart and desire.

United's pursuit of a top-four finish was dealt a fresh blow after being held to a goalless draw by Crystal Palace.

Mourinho warned his players he's ready to ring the changes after a lacklustre

display, which saw jeers ring around Old Trafford at the final whistle.

The United manager claimed he would have to turn to players with more fight - even if it means losing the quality of his stars.

He didn't name names - but the decision to replace Pogba with Alexis Sanchez after 68 minutes was telling.

"You must play with brain and also with heart and I think

there was not enough heart," said Mourinho. "The solution is that probably I have to make certain choices based on heart and then probably I will blame personally because I will think heart is not enough and am missing some quality.

"We didn't have that intensity that in my opinion is basically related to your brain, with your heart."

Mourinho has turned on his underperforming stars on



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