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The New Dawn

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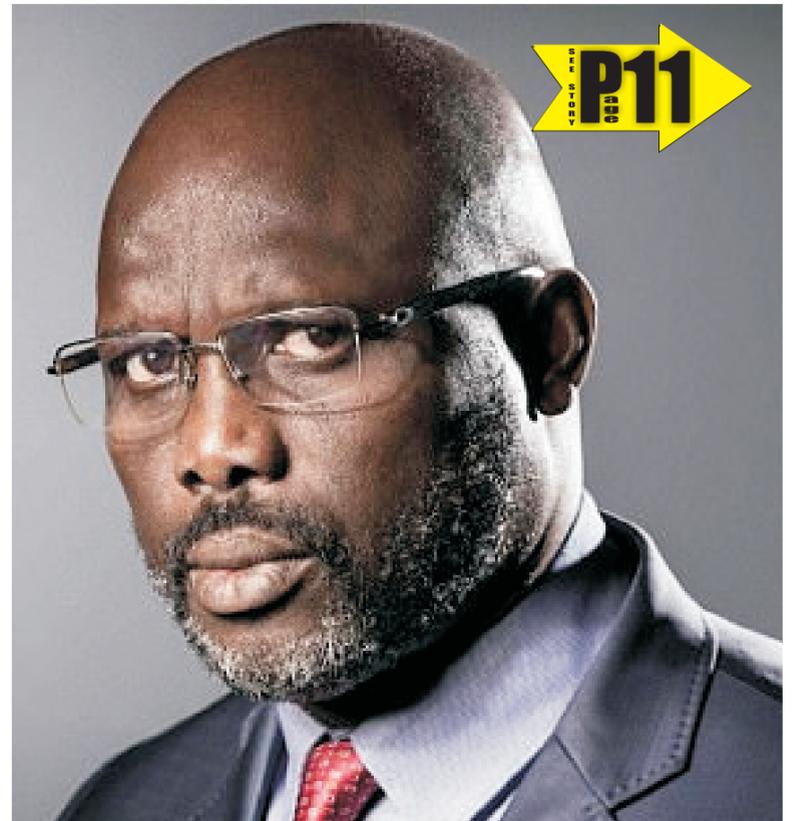
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Continental News

Ugandan President: Corruption is still defeatable

President Yoweri Museveni has assured Ugandans that the problem of corruption is still defeatable and that the country now has the manpower to handle the issue more firmly.

The President was speaking during celebrations to mark the 25th anniversary of Transparency International Uganda (TIU) at Imperial Royale Hotel in the capital Kampala, where a national anti-corruption dialogue was held on Tuesday.

'Citizen's participation in the fight against corruption: A Sustainable Path to Uganda's Transformation' was the theme for the event.

Museveni, the chief guest, congratulated TIU on its anniversary and informed the people that the government has given enough time for corrupt civil servants to expose themselves and that their time was up. In the early years of 1986, he said, the NRM government was not able to restructure the civil service

like it had done for the army because it did not have the manpower and would have created political problems.

"Even if we had the capacity to change civil servants, we would have been isolated. In terms of fairness, it was good to give people a chance. We now have

manpower to select people to work, but we need to be sure about the integrity of the new ones we select."

'Uganda needs confident leaders'

The President said while Ugandans were complaining of officials suspected of corruption not being put in

jail, it is within the law that they have to be prosecuted first.

Nonetheless, he noted that while the government had put in place laws to protect public servants, there was now need for quicker methods of demanding accountability.

"The laws are there, the institutions are there, but the personnel handling them are the problem. I don't need a frightened civil service. The country needs confident and able leaders who know what is right and do what is right."

Museveni re-echoed the people's views that increment

in the remuneration of salaries of public servants was not the cure to corruption because public servants in government institutions such as Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA), Bank of Uganda and Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) were still corrupt despite the high pay.

Meanwhile, Bank of Uganda is under investigation by the Parliament Committee on Commissions, Statutory authorities and State Enterprises (COSASE) over fraudulent dealings.

Patriotism the cure
Previously, the President has accused officials in the finance ministry and the URA of corruption. AFP



Images Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni addresses the nation at State House in Entebbe, Uganda

Lagos commissioner resigns, joins PDP

The Lagos State Commissioner for Energy and Mineral Resources, Oluwo Olowale, has resigned.

In his resignation letter, which he submitted to the APC chairman in Lagos State, Oluwo said his decision was based on the conduct of the party's primary election which resulted in the defeat of Lagos State governor, Akinwunmi Ambode. Oluwo said he was not only

party's conduct of the October 2018 primary election which were largely characterised by massive voters' disenfranchisement, intimidation, violence, undue influence and non-compliance with all known principles of democracy.

"In the particular case of the governorship primary, which was conducted using the 'open ballot' option in violation of the guidelines of the APC that specified that



resigning his position as a commissioner, but also leaving the APC.

He claimed to have submitted a similar letter to Ambode. The letter to the chairman of the party, dated December 3, read in part, "My decision to resign is not unconnected with the events of the last few weeks which have created a heavy moral burden for me. I have found it rather difficult to come to terms or rationalise the

the 'open secret ballot' option, it is clear to me that the vote principles of competence, merit, justice and fairness have been sacrificed by the APC on the altar of political expediency,"

It was learnt that Wasiu has joined the Peoples Democratic Party candidate, Jimi Agbaje. AFP

US ends 28-year Somalia absence

The US has established its first diplomatic presence in Somalia for nearly 30 years.

The state department said the "historic event" reflected the progress the east African nation had made.

Ambassador Donald Yamamoto is heading the embassy in Mogadishu. Previously it had been based in

Nairobi, Kenya.

The US closed its embassy in Somalia in January 1991 amid fighting between rebels and the government and had to airlift out its ambassador and staff.

Al-Shabab threat

Commenting on the latest move, state department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said in a statement: "This

historic event reflects Somalia's progress in recent years and is another step forward in formalising US diplomatic engagement in Mogadishu since recognising the Federal Government of Somalia in 2013."

She added: "Our return demonstrates the United States' commitment to further advance stability, democracy and economic development that are in the interest of both nations."

Security has improved in Mogadishu recently, although al-Shabab rebels remain a threat.

Al-Shabab was forced out of the capital in August 2011 following an offensive spearheaded by African Union troops.

But it still has a strong presence in regions around the capital.

US President Donald Trump expanded operations against al-Shabab in March 2017 and the US military has conducted more than two dozen air strikes, including drone strikes, in Somalia this year,

Traditionally, US presidents have been wary of intervening



Security has improved in Mogadishu although al-Shabab remains a threat

in Somalia since 18 special forces soldiers died fighting militias in Mogadishu in 1993, a battle dramatised in the film Black Hawk Down.

Last month, the US

announced it was cutting 700 counter-terrorism troops from Africa over the next few years, although its activities in Somalia will remain largely the same. BBC

EDITORIAL

Rep. Koung opens a can of worms

JUST AS LAWMAKERS on Capitol Hill are desperately fending off accusations of receiving bribes from the Central Bank of Liberia and sharing money at the T-Five Academy in Paynesville, which could indict them in the ongoing investigation for the missing 16 billion Liberian Banknotes, a member of the House has conceded here in fresh claims that indeed, some of his colleagues from Nimba County did receive bribes from the two sources as was previously asserted by Liberian Journalist Philipbert Browne, publisher of the Hot Pepper Newspaper.

NIMBA COUNTY DISTRICT One Representative Jeremiah Kpain Koung openly accuses several of his colleague lawmakers from the county of receiving bribe from Central Bank officials prior to the printing of the new Liberia Banknotes of which 16 billion reportedly went mission in the country.

WHILE APPEARING ON a community radio station, Radio Kergheamahn [94.5FM] in Ganta, Nimba County, he specifically accuses one of his colleagues from the county, Representative Larry P. Younquoi and others whose names he did not mention of demanding and receiving huge amount of money from the Central Bank prior to giving approval for the printing of the new banknotes, but distances himself from the alleged bribery.

REPRESENTATIVE YOUNQUOI DISMISSES claims of bribes taking by Rep. Koung as false though he discloses that he headed the House's budget committee under the leadership of criminally indicted former Speaker Alex Tyler during the 53rd Legislature.

HE CONFIRMS THEY wrote the Central Bank of Liberia to print the new banknotes, but those who replaced him on the Ways and Means Committee were the ones who received the alleged bribe without mentioning names.

MEMBERS OF THE House had denied involvement in any bribery and cited publisher Browne to substantiate his claims. Browne is currently out of the country, attending an Olympic conference.

HOWEVER, THE LATEST claims by Representative Koung clearly indict the House, and seem to corroborate Publisher Browne's assertion of bribery among some members of the august body. It therefore goes without saying that Browne should be vindicated of any contempt charge by the House.

WE BELIEVE RATHER than going after Browne along for his assertion, the House should equally call in one of its own, Representative Koung to help in identifying the rest of his colleagues from Nimba, who he says did receive bribes.

THIS SHOULD START the real investigation of the role lawmakers played in the printing of the new banknotes and the reported missing 16 billion. Any other action apart from this latest allegation by one of the sitting lawmakers is nothing but attempts to silent patriotic whistleblowers on the missing money issue and the alleged associated bribery.

REPRESENTATIVE KOUNG HAS unsealed a can of worms, and we believe the House should do the honorable thing by examining all of the bits and pieces rather than trying to bully well-intentioned voices into silence, as the current campaign on Capitol Hill appears to indicate.

New Dawn
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COMMENTARY

By Harold James

The Ghost of Brexit Past

Now that British Prime Minister Theresa May has finalized an exit agreement with the European Union, a reversal of her country's withdrawal from the bloc has become highly improbable. Like all revolutions dating back at least to the Protestant Reformation, Brexit has now acquired its own momentum.

PRINCETON - The European Union has gained member-state approval for an agreement setting the terms of the United Kingdom's exit from the bloc. But it is still unclear whether a majority of British parliamentarians will approve the deal, given that it appears to leave decision-making power over British affairs in European hands.

One can reasonably assume that the agreement will be rejected by hardline Brexiteers, who see it as even less satisfactory than the status quo. And there are of course plenty of Remainers who oppose Brexit in any form. Yet, for all of its flaws, the Brexit that Prime Minister Theresa May has negotiated with the EU is likely to happen.

A reversal of the exit process is now highly improbable. Brexit constitutes a revolution, and that means it is bound to follow a familiar historical pattern. As many French learned after 1789, and many Russians after 1917, revolutions can be neither ignored nor stopped.

To be sure, the Brexit revolution has been unfolding in a country with little revolutionary tradition. British legal experts take pride in the fact that their country's constitutional order evolved gradually over time, rather than through the kind of dramatic political ruptures that have shaped so much continental European history. But the June 2016 referendum put an end to that strain of British exceptionalism. The vote to leave signaled, ironically, that Britain had finally caught up with the rest of Europe. At a time when most Europeans want security and stability, a narrow majority of Britons decided to do something wild and unpredictable.

Some historians see precursors to Brexit in the UK's September 1931 departure from the gold standard, or in its September 1992 withdrawal from the European Exchange Rate Mechanism. But Brexit is not merely about ending a monetary regime - a relatively easy operation that can even produce beneficial policy outcomes - or escaping some irritating feature of modern European political life. Brexit represents a systemic overhaul of everything at the same time.

After decades of membership in the European regulatory regime, achieving a clean break will require a tedious and complicated rewriting of innumerable rules. Even the smallest mistake might lead to devastating unintended consequences. For example, overlooked loopholes could open the door for dangerous or predatory practices; and, more broadly, ambiguous language could render the entire framework senseless or self-contradictory.

Put another way, the whole exercise is analogous to designing a new word-processing program from scratch. Any rational person would soon realize that it is better just to stick with the status quo. But the logic of revolution

makes such reversals impossible.²

Most of the arguments in favor of Brexit assume a traditional conception of sovereignty, and are grounded in English - rather than British - history. Brexiteers look back fondly at King John's defiance of Pope Innocent III in the thirteenth century. And they are even more smitten with the Tudor era, when Henry VIII wrested the Church of England from the yoke of papal authority. To this day, the Tudors enjoy a near-ubiquitous presence in British textbooks, media, films, and the popular imagination.

The defining moment of the Henrician Reformation came in April 1533, when the Parliament of England passed the Ecclesiastical Appeals Act, giving Henry the final word on all legal and religious questions. The point of the law was to free England from the authority of a papacy that answered to Charles I of Spain - that is, Charles V of the Holy Roman Empire. As long as Charles called the shots in Rome, Henry would not be able to divorce Charles's aunt, Catherine of Aragon.

Contained in the Appeals Act is the first clear legislative definition of sovereignty. "This realm of England," the law states, "is an Empire, and so hath been accepted in the world, governed by one Supreme Head and King..." But as is always the case, the measures that launched the revolution were incomplete. The laws that Parliament adopted in the 1530s did not replace Catholicism with Protestantism. But they did pave the way for religious reformers to carry the revolution into its next phase.

Still, there was much disagreement among Protestants when it came to the shape of reform. Would the revolution follow the teachings of Luther, Zwingli, or Calvin, or would it embrace an even more radical vision? In the event, different factions pushed for different approaches, and frequent and abrupt reversals were common. The man who drafted the original Appeals Act, Thomas Cromwell, was executed in 1540 on orders from the king; the architect of the English Reformation, Archbishop Thomas Cranmer, was burned at the stake in 1556.

During the 1547-1553 reign of Henry's son, Edward VI, revolutionary momentum carried England definitively in a Protestant direction. But, as the historian Eamon Duffy notes, with the systematic "stripping of the altars" throughout this period, many English subjects experienced dislocation and alienation. A great nostalgia for the old order took hold of the body politic, and after Edward's death, his sister, Mary I, set about reversing the process.

Counter-revolution, however, requires just as radical an approach as does revolution. As the English state resorted to increasingly brutal and barbaric measures, many English subjects concluded that the counter-reformation was itself deeply flawed. After Mary's death, Elizabeth I would eventually institute a compromise. But, with many theological issues

OPINION

By Mahmoud Mohieldin
& Rabah Arezki

Rethinking the State's Role in Arab Economies

WASHINGTON, DC - The Arab world has a long tradition of commerce and enterprise. Yet, since achieving independence, many Arab countries have adopted state-led development models that have left their economies overly reliant on the government. This is unsustainable.

The Arab world's economic model has endured, despite major setbacks in the 1990s, largely because the state employs a large share of workers and provides universal subsidies. This eliminates risk from citizens' economic lives, entrenching their dependence on the government and stifling entrepreneurship and innovation. It also undermines the delivery of public services, stoking mistrust of the very government on which populations depend so heavily.

Now, the Arab world's state-led development model may be set to reach a breaking point, as hundreds of millions of young people prepare to enter labor markets in the coming decades. With the public sector unlikely to be able to absorb these new workers, there is an urgent need to create a dynamic private sector that not only adopts, but also generates technological innovations that empower workers and deliver durable and inclusive growth.

This approach is in line with the demands of the Sustainable Development Goals, which were approved by all United Nations member states - including all Arab countries - in 2015. Achieving the SDGs - which range from eliminating hunger and poverty to protecting the environment - will require the involvement of dynamic private sectors that are capable of producing technological solutions and willing to provide critical financing.

Private-sector financing - say, of the infrastructure projects demanded by SDG9 - is particularly important in the Arab world, where many governments are already burdened by debt. To help mobilize that financing, the World Bank Group has launched the Maximizing Finance for Development program.

Of course, governments must also maximize their own resources. In the past, abundant investment and energy revenues limited the incentive to mobilize tax revenues. But, as government coffers are depleted, Arab countries - among the least efficient tax collectors in the world - are under growing pressure to pursue meaningful reform.

Arab governments must also boost the efficiency of their spending. As it stands, while most Arab countries spend a fair amount relative to their income levels, they achieve relatively poor outcomes, especially in health and education.

To improve the state's functioning and regain citizens' trust - developments that could facilitate tax collection - Arab governments should apply the concept of "value for money" to public administration. Such a framework for assessing cost-effectiveness of public-sector activities requires that data about those activities be collected, assessed, and disclosed in a transparent way. Mechanisms such as information-feedback loops would then enable authorities to identify quality issues and make improvements quickly.

Here, too, the World Bank Group is taking steps to help. Because investing in human capital is the most important long-term action a government can take, the Human Capital Project focuses on identifying the factors that are undermining the efficiency of investments in this area.

Even before comprehensive data are available, however, some approaches for improving the efficiency of public spending and administration stand out. In particular, Arab countries can emphasize the localization of development. By improving the capacity of local governments to plan, finance, and deliver key services, including health and education, countries could boost value for money, build confidence among citizens, and make significant strides toward achieving the SDGs.

A final area where reform is imperative is regulation. In many Arab countries, incumbent public and private firms - especially in critical sectors like financial services, telecommunications, and energy - enjoy significant advantages, including outright protection, onerous regulations that deter market entry by new players, and inadequate limits on natural monopolies. This impedes competition and contestability, undermines the diffusion of general-purpose technology, and blocks the type of adaptation and evolution that a dynamic private sector requires.

Rather than control the economy outright, Arab governments should foster the emergence of independent yet accountable regulators that can help ensure improved economic outcomes. Of course, if history is any indication, the shift from a dirigiste state to a regulatory one will not be easy. But past experience offers useful lessons to guide this process. In any case, the regulatory status quo - which will condemn Arab youth to unemployment and disenfranchisement - is not an option.

This is all the more true at a time when tech giants like Facebook, Amazon, Tencent, and Alibaba - with matchmaking-based business models turbo-boostered by digital technology - are propelling a shift toward "ultra-concentration." In this context, building a dynamic private sector capable of providing opportunities to the Arab world's young workers will require even more vigilant and effective regulators, operating within a smart regulatory framework that addresses issues relating to the collection and use of data.

It is often said that private sector-led innovation is the key to enabling developing countries to leapfrog their way into the future. But this narrative should not be allowed to obscure the paramount importance of smart and innovative regulations to support such progress. The state's role in Arab economies must improve, not diminish.

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OPINION

By Joseph S. Nye

Is Fake News Here to Stay?

CAMBRIDGE - The term "fake news" has become an epithet that US President Donald Trump attaches to any unfavorable story. But it is also an analytical term that describes deliberate disinformation presented in the form of a conventional news report.

The problem is not completely novel. In 1925, Harper's Magazine published an article about the dangers of "fake news." But today two-thirds of American adults get some of their news from social media, which rest on a business model that lends itself to outside manipulation and where algorithms can easily be gamed for profit or malign purposes.

Whether amateur, criminal, or governmental, many organizations - both domestic and foreign - are skilled at reverse engineering how tech platforms parse information. To give Russia credit, it was one of the first governments to understand how to weaponize social media and to use America's own companies against it.

Overwhelmed with the sheer volume of information available online, people find it difficult to know what to focus on. Attention, rather than information, becomes the scarce resource to capture. Big data and artificial intelligence allow micro-targeting of communication so that the information people receive is limited to a "filter bubble" of the like-minded.

The "free" services offered by social media are based on a profit model in which users' information and attention are actually the products, which are sold to advertisers. Algorithms are designed to learn what keeps users engaged so that they can be served more ads and produce more revenue.

Emotions such as outrage stimulate engagement, and news that is outrageous but false has been shown to engage more viewers than accurate news. One study found that such falsehoods on Twitter were 70% more likely to be retweeted than accurate news. Likewise, a study of demonstrations in Germany earlier this year found that YouTube's algorithm systematically directed users toward extremist content because that was where the "clicks" and revenue were greatest. Fact checking by conventional news media is often unable to keep up, and sometimes can even be counterproductive by drawing more attention to the falsehood.

By its nature, the social-media profit model can be weaponized by states and non-state actors alike. Recently, Facebook has been under heavy criticism for its cavalier record on protecting users' privacy. CEO Mark Zuckerberg admitted that in 2016, Facebook was "not prepared for the coordinated information operations we regularly face." The company had, however, "learned a lot since then and have developed sophisticated systems that combine technology and people to prevent election interference on our services."

Such efforts include automated programs to find and remove fake accounts; featuring Facebook pages that spread disinformation less prominently than in the past; issuing a transparency report on the number of false accounts removed; verifying the nationality of those who place political advertisements; hiring 10,000 additional people to work on security; and improving coordination with law enforcement and other companies to address suspicious activity. But the problem is not solved.

An arms race will continue between the social media companies and the states and non-state actors who invest in ways to exploit their systems. Technological solutions like artificial intelligence are not a silver bullet. Because it is often more sensational and outrageous, fake news travels farther and faster than real news. False information on Twitter is retweeted by many more people and far more rapidly than true information, and repeating it, even in a fact-checking context, may increase an individual's likelihood of accepting it as true.

In preparing for the 2016 US presidential election, the Internet Research Agency in St. Petersburg, Russia, spent more than a year creating dozens of social media accounts masquerading as local American news outlets. Sometimes the reports favored a candidate, but often they were designed simply to give an impression of chaos and disgust with democracy, and to suppress voter turnout.

When Congress passed the Communications Decency Act in 1996, then-infant social media companies were treated as neutral telecoms providers that enabled customers to interact with one other. But this model is clearly outdated. Under political pressure, the major companies have begun to police their networks more carefully and take down obvious fakes, including those propagated by botnets.

But imposing limits on free speech, protected by the First Amendment of the US Constitution, raises difficult practical problems. While machines and non-US actors have no First Amendment rights (and private companies are not bound by the First Amendment in any case), abhorrent domestic groups and individuals do, and they can serve as intermediaries for foreign influencers.

In any case, the damage done by foreign actors may be less than the damage we do to ourselves. The problem of fake news and foreign impersonation of real news sources is difficult to resolve because it involves trade-offs among our important values. The social media companies, wary of coming under attack for censorship, want to avoid regulation by legislators who criticize them for both sins of omission and commission.

Experience from Euro

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LIBERIANS DEBATE

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



Liberia's two leading clubs representing the country in the CAF league have been sent home in the first phase of the tournament. In this spot-check, The New Dawn asks some sports lovers in Monrovia what they make of the country's performance and how could it impact Liberia's participation in future international leagues.



Rajue Foah

"I think the problem we have in our local league, and it's causing problem for us now is making use of our chances. The both teams created lots of chances but could only utilize one, which means we have deficiency in finishing. We see these things happening every day in our league and the coaches are not working on those players, but rather using them in international league."



Moses Doe

"This is some of the reasons I don't like coming to see Liberia or our local league because our players have their own problem. Liberian players are not just ready to stand up to the moment in life. They miss too many chances in getting goals and at the end of the day, we waste our time and money to come here and see them. I hope the coaches will learn from this one and work on their players during training not just playing football around. We need to look out for those who are good in free kicks and then work on them for the best of the game."

Daniel Swenwetee

"With this, the football house plays a major role and it's only because the clubs respected them that's why people even took part in the just-ended league. But the players sat for too long. BYCI felt bad because they really tried to get results, but LISCR FC final against BYC two months back was very bad and I knew they were actually not ready for the abrupt league. Our football house needs to try all it can in order to make the National League attractive and entertaining, but I trust the new administration and I know they're going to do better."



Emmanuel Roberts

"For me, the problem is not 100 percent Liberian players' fault, but also the administrations of the teams in Liberia are part of it too. To every game there is a system, but they are used to this old system of playing and killing the players. If our teams are going away, we should learn how to play with more defender, not to get more goals. If we are at home, we can run behind them but the coaches have not taking that in yet and it's causing problem for us. But being sent out of CAF competitions in the first round is not news anymore to us."



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EU to give 1m Euros for increased service

-under decentralization

The European Union has announced an award of one million Euros to the Liberian Government in for deconcentrating services at County Service Centers (CSCs) in the counties under the Liberia Decentralization Support Program (LDSP) over the past two years.

The European Union said it is awarding the Government with the cash contribution for what it describes as the comprehensive data collection on delivered services, as well as collected revenue and increased service delivery at the Service Centers.

An Internal Affairs Ministry said the EU made the announcement on its social media page shortly after a visiting EU delegation made a fact-finding mission on two of the Service Centers.

The mission is headed by Ms. Aude Guignard, European Union's Country Desk Officer for Liberia based in Brussels, Belgium.

The fact-finding mission over the weekend visited County Service Centers in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County and Cestos, RiverCess County, respectively. Other members of EU delegation to the CSCs included Madam Julija

Valentaite and Mr. David Palacios.

The release quotes the EU as saying the award will form part of its new budget support for each of the two next fiscal years.

President Weah's commitment of continuing with the implementation of the Liberia Decentralization and Local Governance Programs under the Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development.

The Internal Affairs Ministry is the lead agency responsible for the implementation of the

ownership of the Liberian people in the Counties and County leaderships.

Minister Sirleaf thanked the EU for its support to the Decentralization program since its inception, noting that the Government looks forward to further cooperation.

The County Service Center, a one-stop shop for the issuance of documentation services relating to certificates, permits and licenses, is part of the National Deconcentration Platform which is primarily intended to bring services closer to the

people at same quality and cost as they are in Monrovia.

Even though a Local Government Law was recently signed, one of the major achievements of the Decentralization Program was the opening of 15 County Service Centers from where a total of 65,446 citizens have obtained various services.

Implementation of the Liberia Decentralization Support Program (LDSP) is funded by the European Union, Swedish Government, USAID, UNMIL and UNDP.



Meanwhile, Internal Affairs Minister Honorable Varney A. Sirleaf has described the European Union's announcement as welcoming.

Minister Sirleaf said the award is a significant mark of

Liberia Decentralization Support Program/LDSP.

At the same time, Honorable Sirleaf attributed the success of the concept of County Service Centers to the total involvement and

Utilize Liberian technocrats

-Tolbert Nyenswah urges government

The Director General of the National Public Health Institute of Liberia or NPHIL, Tolbert Nyenswah, calls on the Government of Liberia (GoL) to utilize expertise of Liberian technocrats and scholars in moving the country forward.

He extols the University of Liberia (UL) for embracing its responsibility by focusing on critical areas in the country's development.

Director Nyenswah however

control of their lives through the more equitable provision of opportunities in education, health, youth development, and social project."

He lauds the graduates for their fortitude and hopes they will make significant contributions in moving Liberia forward in the areas of science, technology, and research, noting that a scientifically unsophisticated society ruins in poor quality in all sectors.

Pres. Weah Signs Book of Condolence for George H.W. Bush

Monrovia, Liberia: President George Manneh Weah Tuesday, December 4, 2018 signed the Book of Condolence in honor of fallen former US

President George Harvey Walker Bush.

Mr. Bush, who served as the 41st US President between 1989 and 1993, died on Friday, November 30, 2018 at the age

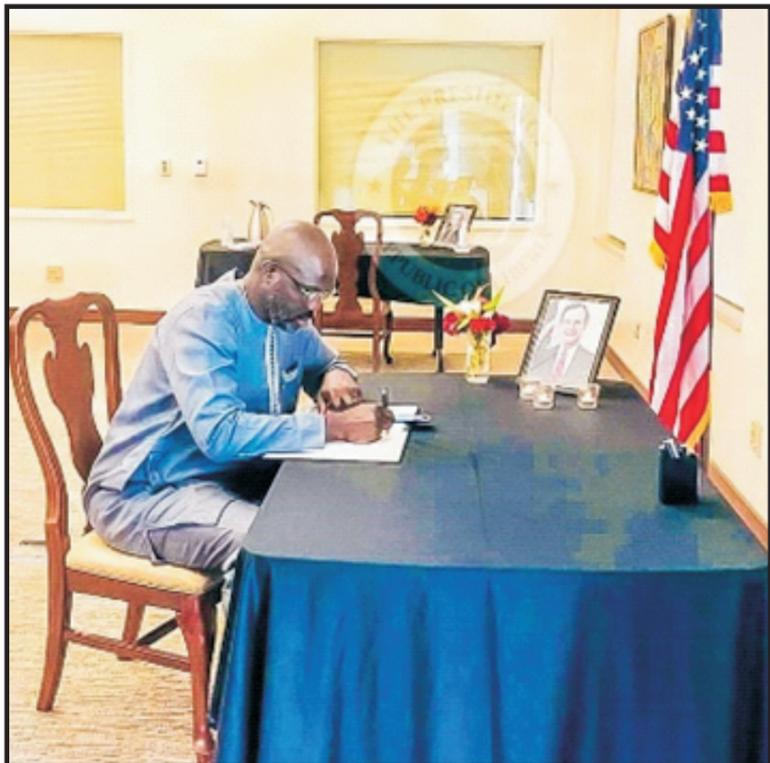
of 94.

The Liberian leader, accompanied by an array of government officials, joined other Liberians to perform the solemn task as a mark of respect for a US President who was amply supportive of the Liberian peace process during his administration.

President Weah had earlier expressed profound regrets for the passing of Mr. Bush and extended heartfelt sympathy to the Government and people of the United States.

He described the former US President as a great statesman and a great patriot whose passing has left a deep void in the hearts of many Americans and the world at large.

"His contributions to humanity and peace building helped make the world a better place, and the people of Liberia are grateful for the leadership role he played in contributing towards peace and stability during our early days of turmoil," the President said in a statement.



L-R: Dean of Science College, Dr. Peter S. Humphrey; Commencement Speaker, Tolbert Nyenswah, and UL President, Dr. Ophelia Inez Weeks

commends the Government for "Placing education at the peak of its Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development, urging Liberians of various stripes to rally around the Government for the good of the country."

Serving as commencement speaker at the graduation of the T.J.R. College of Science and Technology of the University of Liberia, as part of the University's 99th Commencement Convocation on Wednesday, 5 December Director Nyenswah notes, "This Pillar clearly states as goal number one: to empower Liberians with tools to gain

Speaking on the theme, "The Role of Science and Technology in National Development", the NPHIL boss continues; "The world of tomorrow is about thinking ahead, creativity, technology, entrepreneurship, and innovation. These are important facts that should be easily recognizable benchmarks of educated persons."

He says developing a nation requires much of a human development index and the capacity to be at a much higher level, citing that educated Liberians are

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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**China constructs hand pumps
-For 50 Liberian schools**

The People's Republic of China, through its China Aid, has constructed hand-pumps for 50 schools in Liberia.

The project is in continuation of China's efforts to address safe drinking water problems in Liberia, especially in schools.

Constructed by China Geo-Engineering Corporation, the hand pumps were recently dedicated and handed over to the Government of Liberia.

The Chinese government's free assistance is in accordance with an exchange of notes between the two countries executed on July 1, 2016.

The exchange of note was followed by the contract signed on May 10, 2017. The project started on December 10, 2017 and completed on September 9, 2018.

The project included eight borehole wells in Montserado County, 13 in Bong County, 11

in Grand Gedeh County and 18 in Maryland County, respectively among others.

Having been satisfied with full implementation of the project, as stipulated in the contract agreement, the two countries signed the handover and acceptance certificate on November 30, 2018.

Water is safe

According to China Geo-Engineering Corporation, the ground water is all taken in the form of well tubes. The depth of the well tube is 80m; and water is pumped in the form of a hand pump.

The construction company further explains the water quality is in line with relevant standards in Liberia as well as World Health Organization (WHO's) criteria.

Despite challenges, including deplorable roads and others, the company says its team was able to meet up with the 9-month duration of the project.

"At the end of July 2018, the project was basically completed, and it [the project] was praised by teachers and students of these schools," the company notes.

The project highlights the level of bilateral and friendly cooperation between the People's Republic of China and Liberia.



Pumps constructed by China Geo-Engineering Corporation

Female advocate warns parents

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Widespread swimming habit among teenagers in the densely populated impoverished township of West Point in Monrovia has claimed the attention of a female child advocate here, warning parents to monitor their kids.

Speaking to reporters on Wednesday, 5 November, Mrs. Comfort Benson Togba, laments that it is very troubling that children of West Point Township are frequently seen in the Atlantic Ocean while their guardians overlook the danger and risk involved.

Many kids have died in Monrovia and other parts of the capital as a result of drowning in the Atlantic Ocean, which bounds the southern coast of Liberia.

A campaigner for safe children and safe environment, Mrs. Togba notes that she is working along with the Liberia National Police (LNP) to arrest and send to court both parents and guardians whose child or children are caught swimming in the Atlantic Ocean.

She emphasizes the need

for parents and guardians to take responsibility for their children's wellbeing, noting that they fail to safeguard their kids, who cannot contain any eventuality that may arise in the event of threat to the lives.

She says most parents in the township are careless about the wellbeing of their children thus, leaving them alone to roam beaches with impunity.

According to her, the prosecution of careless parents will not only restrict children, but also serve as a source of revenue for the government, while reminding parents of their obligations to

their children.

In a related development, authorities of the Liberia Immigration Service (LIS) and the National Agriculture and Fisheries have deployed their personnel along the Atlantic Ocean to monitor movement of canoes entering the township from fishing and other expeditions.

The personnel are housed under a makeshift shelter covered with tarpaulin, but no electricity supply to help provide lighting to the area, which is about few kilometers away from the West Point Fish Service Center. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**



Several kids in West Point swimming in the Atlantic Ocean

Murder instrument

Starts from back page

crime scene as responding officer.

In a string of questions, defense lawyer Cllr. Arthur T. Johnson inquired if Officer Doe had knowledge on crime scene investigation on the basis of his testimony that he lifted the knife from the pool of blood and that he "barricaded the crime scene."

Following Officer Doe's affirmative response, Cllr. Johnson inquired further if he was correct to say as an officer, Sergeant Doe's training requires that such a knife or alleged murder weapon will be taken with precaution, meaning he will not lift the knife with his bare hands to determine whose fingerprint is on the knife.

The defense's inquiry prompted prosecution's objection on grounds that the defense lawyer sought to entrap the witness.

In their argument, the prosecution say a [traffic] police officer who is not schooled to forensics is not excluded from responding to crime scene. But they observe that Cllr. Johnson wants the officer to say he had a duty that he neglected to bring his integrity to public disrepute.

Montserrado County Attorney Cllr. Edwine K. Martin argues that the terrain of the crime scene was so volatile and the officer decided to protect the crime scene.

He notes that when the officer observed the instrument that was used, he called the forensic team, contending that Officer Doe who does not have the expertise in forensics cannot be compelled to do what he is not schooled to do.

Cllr. Martin adds that those that are supposed to address these technical issues will be brought to court by the State to testify.

But Cllr. Johnson's contention is that any officer who tells you that he barricaded the crime scene knows about crime scene investigation.

He notes that Sergeant Doe was speaking as an authority before the Court and jury when he testified that he "barricaded the crime scene", and so he is not dealing with the witness as a layman but as an authority.

However, Criminal Court "A" Judge Roosevelt Z. Willie sustained prosecution's

objection and did not allow the witness to answer the question that tend to deal with the technicality of preserving the alleged murder instrument or the crime scene.

In his testimony, Officer Doe describes a deep wound on the right side of Morris, narrating that he and two other persons including Genevieve and another person who is now in the United States took Morris to JFK Hospital.

According to him, the Physician Assistant (PA) that was on duty came out to examine the deceased, and she (PA) told him that Morris was already dead before being taken at the JFK.

He recalls that when they took the deceased at JFK, defendant Pinky followed in another vehicle with his co-officer. According to Officer Doe, the PA asked the defendant as to what had happened between she and Morris, but in that time, Officer Doe says the PA asked him out.

He recalls that the PA ordered him to take Morris' body to any funeral home, but he refused and insisted that the hospital takes delivery of the body until the Crime Services Division (CSD) do further investigation, and "they" agree after two hours.

On grounds of the examination report given by the PA, Officer Doe says he immediately ordered the Liberia National Police (LNP) officers assigned at JFK to have defendant Pinky arrested and she was arrested.

Additionally, he says he informed some supervisors of LNP, and he was advised that proper method be used to take the knife to be used as evidence.

He narrates that he returned and arrived at Pinky's house where the incident occurred. According to Sergeant Doe, he barricade the crime scene, noting that there was a civil knife with green handle that was found on the scene.

Prior to responding to the incident, he says Genevieve made it clear to him that Morris and his fiancée were in a fist fight and she (Genevieve) couldn't contain the situation, following which he went on the scene. The trial continues at Court "A."

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

Français

Disparition présumée des 16 milliards LD : les députés s'accusent mutuellement

Le représentant du district numéro 1 du comté de Nimba, Jeremiah Kpain Koung, a ouvertement accusé certains législateurs d'avoir reçu des pots-de-vin de la part des responsables de la Banque centrale avant l'impression des nouveaux billets de banque, dont 16 milliards de dollars libériens seraient portés disparus dans le pays.

Bien que le législateur de Nimba n'ait pas été en mesure de préciser les montants qui auraient été versés à ses collègues, il a accusé le représentant Larry P. Younquoi et d'autres personnes dont il a pris le soin de taire les noms lors de son intervention sur une radio communautaire du comté de Nimba. Selon lui, quand le député Younquoi et ses collègues étaient aux affaires en tant que président et coprésidents du comité parlementaire sur les voies et les moyens lors de la 53e législature, ils ont exigé une énorme somme d'argent de la Banque centrale afin d'autoriser l'impression des nouveaux billets de banque de



la monnaie nationale.

Le représentant Koung a affirmé qu'il ne fait pas partie des législateurs que le journaliste Philibert Brown a accusés d'avoir partagé de l'argent derrière la Banque centrale du Libéria au centre-ville de Monrovia et dans la cour de l'école T-Five Academy de Nee-Zoe à Paynesville.

Il a juré que si les documents

avaient montré qu'il avait été vu dans l'enceinte de la Banque centrale et à l'école du représentant Thomas Fallah, il démissionnerait.

Pour sa part, le représentant Larry P. Younquoi s'est inscrit en faux lorsqu'il a été contacté pour donner sa version des faits. Il a indiqué que les allégations faites par le

représentant de la circonscription numéro 1 du comté de Nimba étaient fausses.

Le représentant Younquoi a expliqué qu'il a représenté le comté au sein du comité parlementaire sur le budget sous la direction de l'ancien président de la chambre des représentants Alex Tyler inculpé de crimes économiques. Il a confirmé qu'ils ont écrit à la Banque centrale du Libéria pour l'autoriser à imprimer les nouveaux billets de banque, sans rien demander en retour. Il est cependant convaincu que ce sont ceux qui les ont remplacés au sein du Comité parlementaire sur les voies et les moyens qui ont reçu les prétendus pots-de-vin.

Il s'est engagé à suivre de près l'enquête sur la disparition présumée des 16

milliards de dollars libériens pour veiller à ce que les personnes impliquées soient traduites en justice.

Les législateurs de Capitol Hill et l'ensemble du gouvernement ont fait des déclarations contradictoires au sujet de l'impression des nouveaux billets de banque et de la disparition présumée des 16 milliards. Contrairement au ministre de l'information Eugene Nagbe qui a confirmé que l'argent a bel et bien disparu, le ministre des Finances et de la Planification du développement, Samuel Tweah, et le gouverneur exécutif de la Banque centrale du Libéria, Nathaniel Patray, ont démenti l'information.

Quant au président de la Chambre des représentants, Bhofal Chambers, il a juré de ne pas se soumettre à une quelconque enquête, ni même à celle menée par les experts américains encore moins à celle de la commission d'enquête présidentielle mise en place par le président Weah pour faire la lumière sur ce qui est considéré comme le plus gros scandale financier de l'histoire du pays.

Les députés viennent eux-mêmes de mettre fin à leur propre enquête et remis certains des acteurs clés du scandale financier, dont l'ancien gouverneur exécutif Milton Weeks, le gouverneur exécutif adjoint Charles Sirleaf et le gouverneur exécutif actuel Nathaniel Patray au pouvoir exécutif pour les poursuivre.

La malnutrition fait perdre à l'Afrique 25 milliards de dollars par an

La malnutrition fait perdre annuellement 25 milliards de dollars (environ 14 447 milliards FCFA) aux économies africaines, a annoncé mardi à Abidjan, Dr Omilola Babatunde, Chef de division santé publique, sécurité et nutrition de la Banque africaine de développement (BAD).

«C'est la première fois

qu'une banque continentale aborde les problèmes de la malnutrition. Nous devons accroître la productivité alimentaire», a expliqué Dr Omilola Babatunde, lors d'un panel sur la malnutrition, insistant sur l'implication de son institution pour endiguer le mal. «Chaque année la malnutrition coûte 25 milliards de dollars américains (environ

14 447 246 454 634 FCFA) à l'Afrique», a-t-il poursuivi, ajoutant que «la BAD projette 50% des investissements rationnels sur le plan nutritionnel dans les domaines de la santé et de l'agriculture, 15 % au niveau de l'eau, de l'assainissement et de l'hygiène, et 10% pour la protection».

A son tour, Dr Marie Brou-Tanoh, la Coordinatrice du Secrétariat de l'initiative African Leaders for Nutrition (ALN) a soutenu que «la malnutrition est une barrière», invitant sur la nécessité pour les chefs de l'Etat de «prendre les décisions qui puissent faire bouger les causes de la nutrition».

La BAD a adopté le Plan d'action multisectoriel pour la nutrition, afin d'orienter et de coordonner la mise en œuvre de la dimension de nutrition intégrée dans ses documents de stratégie, en particulier la stratégie nourrir l'Afrique et la stratégie en matière de capital humain.

Grâce à ce plan d'action et à la mise en place d'une «infrastructure de la matière

grise» à l'échelle du continent, la Banque servira de catalyseur aux investissements axés sur la nutrition dans différents secteurs qui permettront une réduction de 40% du retard de croissance sur tout le continent d'ici 2025, en mettant l'accent sur l'investissement dans la promotion d'aliments sains,

variés et nutritifs.

En outre, le plan accordera la priorité aux groupes de populations vulnérables, notamment les femmes enceintes, les mères allaitantes, les femmes en âge de procréer et les nourrissons ainsi que les jeunes enfants, en mettant tout particulièrement l'accent sur les 1 000 premiers jours de vie.



Articles traduits

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Français

Weah veut déduire les impôts des salaires des fonctionnaires

Déduire les impôts des salaires des fonctionnaires et des responsables de l'Etat, voilà un autre moyen efficace qui permettra à tout le monde de payer son impôt, c'est en tout cas ce que pense le président George Manneh Weah.

« Alors que le gouvernement cherche de l'aide auprès de ses partenaires multilatéraux et bilatéraux, nous citoyens et tout particulièrement fonctionnaires de l'Etat, devons contribuer à l'enveloppe des recettes intérieures en payant nos impôts. C'est la seule façon de financer ces projets communautaires », a déclaré lundi le Président Weah lors de la visite de certains chantiers dans le comté de Montserrado.

Le président Weah appelle les membres de son cabinet et les autres représentants du gouvernement à respecter leurs obligations fiscales afin d'équiper financièrement l'Etat et de lui permettre de s'acquitter de ses obligations, conformément au programme en faveur des pauvres pour la prospérité et le développement.

L'administration du président Weah a lancé des dizaines de projets communautaires, principalement la construction et le bitumage des routes. Ces projets sont largement financés par l'Etat du Libéria dont les recettes intérieures sont très maigres.

Selon un communiqué de la présidence, le président Weah souhaite que les responsables du gouvernement donnent l'exemple en payant leurs impôts.

Le Chef de l'Etat est convaincu que cela encouragera les citoyens ordinaires à respecter également leurs obligations fiscales. Il a rappelé aux responsables gouvernementaux leurs obligations en matière de fiscalité et souligné la nécessité de transformer le pays et d'améliorer les conditions de vie du peuple libérien.

Le président Weah a exhorté les Libériens à ne pas rechigner sur le

paiement de leurs impôts, car sans leurs impôts, le gouvernement ne peut pas poursuivre le développement.

Selon lui, le gouvernement peut mieux faire si les citoyens paient leurs impôts et cela n'est possible que si les responsables gouvernementaux donnent l'exemple en s'acquittant de leurs obligations fiscales.

« Dans le monde entier, le paiement des impôts est une obligation juridiquement contraignante pour tous, tant dans la vie privée que dans la vie publique. Et les délinquants ou les récalcitrants vont en prison pour avoir omis de payer leurs impôts » a-t-il indiqué.

Il a exhorté les représentants du gouvernement à toujours obéir aux lois et à payer leurs impôts régulièrement, sinon il sera obligé de prendre les mesures qui s'imposent.

Il a par ailleurs exprimé sa satisfaction par rapport au progrès des travaux et s'est dit convaincu que les entrepreneurs pourront respecter les délais impartis pour l'achèvement des projets.

Le président a également reconnu l'importance de la route de Doe Community et de Clara Town pour les habitants. C'est pour lui une réalisation remarquable. « Je suis heureux que ces deux communautés soient reliées aujourd'hui par une route goudronnée », a-t-il déclaré.

« Les habitants de ces deux bidonvilles ne marcheront plus dans la boue comme nous avons l'habitude de le faire il y a plusieurs années », a-t-il poursuivi.

La visite de lundi s'inscrit dans le cadre de la ferme promesse qu'il a faite, celle de procéder à l'inspection des travaux de construction des routes. Il a ainsi visité les chantiers de Chucky, Pipeline-Johnsonville, Patience Shop-Barnersville, Doe Community-Clara Town et the Sawmill Community. Il a également inspecté le chantier de défense côtière de New Kru Town.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Harold James

Les précédents du Brexit

PRINCETON - Les pays membres de l'UE se sont mis d'accord sur les conditions du Brexit. Mais il n'est pas sûr que les parlementaires britanniques donnent leur approbation à cet accord, car l'Europe aurait alors un pouvoir de décision sur les affaires britanniques.

Les faucons du Brexit voteront probablement contre, car ils considèrent que cet accord est moins satisfaisant que le statu quo. Il en sera de même de la plupart des adversaires du Brexit. Néanmoins, en dépit de tous ses défauts, l'accord négocié par la Première ministre Theresa May entrera sans doute en vigueur.

Un revirement britannique sur le Brexit est des plus improbables. Le Brexit est une révolution, et il va sans doute suivre le même chemin que les autres révolutions. Ainsi que les Français l'ont appris après 1789 et les Russes après 1917, on ne peut ni arrêter ni ignorer une révolution.

Il est vrai que la révolution du Brexit a lieu dans un pays sans grande tradition révolutionnaire. Les spécialistes britanniques en droit constitutionnel sont fiers de l'évolution progressive de l'ordre constitutionnel de leur pays, en comparaison des ruptures politiques brutales qui ont marqué l'Histoire de l'Europe continentale. Mais le référendum de juin 2016 a mis fin à cet exceptionnalisme britannique. Paradoxalement, prenant la voie du Brexit, la Grande-Bretagne s'aligne avec le reste de l'Europe. Dans une période où la plupart des Européens veulent la sécurité et la stabilité, une faible majorité de Britanniques a choisi de lancer le pays sur un chemin inexploré, à l'issue imprévisible.

Certains historiens considèrent l'abandon de l'étalon-or par le Royaume-Uni en septembre 1931 et son retrait du Mécanisme de taux de change européen en septembre 1992 comme des événements précurseurs du Brexit. Mais ce dernier n'a pas pour objectif de mettre fin à un régime monétaire (opération relativement facile qui peut être bénéfique) ou d'éviter tel ou tel aspect irritant de la vie politique européenne. Il constitue un bouleversement systémique.

Après des décennies d'appartenance au régime régulateur européen, une rupture dans de bonnes conditions suppose de réécrire d'innombrables règles - une tâche fastidieuse et complexe. La plus petite erreur pourrait être lourde de conséquences imprévisibles. Ainsi, toute faille dans l'accord pourrait ouvrir la porte à des pratiques dangereuses ou prédatrices, et plus largement, toute ambiguïté dans sa rédaction pourrait se traduire par des contradictions internes, voire ôter tout son sens à l'accord.

Dit autrement, tout l'exercice ressemble à la conception d'un nouveau logiciel de traitement de texte à partir de zéro. Plutôt que persévérer dans cette voie, toute personne un tant soit peu rationnelle réaliserait rapidement qu'il est préférable de ne pas faire table rase de ce qui existe. Mais la logique révolutionnaire rend tout retour en arrière impossible.

La plupart des arguments en faveur du Brexit se fondent sur une conception traditionnelle de la souveraineté et s'enracinent davantage dans l'Histoire de l'Angleterre que dans celle de la Grande-Bretagne. Les partisans du Brexit regardent avec tendresse le défi lancé par le roi Jean sans Terre au pape Innocent III au 13^e siècle.

Et ils apprécient encore davantage l'ère des Tudor, lorsqu'Henri VIII a libéré l'Eglise d'Angleterre de la tutelle papale. Jusqu'à aujourd'hui, les Tudor restent très présents dans les livres scolaires, les médias, les films et l'imaginaire populaire britannique.

Avril 1533 a été le moment clé de la Réforme entreprise par Henri VIII, lorsque le Parlement anglais a adopté la loi Ecclesiastical Appeals Act qui donnait au roi le dernier mot sur toute question juridique ou religieuse. L'objectif de cette loi était de libérer l'Angleterre de l'autorité d'une papauté qui remontait à Charles Ier d'Espagne (Charles Quint, autrement dit Charles V du Saint empire romain). Aussi longtemps que Charles était l'homme fort à Rome, Henri ne pouvait divorcer de Catherine d'Aragon, la tante de Charles.

C'est dans l'Ecclesiastical Appeals Act que l'on trouve la première définition claire de la souveraineté. Elle stipule que le royaume d'Angleterre est un Empire gouverné par un Roi, Chef suprême, et qu'il est reconnu ainsi dans le monde. Mais comme c'est souvent le cas lors d'une révolution, le texte était incomplet. Les lois votées par le Parlement dans les années 1530 ne remplaçaient pas le catholicisme par le protestantisme, mais elles permettaient aux réformateurs de passer à l'étape suivante.

Il y avait beaucoup de désaccords chez les protestants quant au contenu de la réforme. La révolution devait-elle suivre les enseignements de Luther, Zwingli et Calvin ou prendre une orientation plus radicale ? Les différentes factions ne voulaient pas des mêmes stratégies et les changements brusques étaient fréquents. L'homme qui a écrit le projet de loi original de l'Ecclesiastical Appeals Act, Thomas Cromwell, a été exécuté en 1540 sur ordre du roi, et l'architecte de la Réforme en Angleterre, l'archevêque Thomas Cranmer, a été brûlé au bûcher en 1556.

Pendant le règne du fils d'Henri VIII, Edouard VI (entre 1547 et 1553), l'élan révolutionnaire a inscrit définitivement l'Angleterre dans le protestantisme. Mais comme le souligne l'historien Eamon Duffy, du fait du dépouillement systématique des autels durant cette période, beaucoup de sujets anglais ont eu un sentiment de désagrégation et d'aliénation. Une grande nostalgie en faveur de l'ancien ordre s'est alors emparée de la société, et à la mort d'Edouard, sa sœur Marie Ire qui lui a succédé a voulu inverser le processus.

Mais une contre-révolution exige une stratégie aussi radicale qu'une révolution. L'Etat anglais se montrant de plus en plus brutal et barbare, beaucoup de sujets anglais ont conclu que la contre-réforme elle-même était viciée. Après la mort de Marie, la reine Elisabeth Ire est parvenue à un compromis. Cependant, nombre de questions théologiques restant sans réponse, la Réforme a été suivie d'un cycle de révolutions et de contre-révolutions violentes qui s'est prolongé durant des décennies. Il a fallu plus d'une génération pour que le conflit s'apaise.

Henri VIII voulait être enterré dans une énorme tombe devant laquelle se diraient des messes catholiques destinées à le célébrer. Aucun de ses deux souhaits n'a été exaucé. Le mieux que pouvait faire la Grande-Bretagne était de l'oublier et d'avancer. Alors que May négocie les dernières étapes du Brexit, elle devrait tenir compte des leçons de l'ère des Tudor. La plupart du temps la révolution dévore ceux qui l'ont initiée.

PERSPECTIVES

With Bai M. Gbala, Sr.
November 28, 2018

Public Policy . Economics . Democratic Politics . Political/Economic Decentralization . Public Dishonesty . Dual Citizenship

SOURCES OF LIBERIA'S MAJOR POLITICAL CALAMITIES: ETHNIC TRIBAL BIGOTRY AND DUAL CITIZENSHIP

CONT'D FROM LAST EDITION

Observations and Comments

The most, profound impacts of (1), Ethnic Tribal Bigotry and (2), Dual Citizenship are felt in Liberia in the following areas of Liberian society:

- 1) Ethnic Tribal Bigotry.
 - a) Administration of Social, Economic Entitlements. This is found mostly in the administration of lawful entitlements such as training, education, employment, housing, choice of location, etc.
 - b) The right to stand for election to some state offices are denied by unwritten but effectively-enforced rules of exclusion.
- 2) Dual Citizenship.
 - a) National Security. Regarding National Security, the word "*allegiance*" means that we promise Loyalty, exclusive and unrestrained, with lawful, binding obligation. Because citizenship carries with it, also, the responsibility and obligation to be exclusively loyal to one country at a time, the concept of Dual citizenship raises questions about which of the dual citizenships have priority. This is extremely important when and where the two countries have opposing interests. In the case of a declared war or real threat of a conflict, for example, our loyalty, allegiance and patriotism to the Republic preclude, *should and must preclude* any other interest, be it another country or political ideology.

It can be a deadly problem when and where a dual citizen occupies a high position in our Liberian Government. Can one imagine a dual citizen of an opposing foreign country serving in the Ministry of National Defense during a conflict with that country? Today's conflicts are at Liberia's door-steps. Liberia is surrounded by nations with governments dominated by militant Muslim-Islamist BOKO Haran, with "*weapons of Mass Destruction*" which Liberia does not possess. But Liberia is sinking in the Cesspool of Ethnic Tribal Bigotry & Dual Citizenship.
 - b) Political/Economic. Historically, Dual Citizens dominated and controlled Liberia's Political Economy and political decision-making power through absolute control/domination of Liberia's Politics and Economics during the 171 years of Country's political independence and continuing. Fabulous salaries and related incomes generated in Liberia by Dual Citizens have been and, are being transferred, regularly, out of Liberia and purchased homes, maintain families and educate children in foreign countries, the simultaneous, second home-countries of these Liberian, dual citizens. They travel, very often, to and from these countries to which they owe *exclusive loyalty, allegiance and patriotism*, and in which they hold and maintain fabulous bank accounts.

Cllr. Korkoya as NEC Chairman

The most recent case, in point, of dual citizenship is the example of Cllr. Jerome Korkoya who was appointed Chairman of the National Elections Commission (NEC) by former President Sirleaf, although she (President Sirleaf) knew, very well, that Cllr. Korkoya was, and is, ineligible to hold the position because he (Cllr. Korkoya) is citizen of a foreign country, a violation of Liberian statutory and constitutional law. But she did so, apparently, because of her desire and plan to control and manipulate the functions of the NEC through malleable Cllr. Korkoya.

Moreover all, almost, registered, recognized Political Parties, Leaders and practicing politicians and attorneys, including the Nation's Supreme Court, supported and continue to support the illegal appointment of Cllr. Korkoya as Chairman of the NEC, for obvious reasons.

In fact, our recent research information of the declared/approved candidates for President of Liberia and the sitting, retiring President showed the following, for obvious reasons:

Retiring President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, UNITY Party (?), Doubtful

- 1) Vice President Joseph Boakai, UNITY Party, Liberian Citizen
- 2) Cllr. Charles Brumskine, LIBERTY Party, Doubtful
- 3) Senator George Weah, CDC COALITION, US Citizen
- 4) Mr. Benoni Urey, ALP Party, Doubtful
- 5) Dr. Mills Jones, MOVEE Party, US Citizen
- 6) Mr. Alexander Cummings, ANC Party, US Citizen
- 7) Dr. Henry Fahnbulleh, Jr., LPP Party, Doubtful
- 8) Senator Prince Johnson, MDR Party, Liberian Citizen
- 9) Ms. Macdella Cooper, LRP Party, US Citizen
- 10) Jeremiah Whapoe, VOLT Party, US Citizen
- 11) McDonald Wenton, UPP Party, US Citizen

Of the 11 politicians seeking the presidency of Liberia and the retiring, sitting President, 6 or 50% are US citizens, 4 or 33% are in doubt, while 2 or 17% are

Liberian citizens. Thus, the reason that "*politicians*" were, and are, in support of the illegal appointment of Cllr. Jerome Korkoya as Chairman of the NEC. To protect and secure the self-interests of the very few!!

Dual Citizenship versus the Masonic Craft

In the Liberia of today, Dual Citizenship has replaced the Masonic Craft as the symbol of preferred social standing, economic and political success within the socio-political Class for the rising, ambitious politicians. Anyone who is somebody in the Liberian socio-economic and political system is a dual citizen with Liberian and foreign passports; and anyone, who wants to be somebody in the Liberian socio-economic and political system, strives to be dual citizen.

But, the on-going, heated national debate and arguments for adoption of *dual citizenship* in our country are logically-fallacious in general terms, at least, up to the present. Almost all leading proponents are, already, citizens of foreign countries who left Liberia for greener pastures and others who took up naturalized citizenship willingly, upon their own choice (the old "been-to" social class hopefuls) or applicants for naturalizations with advocacy/arguments based on "what's in it for me", not for the nation and people.

Indeed, no one, none of the leaders/advocates has yet presented a relevant, thought-provoking, micro/macroeconomic and political argument/analysis in support of dual citizenship. These advocates/proponents failed, miserably, to dislodge the age-old Truth that "*no one can serve two masters at the same time*", nor the proven natural Science Theory (Physics) that "*no object can occupy two spaces at the same time*", other than the usual, worn-out clichés of "*western union remittances, political persecutions due to our unfortunate tragedy of the civil war and that there is a pool of highly trained/experienced, former Liberian citizens-professionals in the Diaspora who can be utilized in the nation's reconstruction/development effort*".

But those issues have been effectively debunked as "*deceitful ploys for government (of Liberia) positions and corrupt practices*". Recall the *Liberia-rush* by the Philadelphia job-seekers; they are back in the USA (mostly in Philadelphia) in new homes and flashy SUVs, with some indicted for stealing public resources.

All-Inclusive National Menace

This analysis drags us to the politicians and journalists decked out in Ethnic Tribal and Dual Citizenship Robes and newly-adopted African attire (Lappa suits, etc.), particularly, the journalists who should, must improve and continue the awesome responsibility of Institutional Investigative Reporting to *inform, educate and entertain the nation's un-informed, un-educated and poor citizens*, the pre-condition to a functioning democracy.

We note, particularly, the self-anointed "leading newspapers of Liberia" Journalists who are unreasonably arrogant and find pleasure in badmouthing and accusing persistently, viciously and falsely the late President Samuel Doe and the Krahn People, *although the President has been dead for about 30 years and not around for response to the vicious charges*.

While we admit that the late President was not above the shenanigans, maneuvers and manipulations of the law and was, in fact, in violations of law, a characteristic "learned" from the Liberian system and African heads of state, but we argue, based upon validated evidence, that as "*compared to former President Charles Taylor (the leader of Mrs. Sirleaf's ACDL-Civil war now serving the 50-year prison term for Crimes against Humanity) and retired former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf (the senior ACDL warlord and leading war & economic crimes suspects), Samuel Doe is a saint*", in the words of a US Diplomat involved in the "Peace Process" with us, in the search for peace out of the deadly war.

We argue, moreover, that the late President and the Krahn People did not cross the Cestos River to wage tribal war against historical, ageless, tribal brothers and sisters of friendly people of Nimba County, including, particularly, the Gio or Dan, tribal, family relatives (*the Towehs, prominent family of the late Paramount Chief Gblorzuo Toweh*). The name or term "*Toweh*" is Krahn, "*tohe weh-ye*", in the Krahn dialect and translates to "*tribal war is finished or over*".

But the problem of the "*Field Marshall, General*" Prince Yormie Johnson's civil war excesses were the result of and due to the unfortunate exploitation/manipulations of Liberia's (also unfortunate) traditional Ethnic Tribal bigotry by the warmongers with the *now senior Senator* of Nimba County still running lose as a threat to some Nimba citizens, peace and security of the nation.

Finally, we pray the Journalists to leave the dead President Doe and the Krahn People alone and focus attention on the nation's economy already in the great beyond, while the exchange rate has been, and is, in hot pursuit.

Meanwhile, there is stealing, stealing and stealing from the Citizens, and the-now thriving Liberian Government monopoly of the universal vice of corruption (public dishonesty) with lawyers, law-makers and top Executive Branch officials as the most-often, major law-breakers with impunity and moral decadence in Liberia.

Where will this end with no one listening but arrogant? Recall the Biblical history of Sodom and Gomorrah?

Proposed new GSM tariff

By Winston W. Parley

The Liberia Telecommunication Authority (LTA) says it has calculated, in collaboration with Orange Liberia and Lonestar Cell MTN, that the cost for one minute of telephone call is 0.0156 cents (LD\$2.336) and that the cost for one megabyte of internet data is 0.0218 cents (LD\$3.4008).

The LTA says the Telecommunication Law of 2012 forbids telecom companies from selling below their cost and so it wants to enforce this law to end the [price] war [between Orange and MTN] by telling telecom companies that they cannot sell telephone calls and internet data below their cost price.

LTA observes that Orange and MTN are said to be violation of this law by too many offering free calls.

It says it is consulting with Orange and MTN and with many other stakeholders, including consumer groups on how to stabilize the market using a minimum price for calls and internet data.

The LTA informs the public that this minimum price of 0.0156 cents for calls and 0.0218 cents for internet data will both companies provide telephone and internet bundles for \$1.00.



According to the LTA, it is taking this measure to end the price war between Orange and MTN that is destroying the telecommunications industry here.

It recalls how in 2012, some telecommunications providers began price promotions that pushed all the telephone companies into a "price war."

According to the LTA, as one company reduced its price, the others undercut that price in a vicious cycle that eventually brought the price for calls and internet data to a level far below cost.

"The price for calls dropped

from 14 cents per minute in 2014 to less than 1 cent per minute in 2017 and is still falling," the LTA explains.

It emphasizes that the prices have become so low that the services are almost free, adding that people in Monrovia area have been enjoying these cheap calls, but people in most other parts of the country cannot make calls or go online at any price.

The LTA laments that the price drove smaller companies including Novafone, West Africa Telecom and LiberCell out of the market, leaving only MTN and Orange.

LTA admits that in the beginning it was happy to allow consumers to benefit from the cheap calls and data, but it says the war between Orange and MTN has become mutually destructive, with each company trying to drive the other out of the market.

"Both companies are selling calls and data below their cost price and are losing money, but neither Orange nor MTN wants to surrender," the LTA observes.

LTA warns that if the price war continues, either Orange or MTN will be forced from the market and the country will go back to the days of monopoly when SIM cards were sold for US\$65.00 and one company could charge any price it wanted.

Telecommunications is one of the largest contributors to

government revenues, the LTA notes, adding that when the telecom companies lose money, they pay less taxes to government for schools, hospitals, roads, and development.

According to the LTA, other countries such as Nigeria and Sierra Leone have used this same price stabilization to improve the quality of service for consumers.

But it notes that these promotional packages can no longer be free, saying: "We have enjoyed free calls for years while the telecom companies have been fighting, but we see now that anything free is expensive in the long run."

The LTA argues that Liberia has the lowest prices for telephone and internet in West Africa.

Utilize Liberian

Cont'd from page 6

needed to drive the development of the country.

He praises this year's graduates as the nation's greatest assets desirous of support as they endeavor to further their studies to make an impact on the global stage.

Nyenswah commends the T.J.R. College of Science and Technology for its immense contribution in the lives of individual families and Liberia at large in the field of the sciences.

"It is satisfying to know that the State University can now train young Liberians in the field of prevention and contribute more to better health outcomes," adding that the cultivation and facilitation of science and technology in order to foster infrastructural development and boost the economy of Liberia is cardinal.

During the commencement, a total of 386 students received diplomas; 293 in Biological Sciences, 43 in Chemistry, 12 in Mathematics, two in Physics, 23 in Nursing, and eight in Midwifery, respectively.

According to the UL Administration, a total of 191 females graduated compared to 195 males, a trend that began few years ago which shows a significant shrinking of the male and female graduation gap, and now places the T.J.R. College of Science and Technology in a pole position to become the first college at the university where women could surpass men in terms of graduation.

The Dean of the College, Dr.

Peter S. Humphrey, applauds his faculty for their selfless approach to duty in the preparation of the students.

Dr. Humphrey charges the graduates to see themselves as valuable assets that could positively impact the economy of the country.

Paying tribute to the founder of the science college, Dr. Humphrey notes the University of Liberia's College of Science and Technology will only mount, considering the man in whose honor it is named.

"Born in North Carolina in 1869, Thomas Jefferson Richelieu Faulkner was a scholar in the field of engineering," he said. "He is credited to be the first person to introduce electricity, telephone and the ice factory in Liberia. As a public figure, he also served as Mayor of the City of Monrovia. This is the man the President of the University of Liberia is urging graduates of the College to emulate."

The President of the University of Liberia, Dr. Ophelia Inez Weeks discloses that plans have been approved to add Computer Science and Information and Communication Technology division to the College of Science and Technology, adding that the University has signed a memorandum of understanding with Obafemi Awolowo University, in Nigeria, to provide support for this latest development at the state-run University.

She implores the

Weah gets tough

President George Manneh Weah on Wednesday made examples of three top officials at the National Housing Authority or NHA suspending

Duannah Siryon, Deputy Managing Director for Administration, Mr. Tugbeh C. Tugbeh and Deputy Managing Director for Technical Services,

act of fraud at the NHA.

The trio have been mandated to handover all government properties and relevant documents in their possessions.

They spent their first night at the Monrovia Central Prison on Tuesday, 27 November on charges of theft of property, economic sabotage, bribery, criminal conspiracy and criminal solicitation.

The officials were arrested on 23 November on account of an alleged secretly recorded audio in which they were allegedly heard soliciting bribe from agents of a Burkinabe company GELPAZ - IMMO who had reportedly come here in follow-up on their interest in constructing over 5,000 housing units along the Roberts International Airport Highway.

State security investigators including the police say Mr. Siryon along with his two deputies and one Augustine Weah, were heard in the alleged audio recording having altercation because the two NHA deputies allegedly felt cheated out of the US\$92,000 bribe received from GELPAZ - IMMO's former coordinator Emmanuel Tapsoba.



them in connection with the ongoing investigation into alleged fraud at the NHA.

The top officials are the Managing Director, Mr.

Mr. Isaac Roberts of the National Housing Authority..

The three officials are being investigated in connection with their roles in an alleged

Read The New Dawn Online Daily

Murder instrument sparks debate in Court



By **Winston W. Parley**

Intensive debate erupted Wednesday, 5 December between prosecutors and defense lawyers when police officer Sergeant George Doe identified a civil knife with green handle that he claims was used by defendant Joetta Pinky Abul who is indicted for the murder of her

fiance Morris Johnson.

When prosecutors presented a sealed knife in the courtroom and requested for its identification on Wednesday, 5 December, the third State witness unsealed it and said yes, it is "this knife that was used by the defendant."

Defendant Pinky is indicted

for allegedly murdering her fiance, the late Morris Johnson at her S.K.D. Sports Complex Community residence at night in June, but she pleads "not guilty" to the charge.

Prosecutors are alleging that the defendant stabbed the deceased and caused his death during an altercation that erupted when he demanded to sleep at her house and she refused that night.

Officer Doe says he did not witness the fight, but he was called by Genevieve and was informed that Pinky and her fiance were in a fist fight.

The witness says when he came out, he met Morris lying in the pool of blood.

He also says when he and Genevieve and one other person took Morris to the John F. Kennedy Medical Center he (Officer Doe) returned to the crime scene, and a civil knife with green handle was lying in the pool of blood. He says he lifted it from the



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Public Service Announcement

The New Dawn will take its usual annual break beginning December 24, 2018 to return on the newsstand immediately January 4, 2019. We thank our many loyal readers and subscribers for standing by us in 2018 despite a rather tough business climate. We look forward to a very peaceful and prosperous New Year. Merry Christmas.

The Management

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#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.#

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#Stop prioritizing foreign businesses over Liberian businesses!#