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# Continental News

## Road accidents biggest killer of young people - WHO

Road injuries are now the biggest killer of children and young adults worldwide, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

The organisation published figures that also reveal Africa has the worst rate of road traffic deaths in the world.

Its report says many African and South American countries still do not have sufficient speed limit laws.

But it also highlights that global road death rates relative to the size of the world's population are stabilising.

Car accidents are now the leading global cause of death amongst children and young adults aged five to 29 years old, the report says.

It contends that says more people die from road-related injuries than from HIV/Aids, tuberculosis or diarrhoeal diseases.

"These deaths are an unacceptable price to pay for mobility," said Tedros

Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the WHO's director-general.

"There is no excuse for inaction. This is a problem with proven solutions."

The WHO report says that at 26.6 deaths per 100,000 people, Africa's road fatality rate is nearly three times that of Europe, which has the lowest globally.

It says nearly half of the 54 countries in Africa have no speed laws or speed limits in place.

Botswana, Ivory Coast and Cameroon have all seen death rates increase. Egypt, Angola, Burkina Faso and Burundi are among those that have seen a reduction.

Africa also has the highest

rate of pedestrian and cyclist mortality.

Rises - and falls

According to the latest data, about 1.35 million people were killed in car accidents around the world in 2016, up slightly from previous years.

The risk of road deaths is said to be three times higher in low-income countries.

South-East Asia trails Africa as the second-most dangerous region, followed by the eastern Mediterranean.

But despite an increase in

the number of deaths, the WHO says the global death rate from road accidents has stabilised in recent years.

The WHO attributes this to increased safety efforts in middle- and high-income countries. These include the development of safer infrastructure like cycling lanes, and "better" legislation on speeding, seat belts and vehicle standards.

Europe, the Americas and the Western Pacific have all seen a drop in road traffic death rates. BBC



Image copyright GETTY IMAGES : A man attends to traffic after a bus crash in Zimbabwe this year which killed 47 people

## Sudan helicopter crash kills officials

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A helicopter has crashed in eastern Sudan, killing a state governor and at least four other officials.

The helicopter exploded in flames after it hit a communications tower as it tried to land in the remote AL-Qadarif state, witnesses are

quoted by AFP news agency as saying.

No official reason has yet been given for the crash.

A number of people were taken to hospital for treatment, state media reported, without giving more details.

Among the dead are AL-Qadarif governor Mirghani Saleh, his cabinet chief, the local police chief and

agriculture minister, the reports added.

Sudan's military fleet includes many aircraft bought from the former Soviet Union.

Eight people were injured in October when two of its planes collided on the runway at the airport in the capital, Khartoum.

In September, two pilots were killed when a military jet crashed near Omdurman, Khartoum's twin city. -BBC



## Thousands walk on Ethiopia Car Free Day

Amir Aman, in glasses, wants Ethiopians to lead a healthy lifestyle

Thousands of people have marked Car Free Day in cities across Ethiopia by walking and exercising.

Major roads were shut as Health Minister Amir Aman

exercising.

Generally, city-dwellers in Ethiopia are not in the habit of exercising, the BBC's Amensisa Negera reports from Addis Ababa.

Mr Amir is trying to change that and Car Free Day will be held on the last Sunday of each month, he



led the walk in the capital, Addis Ababa.

This was the first Car Free Day held in Ethiopia to promote healthy living, and to reduce pollution on roads usually clogged with traffic.

Tents were also set to offer free health checks to those who were walking and

adds.

Mr Amir hailed the event, held in seven cities, a success. "Thank you for everyone who participated and supported the event. We shine when we walk together and build a healthy Ethiopia," he said. -BBC

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# 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.



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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.*

**P**RINCETON - 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.

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 left unresolved, the Reformation continued to cycle through violent revolutions and reversals for decades. It took at least a generation before the conflict subsided.

For his part, Henry VIII had always wanted to be interred in an enormous celebratory tomb where (Catholic) masses would be said in perpetuity. Neither wish was honored. The best that Britain could do was simply to forget and move on.

As May navigates the final stages of Brexit, she should heed the lessons of the Tudor era. More often than not, those who start the revolution are eventually devoured by it.

## O-PED

Georgios Kaminis, Erias  
Lukwago & Marvin Rees

## The Leadership of Cities

**A**THENS/KAMPALA/BRISTOL - After the 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen concluded without an agreement on climate action, mayors around the world developed their own innovative solutions. More recently, as national politicians have fomented false fears about refugees and immigrants, local leaders have taken responsibility for welcoming, protecting, and integrating millions of newcomers. When it comes to tackling the complex challenges of the twenty-first century, cities have emerged as leaders.

Past and current initiatives have made our cities stronger and more united, just as neglecting the challenges we face surely would have weakened and divided them. It has also given us important insights into what works best - insights that policymakers at the national and international levels would do well to take on board.

If we are to meet the challenges our world faces, we must capitalize on the strengths and expertise of every level of government. That is why, over the last two years, hundreds of cities have played an unprecedented role in developing two non-binding agreements: the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees.

Both agreements are informed by the simple, self-evident truth that no country or city can go it alone. And both serve as roadmaps for how countries and communities can work together on managing international migration and forced displacement.

With the overwhelming majority of migrants - including 58% of refugees - residing in cities, municipal-level efforts are vitally important. As mayors who represent cities of origin, transit, and destination, we have a shared interest in cooperating to ensure that migration is safe, orderly, and humane, and that refugees are protected. To be effective, such cooperation must include engaging in migration diplomacy and policymaking at the regional and international levels.

This weekend in Marrakesh, on the eve of the historic Intergovernmental Conference on the Global Compact for Migration, the mayors of eight cities - Los Angeles, Montreal, Milan, Athens, Bristol, Amman, Kampala, and Freetown - will launch the Mayors Migration Council to support local authorities' efforts. The Council will ensure that mayors have a permanent and powerful voice on the international stage, so that policies are grounded in the realities they and their cities face.

The Council will also help cities to elevate successful migration-related practices that can serve as models for action around the world. Networks like United Cities and Local Governments, the Global Parliament of Mayors, and Cities of Migration can help by facilitating the sharing of knowledge and innovation among local governments. Acknowledging that this work extends beyond migration alone, the Council - in partnership with C40 Cities - will seek to tackle the intertwined challenges of migration and climate change in cities.

This effort is all the more urgent in view of the toxic political discourse on migration. Too often, national politicians talk about refugees and immigrants not as humans, but statistics - an approach that enables them to justify inaction. Worse, many politicians now use immigrants as scapegoats. This cynical strategy has led to a rise in hate crimes, discrimination, and a deepening distrust not only among people, but also of government.

In our cities, migrants are anything but abstractions. They are our neighbors, schoolmates, and co-workers, delivering essential services and connecting us to the world through their histories and networks. Migrants bring unique perspectives and new ideas that add to our society, rather than taking anything away. They help our cities foster new relationships and build bridges within cities and with other countries. They diversify our workforce and strengthen our economy. We need migrants as we grow and evolve.

Successful cities take individuals from diverse backgrounds, enabling them to connect and supporting them in ways that capitalize on their strengths and compensate for their weaknesses. Residents of the city of Bristol, to name one example, represent at least 45 religions and 180 countries of birth, and speak 91 different languages. They share public transportation, health facilities, and social services, as well as triumphs and tragedies.

Serving diverse populations is a practical challenge; but it is also an ethical one. If we do not meet it, we risk dividing our residents and making our cities ungovernable. If we do, we will unlock the creativity and dynamism that are the keys to success in the twenty-first century.

In recent weeks, a dozen or so countries have withdrawn from the Global Compact for Safe, Regular, and Orderly Migration, often using specious arguments about how this non-binding agreement undermines their sovereignty. As local leaders, we do not have the luxury of ignoring the challenges we face. In Marrakesh and beyond, we will work with fellow leaders - from national and local governments, from civil society and faith groups, and from international organizations - who are not afraid to confront reality, and make it better.

## OPINION

By Barry Eichengreen

## The Phony US-China Truce

**B**EIJING - On December 1 in Buenos Aires, US President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, agreed on a 90-day moratorium on increases in import tariffs to provide a window for negotiations. Unfortunately, this approach to mediation does not always succeed, and investors were not impressed - as was evident in the 800-point fall in the Dow Jones Industrial Average on December 4. And if markets were skeptical then, they will be even more skeptical now, with the arrest of Huawei Chief Financial Officer Meng Wanzhou for violating US sanctions on Iran.

The two presidents' approach to relieving trade tensions does have ample precedent, but such episodes provide little grounds for hope. In February 1930, the League of Nations convened an international conference in Geneva to address the problem of proliferating protectionism that "obstructed the development of large-scale production and impeded European recovery" and was deployed more generally as a "weapon of economic warfare." Thirty countries sent delegations. The United States, though not a member of the League, sent Edward C. Wilson, the first secretary at the US Embassy in Paris.

In advance of the negotiation, the Economic Committee of the League drafted a convention for a two-year customs truce. But the delegates accepted neither this draft convention nor a scaled-down version submitted subsequently by the French. New states with ambitious industrialization plans were not prepared to abandon them (shades of "Made in China 2025"). Countries running chronic deficits were loath to sign onto the agreement absent a commitment by others to take more of their exports (an objection that will resonate with Trump).

Nothing of substance was agreed. When the US, responding to domestic political pressures, adopted the Smoot-Hawley Tariff four months later, angry European governments responded in kind. The rest, as they say, is history.

Planning for Smoot-Hawley had been underway well before the Great Depression. But the onset of the Great Depression intensified the pressure to do something - anything - that might alleviate the collapse of domestic spending. Given preceding discussions, the most plausible such something was the tariff.

Today, with the US housing market cooling and financial conditions tightening, a US recession is not out of the question. Together with a decline in the stock market, that recession would ratchet up the pressure on Trump to look like he was doing something - anything - to prop up the economy. Most likely, that something would come at China's expense.

Part of the problem in 1930 was that countries came to the Geneva conference with very different views of what they had signed up for, which appears to be the case again today. Whereas the Trump administration expects rapid progress in reducing the bilateral trade deficit, Chinese state media refers to the desirability of a "gradual" reduction. Whereas the White House press release specifies a 90-day window for negotiations, China mentioned no specific time frame.

Similarly, whereas the official White House statement asserts that China will purchase "very substantial" farm, energy, and industrial exports from the US, China's statement says only that it will import more US goods. But that will of course occur in any case, without any policy action, assuming that the Chinese economy continues to expand, as is all but certain, given recent fiscal and monetary support.

Most troubling are differences related to intellectual property. According to the US statement, China will immediately negotiate on forced technology transfer and IP protection. By contrast, the Chinese statement says only that the two countries will work together to reach a consensus on trade issues.

Reform of the IP regime is a valid US concern. Indeed, it is the most important issue. But strengthening IP protections will require a fundamental change in China's economic model. There is zero chance of this happening in 90 days.

How, then, might the negotiation play out? One scenario is that the Chinese buy some additional American soybeans. Trump characterizes this as a great victory. The US president having waved the white flag, the trade war comes to an end.

Nothing substantial will have changed, but at least the diplomatic and commercial sniping and disruptive uncertainty will be over. Again, there is ample precedent for this, the North American Free Trade Agreement renegotiation having ended this way.

Alternatively, one can imagine an outcome along the lines of Trump's meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un: China announces, or at least the Trump administration imagines that it has announced, a profound transformation of its economy. But this belief in a breakthrough is illusory. In fact, nothing of substance has changed. When Trump and his advisers wake up to this fact, tensions will spike, and the trade war will resume.

Which scenario is more likely? As in 1930, the answer hinges on how US economic conditions develop. If the late-stage expansion continues, as it did during the NAFTA renegotiation, Trump may be inclined to accept cosmetic concessions, which he can characterize as the "largest, most significant, modern and balanced trade agreement in history." But if the US economy shows signs of falling into recession, Trump will need to blame someone. And in this case, we can be relatively certain about who that will be.

# FEATURE ARTICLE

## LTA proposed new GSM tariff

### -What does it mean for consumers?

By Othello B. Garblah

The Liberian Telecommunication Authority or LTA has tabled a proposal which it says in general terms is aimed at intervening in the ongoing price war between the two GSM service providers here, improve services and rejuvenate reinvestment in the sector.

The new proposal which the Liberian telecommunication regulatory body says will take effect in 2019 discourages the current 3days free calls promotion and introduces a new price floor that will prevent operators from charging below USD 0.0156 cents per minute for calls or LRD 2.5 (two dollars fifty cents) and 0.0218 cents for internet data which amounts to LRD 0.34 (thirty-four cents).

Additionally, the LTA says the current promotional scheme (3 days free calls) is more of a disadvantage in disguise to consumers rather than a gain simply because it robs consumers of the quality of services they should be getting and consumers are therefore losing value for their money.

Another key point stressed in the LTA's new proposed tariff is that the competition (price war) between the two service providers has not only affected the quality of services they are providing but also limited their ability to reinvest in the sector to provide full coverage around the tiny west African state something which is much needed.

#### Why the intervention?

Authorities at the telecommunication regulatory body fear that such unhealthy competition is exerting more stress on the two providers, which is translating into low returns in government taxes, poor connectivity because of limited funds to reinvest and upgrade existing infrastructures.

The LTA also fears that if this continues, a nonintervention could result in a continued price war that has kicked other providers out of the market and this could result in Liberia only having a single provider.

#### Can the LTA intervene in such situation?

Well, many would argue that the rule of market competition should be allowed here. In simple



economic terms, competition drives innovation, customer satisfaction, price relief, and productivity which is true in real time.

However, this is not what is unfolding in this case, rather the unhealthy competition is shrinking the bank accounts of these companies evidenced by the number of staffs being laid off (though they may not openly admit that they are hurting), towers in rural parts of the country being pulled down and a gradual decrease in customers' satisfaction across the country.

Investment in infrastructure network coverage around the country is dropping, data services cannot

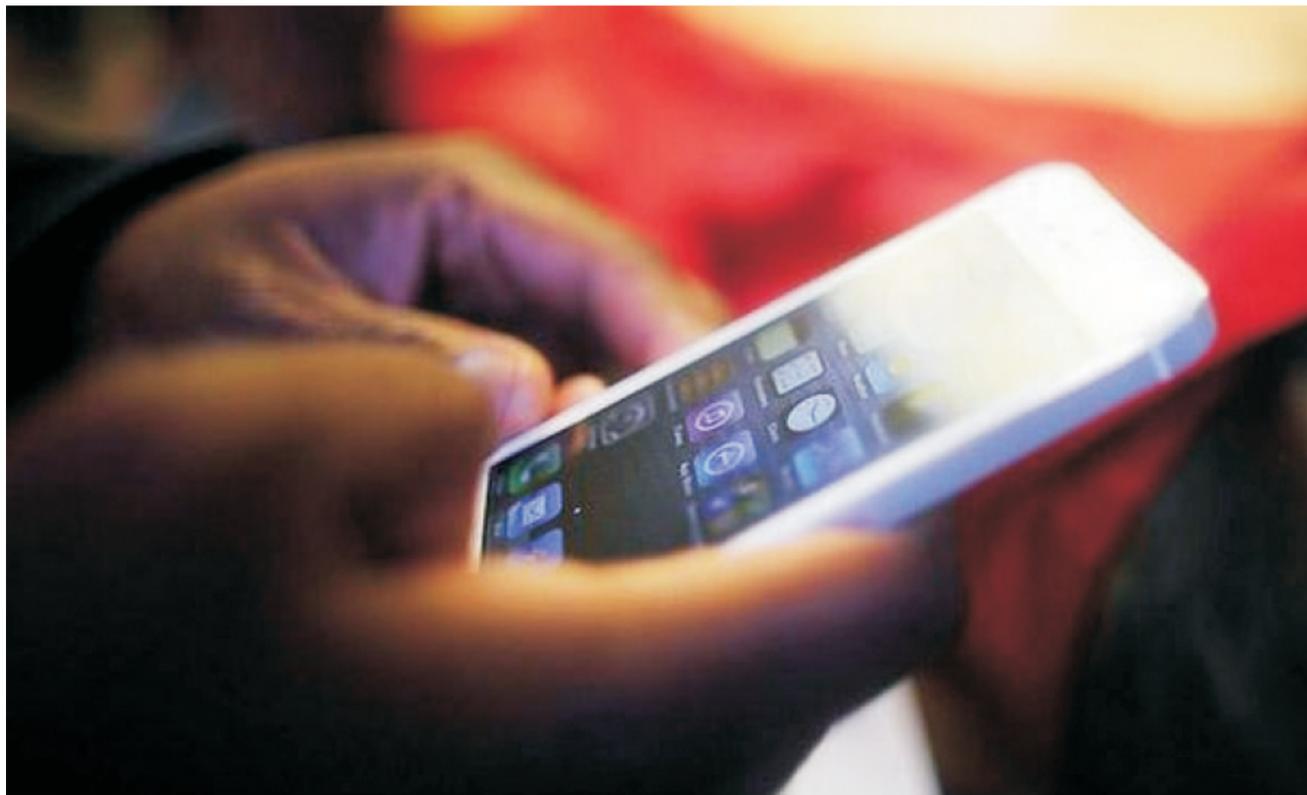
using regulatory instruments, a broad range of fiscal and industrial policy measures to revitalize the industry and can achieve this through a supplemented well-considered political and regulatory interventions.

#### Is the LTA action justified?

Experts within the industry have argued that market uncertainty for broadband services has gone hand in hand with both uncertainty over how to supply those services and a regulatory framework that will facilitate growth in the sector, ensure a competitive market and provide the necessary protections for consumers and the public.

Dr. Colin Blackman, Director of The Camford Group and Editor of Telecommunications Policy once wrote that Development of the information market should be determined primarily by market forces.

However, he added that intervention may be justified but a clear distinction needs to be drawn between regulation in the public interest and regulation to protect against market failure.



In this given situation, the LTA's proposal appears to be doing just that, while its new move is in the public interest it is also intended to protect against market failure.

#### What does this mean for the consumer?

As the debate unfolds, the initial reaction is expected that the LTA should allow the GSM companies to continue this unhealthy competition because that is a simple market competition which would drive innovation and the rest.

But the reality is that the "price war" is diminishing the quality of services currently being provided by these companies.

be accessed in some communities on the outskirts of Monrovia not to mention rural counties.

So to answer the question, yes, the LTA can intervene in such situation, first to salvage the industry and restore sanity by invoking laws within the regulatory framework and ensure consumers satisfaction. Such authority is enshrined in the Telecommunication Law of 2012.

Furthermore, research has shown that a growing number of countries are reexamining their telecommunications policies in search of approaches that better support investment and innovation in advanced communication networks and services.

Therefore, the intervention of LTA is important to attract better investment and innovation within the sector, which would then advance communication network services across the entire country. LTA is revitalize the industry and can achieve this through a

Take or leave it, network connection has dropped, certain rural communities are unable to access data or calls, all because of the "unlimited free calls", which are in themselves not free.

This new measure though debatable in all forms, tend to favor the consumers and enable consumers get the value service for their money rather than the repeated interrupted calls and data.



**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

# Government and European Union to extend electricity grid

The European Union has provided EUR 18.9 million (about US\$21.5 million) for the design and construction of electricity distribution network in Monrovia to help address the increasing demand for

out the project.

The installation of the new power distribution network will allow the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) to connect more homes and increase its customer base in order to absorb the increase

the increase of energy supply to the people of Monrovia. Communities expected to be connected through the project include Peace Island, TB Annex (from the Congo Town back road to ELWA Junction, GSA Road, Zubah Town, Rehab



electricity in various parts of the city.

According to a press release, the Government of Liberia and the European Union on Thursday, December 6, entered into a contract with MBH Power Limited to carry

quantity and much cheaper energy expected to be generated by the Mount Coffee Hydro.

The distribution network will connect 38,000 small households in Monrovia and its environs, thus contributing to

Road, SKB Sports Complex (Around), Rock Crusher, LBS, and behind the German Embassy in Congo Town, among other areas. **-Press Release**

# NIC refutes 'no investors' claims

By Ethel A. Tweh

The Executive Director of the National Investment Commission Attorney Molewuleh B. Gray debunk rumors of no investor coming

briefing Thursday, 6 December at the Ministry, Director Gray explains that out of the 162 letters of intent, government has sent out invitations and received 51 delegations that have come and sat with the

investors from the United States have shown interest in investing in Liberia, most of them in the energy sector.

He reveals the NIC has also signed a \$100 million dollars MOU with a company called Christo-port to invest in the Port of Buchanan in Grand Bassa County, adding the deal was consummated this year, and not ten years to come.

He adds that investors at all times don't necessarily have to go to the National Investment Commission, noting that once their businesses are registered and they acquired tax identification numbers, investors can invest billions of dollars. "The government is concerned about business been done in their country" He says.

The NIC boss continues that investment is a process, not an event, as it requires going through the PPCC and obtaining certificate. He says the NIC has set an investment incentive program to guide investors throughout, including a five-year certificate to carry out importation, and goods arriving here will be inspected before they get on the Liberian market. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**



Attorney Molewuleh B. Gray

to Liberia, disclosing that since February to November, the Government of Liberia has received 162 letters of intent to invest in the country.

Addressing the Ministry of Information regular press

NIC, and some them already granted permission to conduct feasibility study.

He says rumors of no investor coming to the country is completely falsehood, further disclosing that 22

# Liberia's maternal and neonatal cases increase

## -Stakeholders alarm

Stakeholders in the health sector of Liberia alarm the rise in maternal and neonatal cases, which serve as critical indicators that define the health status of a country.

The observation was contained in a 26-count resolution read at the close of the 10th Annual Health Sector Review Conference held at the Paynesville City Hall in Monrovia this week.

Held under the theme: "Making Universal Health Coverage", the conference is the first hosted by the current administration at the Ministry of Health led by Minister Doctor Wilhelmina S. Jallah the Coalition of Democratic Change-led government.

This year's theme highlights the Global Agenda of Universal Coverage which means that all people and communities can use promotive, preventive,

to mitigate challenges.

The document notes that implementation of this year's plan was done during the transition of national leadership from former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to President George Manneh Weah with the overall focus on the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD).

It was also done under the leadership of past and present administrations of the Health Ministry now led by Doctor Wilhelmina S. Jallah.

The stakeholders through their resolution call on the Liberian government to maintain the health sector as a priority sector in the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) to be implemented in the next five years in order to sustain the gains made over the last 13 years.



Dr. Wilhelmina S. Jallah, Minister of Health

curative, rehabilitative and palliative health services they need at sufficient quality to be effective, while ensuring the use of these services does not expose users to financial hardship.

The resolution read by the Manager of the Health Sector Pool Fund at the Ministry of Health Madam Miata Z. Gbanya says the Ministry's goal for the 10th Annual Health Sector Review Conference is to promote accountability, transparency and performance for quality service delivery within the health sector.

The objective of the conference according to the resolution was to review and document performance from 2017 to 2018 and identify key challenges impeding delivery of services in the health sector as well as document best practices and proffer solutions

They specifically call on government to commit to mobilizing domestic resources for the health sector in the midst of decrease donor funding, while urging the Health Ministry and donors, including UN agencies and partners to align their support to the implementation of the PAPD and the National Health and Social Welfare Policy of 2011-2021 as well as the investment plan for building a resilient health system carved for 2015- 2021.

The stakeholders also want the Ministry of Health to reaffirm its utmost commitment to mobilizing resources, effectively implementing and monitoring the family planning and coasted implementation plan.

**-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

# LTA Commissioner explains latest GSM tariff

By Ethel A. Tweh

The Liberia Telecommunications Authority or LTA says its latest move to regulate the GSM companies operating in Liberia by introducing a new tariff regime is to enable operators have the capacity to reinvest in the local telecom sector.

The clarification, made by LTA commissioner Israel Akinsanya, comes in the wake of concerns in some quarters of the Liberian society that the government was ‘pressuring’ GSM companies about their respective “three-day unlimited call” packages which the fierce competitive service providers, Orange (then Cellcom GSM) and Lonestar Cell MTN started in 2012.

Akinsanya told a press briefing at the Ministry of Information last Thursday that in accordance with the Telecommunication Law of 2012, the LTA does not intend to put an end to the “three-day unlimited call” packages as speculated; but wants to ensure that the telecom companies do not sell telephone calls and internet data below the cost price “which they are doing now by offering unlimited calls.”

Consequently, the LTA, working with both Orange and MTN, has calculated that the cost for one minute of telephone call as 0.0156 cents, and cost for one megabyte of internet data, at 0.218 cent, adding that this regulatory framework will stabilize the market by next year.

The regulator says this “minimum” price will still allow for both GSM companies to offer three-day promotional packages, and that consumers will not experience any big change. On-net call, an

internal call cost levied by either GSM company which was charged 14 US cents in 2014, is now below one cent, he said.

The situation is said to be a blow to the companies to the extent that they have shut down about 200 transmission sites (towers) in rural areas at the detriment of locals, many of whom spend more money on transportation in their bid to get to nearby network coverage areas to make phone calls.

Commissioner Akinsanya said the LTA, in the beginning

of the cheap calls and data promotion in 2012, was happy for consumers, but the ‘war’ (heated competition) between Orange and MTN has become so destructive trade-wise, 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,” he notes.

He observes that the telecom sector is one of the largest areas of revenue generation for the country, so

when it loses money, GSM companies pay less taxes to government for schools, hospitals, roads, and other development programs, something, which could hurt the population more than a call and data spree.

The LTA has warned that if the price war continues, either of the two GSM firms will be forced off the market and Liberia will return to the era of monopoly when SIM cards were sold at US\$65 and one company could charge any price at will.

-Editing by Jonathan Browne



## VP Taylor dedicates modern health center in Bong

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

The office of Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor has dedicated the Armah Sekou Toure Health Center in Jorwah, Panta District of Bong County.

Named after the former President of the Republic of

Guinea, the Armah Sekou Toure Health Center was constructed during the administration of former Liberian President William Richard Tolbert more than forty years ago.

The Amah Sekou Toure Health Center located in the bordering town of Jorwah was

one of the leading health care facilities in Liberia catering to several residents of Panta District and other bordering towns in the Republic of Guinea.

In 2015, Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor, then Senator of Bong County, broke grounds for the reconstruction of the health facility with an initial contribution of little over US\$35,000.00 after asking her colleagues for help.

The dedicatory ceremony was graced by top government officials including Health Minister Willimena Jallah, Deputy Finance Minister Augustin Jonathan Flomo, Group of 77 Executive Director Wilfred Siafah, Bong County Superintendent Esther Walker, Guinea Ambassador to Liberia Mr. Abdoulaye Dore, officials of Samaritan Purse International and several prominent citizens hailing from Panta District.

Samaritan Purse, an International NGO gave some support to the Vice President including some medical equipment.

Giving overview of the project, the Vice President’s County Office Coordinator Kusee Armstrong stated that

## Call to battle teenage pregnancy

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the New Hope Pregnancy center in Gbarnga Bong County, Aaron Kulah Garyemah is calling on Liberians to work with the Ministry of Health (MOH) including other humanitarian organizations to curb maternal death and teenage pregnancy in the country.

In conversation with our correspondent recently at the center, Mr. Garyemah described maternal death and teenage pregnancy as a national disaster that needs the attention of all citizens.

“We as people of Liberia need to stand on our feet and help the Ministry of Health to disseminate some of the information about teenage pregnancy and the issue of maternal death,” he says.

According to CEO Garyemah, teenage pregnancy, maternal death including other forms of related issues are long time

and global concern that all Liberians can get rid of.

Mr. Garyemah wants citizens of the country to create more awareness in various communities in order to propagate the negative effects of teenage pregnancy and maternal death.

He further encourages adolescent girls that are pregnant to make maximum use of the center in order to discourage abortion in the Country.

Also speaking to reporters, the Chairperson of the board at New Hope Pregnancy Center in Gbarnga, Mrs. Betty Ruth Berley said the center was established to provide counseling and teach teenage girls how to prepare for the future.

Mrs. Berley says the institution was also founded to give hope to underprivileged girls that are carrying children and don’t know their way out.

-Edited by Winston W. Parley



VP Howard Taylor was optimistic about reconstructing the health center despite the many challenges.

Mr. Armstrong said the reconstruction of the Health Center is a total relief for the people of Jorwah on grounds that many people have been promising them to do what the Vice President and partners have done but did not fulfill their promises.

Liberia’s Health Minister Dr. Willimena Jallah at the same time called on residents of the region to take ownership of the Clinic by lobbying with others for more support.

She said even though the Liberian government through

the Ministry of Health is doing all it can to support the center, it is also good for helping hand to come from the community for the smooth operation of the center.

For her part, Group of 77 Executive Director Madam Wilfah Siafah in proxy of the Vice President, pledged Madam Taylor’s support to the clinic.

Madam Siafah said Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor is eager to ensure the success of the government’s pro poor agenda and as such, she will continue to support not only Jorwah clinic but clinics across the Country.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

# Français

## 25 ans après sa mort : qu'en est-il de l'héritage d'Houphouët-Boigny en Côte d'Ivoire ?

Le 7 décembre 2018, marque le 25<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de la mort de Félix Houphouët-Boigny. Le premier Président de la République de Côte d'Ivoire reste indéniablement celui qui a façonné et construit ce pays. Un quart de siècle après le décès de cet apôtre de la "paix", une question s'impose : Que reste-t-il de l'héritage d'Houphouët-Boigny, le père de la nation? Nos confrères de Jeune Afrique ont investi la terre d'Eburnie en vue de répondre à cette interrogation.

C'est sans réelle surprise, mais avec beaucoup d'émotions que les Ivoiriens apprennent ce 7 décembre 1993 la mort de Félix Houphouët-Boigny. Après un demi-siècle de règne sans partage, celui qui fut le leader de la décolonisation de 1946 à 1960 puis premier président de la République de 1960 à 1993, « le Vieux », comme l'appelaient affectueusement les

Ivoiriens, s'éteint.

Il laisse son pays, cette Côte d'Ivoire qu'il a façonnée. Sa légitimité historique, son système de gouvernement présidentieliste et monopartite - du moins jusqu'en 1990 -, et le miracle économique des années 1960 et 1970 lui ont permis de construire et diriger le pays à sa guise. Un quart de siècle

après sa mort, qu'en est-il de l'héritage ? En d'autres termes, que reste-il de l'édifice, de l'idéologie et de l'homme?

A priori, la réponse à ces interrogations semble évidente, tant le nom d'Houphouët surplombe la Côte d'Ivoire. À Abidjan, l'aéroport, l'un des trois

principaux ponts, le stade national et la plus grande université portent son nom. Yamoussoukro, capitale politique, est le fruit de sa volonté.

L'imposante basilique Notre-Dame-de-la Paix y rappelle son œuvre. La Fondation pour la recherche de la Paix et l'Institut polytechnique - creuset de l'élite scientifique du pays - sont aussi baptisés du nom d'Houphouët-Boigny. Au-delà des capitales, les villes ne manquent aucune occasion de le canoniser en baptisant places ou édifices de son nom.

Cette symbolique contribue à embellir l'image d'Houphouët dans la Côte d'Ivoire d'aujourd'hui. La décennie de guerre et la persistance de la pauvreté qui tranchent avec le vécu ou les récits de la stabilité et du miracle économique ne font que renforcer l'image angélique du Vieux.

Il suffit de parcourir la musique urbaine ivoirienne pour s'en apercevoir. Entre Espoir 2000, célèbre groupe zouglo qui regrette le temps de Boigny, et Fadal dey, chanteur du reggae qui, au nom de sa génération, demande pardon pour avoir hurlé « Houphouët voleur ! » en 1990, le Vieux est honoré.

Certes, les polémiques liées à la trop grande influence de la France, à ses dérives dictatoriales et la

montée d'un certain panafricanisme écornent son image, mais elle reste globalement positive à tel point que son legs est au cœur de la bataille politique du moment.

En effet, les bisbilles entre les héritiers d'Houphouët incarnés par le président Alassane Ouattara, chef du RDR, et Henri Konan Bédié, du PDCI-RDA, outil politique de Houphouët, rythment l'actualité politique ivoirienne. Si l'unité retrouvée de ses héritiers en 2010 pouvait lui redonner le sourire - ne dit-on pas en Afrique que les morts ne sont pas morts? - nul doute que le spectacle du moment l'ulcère. En fait, au-delà des appareils politiques et de l'homme, c'est l'idéologie, c'est l'houphouëtisme, en tant qu'héritage qui est malmené.

En effet si deux mots devaient caractériser Houphouët et définir l'houphouëtisme, c'est certainement « dialogue » et « paix ». Il avait fait de la paix, la plus haute aspiration humaine, et l'avait enseignée à son peuple. Il n'avait de cesse de rappeler « qu'il y a plus de mérite à faire la paix qu'à faire la guerre » et que « dans la recherche de la paix, de la vraie paix, de la paix juste et durable, on ne doit pas hésiter un seul instant, à recourir, avec obstination au dialogue ». Abidjan.net



## Guinée : des opposants, en grève de la faim, dénoncent le dispositif sécuritaire

En Guinée Conakry, des opposants politiques, membres du parti Bloc libéral ont entamé mercredi une grève de la faim pour une durée de quatre jours. Ils dénoncent le déploiement depuis trois semaines de patrouilles mixtes composées

de policiers, de gendarmes et de militaires dans les rues de la capitale. Des patrouilles créées après des semaines de violences en marge de manifestations dans Conakry.

Une vingtaine de membres du parti Bloc libéral sont en grève de la faim ; ils

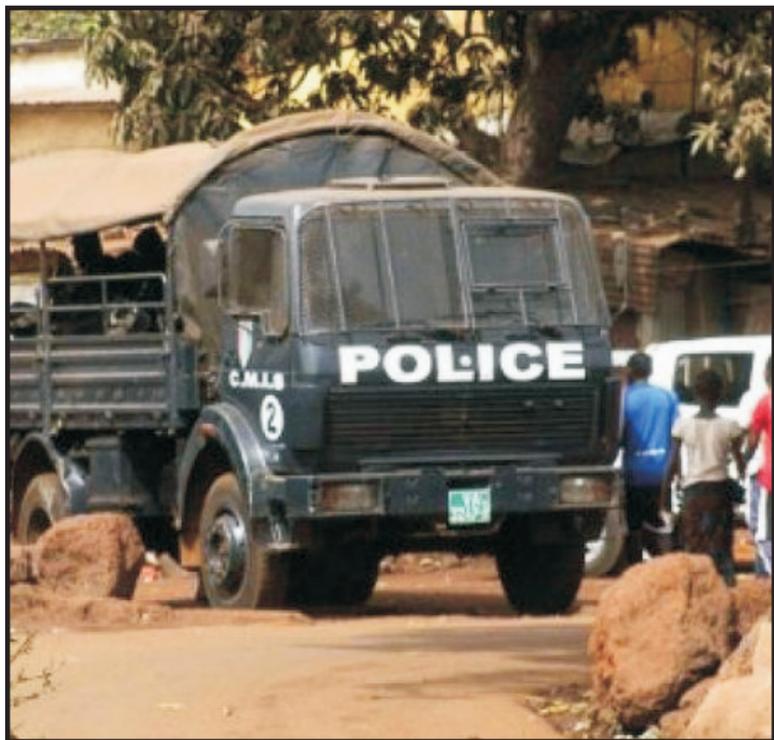
dénoncent un dispositif sécuritaire qu'ils estiment aller à l'encontre de la Constitution et qui cible des quartiers de l'opposition dans la capitale. « Cette militarisation s'inscrit dans un autre cadre inavoué puisque les intentions de troisième mandat sont là, explique le président du BL, Faya Millimono. Si on commence à militariser dans les quartiers de Conakry, un jour, tout Conakry sera militarisé et pourquoi pas toute la Guinée. Et lorsqu'après on va nous parler de troisième mandat, et bien, qui va bouger ? Parce que l'armée sera là avec la main facile de tirer. »

Faux ! répond le ministère de la Défense, la loi permet à l'autorité civile de faire appel à l'armée pour sécuriser une partie du territoire quand cela s'avère nécessaire, explique le directeur de l'information des armées, Aladji Cellou Camara : « Il s'agit tout simplement de postes

d'appui installés pour sécuriser les quartiers, pour lutter contre la criminalité et le grand banditisme. Donc, je précise, il n'y a pas de quartier visé, ce dispositif sécuritaire est en train de s'installer progressivement et va toucher toute la ville. Ce que moi je note, c'est que

les citoyens de ces quartiers où ces patrouilles sont installées sont satisfaits. »

De plus, ajoute Camara, l'armée n'est pas en première ligne dans ce dispositif, elle est là uniquement pour appuyer la police et la gendarmerie lors de patrouille de nuit.



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# Français

## Éditorial

### Disparition présumée de 16 milliards : le député Koung ouvre une boîte de Pandore

**A** lors que les membres de l'Assemblée législative de Capitol Hill se battent bec et ongle pour désespérément se défendre des accusations selon lesquelles ils auraient reçu des pots-de-vin de la part de la Banque centrale du Libéria pour autoriser cette dernière à imprimer de nouveaux billets de banque, un député vient de faire des révélations accablantes sur l'affaire.

Le représentant du district du comté de Nimba, Jeremiah Kpain Koung, a révélé que certains de ses collègues avaient effectivement reçu des pots-de-vin de la part de la banque centrale du Libéria pour imprimer de nouveaux billets de banque, comme l'avait déjà dit le journaliste libérien Philipbert Browne, rédacteur en chef de Hot Pepper Newspaper, un quotidien local.

Le député Jeremiah Kpain Koung a ouvertement accusé plusieurs de ses collègues législateurs du comté de Nimba d'avoir reçu un pot-de-vin de la part de fonctionnaires de la Banque centrale avant l'impression des nouveaux billets du Libéria, dont 16 milliards seraient portés disparus dans le pays.

Lors de son apparition sur une radio communautaire, notamment la Radio Kergheamahn [94.5FM] à Ganta, dans le comté de Nimba, il a spécifiquement accusé le représentant Larry P. Younquoi et d'autres dont il n'a pas mentionné les noms, comme quoi ces deniers ont exigé et reçu une énorme somme d'argent de la Banque centrale avant d'approuver l'impression des nouveaux billets.

Interrogé, le représentant Younquoi s'est inscrit en faux, niant d'avoir reçu des pots-de-vin. Il a cependant reconnu qu'en tant que président du comité parlementaire sur le budget, les voies et moyens au temps de l'ancien Président de la chambre des représentants Alex Tyler, au cours de la 53ème législature, ils ont écrit à la Banque centrale du Libéria pour l'autoriser à imprimer les nouveaux billets de banque sans rien demander en retour. Selon lui, ce sont ceux qui les ont remplacés à la tête du comité des voies et moyens qui ont reçu les prétendus pots-de-vin. Il n'a pas mentionné de nom.

Pourtant, les membres de la Chambre des représentants ont nié toute implication dans tout acte de corruption et ont convoqué le rédacteur en chef Browne pour étayer ses affirmations. Browne est actuellement en dehors du pays pour assister à une conférence des jeux olympiques.

Toutefois, les dernières affirmations du représentant Koung mettent clairement en accusation la Chambre des représentants et semblent corroborer les propos du journaliste Browne selon lesquels certains locuteurs de l'hémicycle se seraient rendus coupables d'acte de corruption. Il va donc de soi que Browne devra être exonéré de toute accusation d'outrage au parlement.

Nous pensons donc qu'au lieu d'être aux trousseaux du journaliste Browne pour ses propos, les parlementaires devraient faire appel à leur propre collègue, le représentant Koung, pour lui demander de les aider à identifier le reste de ses collègues qui, selon lui, ont reçu des pots-de-vin.

Cela devrait relancer la véritable enquête sur le rôle des législateurs dans l'impression des nouveaux billets de banque et la disparition présumée des 16 milliards de dollars libériens. Toute autre action en dehors de la dernière allégation de l'un des législateurs n'est rien d'autre qu'une tentative visant museler les dénonciateurs patriotes sur la question de l'argent disparu et la corruption à laquelle ils seraient associées.

Le représentant Koung a donc ouvert la boîte de Pandore et nous pensons que la Chambre devrait agir de façon honorable en examinant tous les éléments, plutôt que d'essayer de faire bâillonner la voix des sans voix bien intentionnée, comme le montre la campagne en cours à Capitol Hill.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Harold James

### Les précédents du Brexit

**P**RINCETON - 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<sup>e</sup> 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.

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

# Nigerian charged with sodomy, rape -for allegedly abusing ten years old boy

By Winston W. Parley

A Nigerian national dealing in auto parts in Clara Town is facing deadly charges of rape and sodomy for having allegedly sodomized repeatedly a 10-year-old Liberian school boy that lives in the same vicinity with the accused.

The narrative from the kid, his parents and teacher is that the survivor often attends to his alleged predator Mike Ajana's call either to go and buy items for the accused, like scratch cards or to get garbage from his room.

The victim's parents Priscila Golafalley and father Jackson Kollie are often out to look for the family's daily bread, and during this time, the sodomize kid would be left to play with friends after school.

His alleged predator is said to take advantage of this opportunity to carry on the alleged act of sodomizing the kid.

The Nigerian national, Mike would allegedly call the survivor into his room, force him into painful sexual intercourse during.

When they are into the alleged act, the victim says Mike would position a cup under his (victim's) buttocks and collect the oozing fresh blood for whatever reason known to the accused.

Speaking with the NewDawn on Saturday, 8 December, the victim said he was playing football on a

Saturday in August when Mike Ajana came from work and called him, telling the victim to go and throw away some dirt.

The little boy explains that when he attended to Mike's call and entered the hallway, Mike allegedly pushed him into his room and forced him on the bed.

He says the accused ordered him to take off his clothes, while the suspect also undressed. That was the day the victim says he was first sodomized by Mike Ajana.

According to the victim's medical report dated 5 December 2018, there were "multiple fresh tears seen" at his buttocks (butt) and it describes his abdomen (stomach) as "soft and flat." It says the survivor was depressed.

According to the victim, he was sodomized on three separate occasions by Mike Ajana. He says each time he was being abused, the suspect would bend him over, put pillar to his neck and cloth to his mouth and insert his penis to the victim's anus.

The victim says when Mike inserted his penis into his anus, blood oozed from there, and the suspect would bring a "green cup" and put the blood into it before wiping the victim's butt with tissue.

The victim says the suspect would give him as little as LD\$50.00 after being sodomized on some occasions.

He continues to face problem when walking, but at least his parents are now attending to him medically at the Redemption Hospital since his teachers took him there on Wednesday, 5 December.

He case was uncovered when the victim confessed to his teacher Madam Rebecca M. Tarplah, a Dean of Students at the Living Hope School System in Clara Town who has been very curious about the kid's strange way of walking for sometime.

Madam Tarplah says after taking test for the second marking period on Wednesday, 5 December, the victim was

coming outside when a teacher observed him walking strangely.

"That's how the other man said oh, that pekin we asked him, he said that Nigerian man knocked broom stake on his foot," she explains.

She says the victim finally confessed that one "Uncle Mike," a next door neighbor did something to him through his anus. Suspect Mike denies the allegation when asked for comment.

But the mother Priscila Golafalley and the father Jackson Kollie have both testified to the alleged case and confirmed the boy's statement.

"The Dean of Students [didn't] tell me that they were bringing him to the station," says Priscila, adding that they were sent to Redemption Hospital in New Kru Town later and the medical test was done.

Her fear is that the family doesn't have money, and the suspect and his supporters could bribe their way out of the case if government doesn't pay attention.

Mike is an auto part dealer at the Clara Town Gas Station on Bushrod Island, where many of his Nigerian colleagues are also doing similar business.

Priscila pleads with government to look into this case thoroughly because her son has been damaged.

The victim's father Jackson Kollie says he was brutalized by the suspect's friend because police had gone to search the suspect's house for materials listed by the victim.

Police Spokesman Moses Carter confirmed the act, saying police have charged suspect Mike with sodomy and rape.

He says suspect Mike will be sent to court Monday, 10 December.



Suspect Mike Ajana

## 8 charged following Caldwell protest for electricity

By Winston W. Parley

Eight suspects have been charged and sent to court in connection with recent violent protest staged by residents of Caldwell, Montserrado County in demand of electricity supply.

Their charges include riot, failure to disperse, terroristic threat, obstructing highways and other public passages, criminal mischief and disorderly conduct, and they have been sent to court to face trial.

They held protest on Monday morning, 3 December to draw authorities' attention to their need for power supply,

but they ended up clashing with police in the process, prompting police to use tear gas.

Those charged include Philip David, Darlington S. Wiah, Charles Flomo, Prince Martin, Uriah G. Gardnorshin, James Kollie, Ousman Massaley and Bongay S. George.

Their community is a major route for power lines and water supply pipes to Monrovia and its surroundings, but these residents remain unhappy that Caldwell is yet to be connected to the national power grid.

Even in communities that are connected to the powerline, the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC)

still faces challenges in supplying homes that want current, and this is to some extent contributing hugely to the rise in power theft.

LEC Chief Executive Officer John Ashley reports that the corporation loses \$35 per year to power theft that results from illegal connections, bypassing of meters, damaging meters, non-payment of bills, and mis-reading of meters for postpaid customers.

According to the police charge sheet, the township of Caldwell was on Monday, 3 December a scene of violent demonstration where protesters erected checkpoints unlawfully, set-up roadblocks and burned tires in the main street ways of Caldwell and its environs.

But the police force is encouraging the public to use peaceful means of presenting their plights to the government instead of engaging in unorthodox means of seeking redress.

"The LNP [Liberia National Police] will not hesitate [to] arrest and prosecute anyone engaging into lawlessness that has the propensity to disrupt the peace that we are enjoying today," says Police Spokesman Moses Carter.

The police force warns all

community residents and individuals in such habits to desist or risk facing the full weight of the law.

The protesters allegedly impeded the free flow of human and vehicular traffic and decided to engage in unwarranted violent demonstration on grounds that the LEC has repeatedly failed to address their plight of lack of power supply in the locality.

Allegedly led by Otis Siryon (to be identified), the protesters under the banner Concerned Citizens for the Electrification of Caldwell were approximately more than 40.

Police say the suspects' action brought the entire Caldwell Township under siege, leaving businesses to close and forcing residents and

passers-by to flee in different directions for safety.

The protesters allegedly turned Dixville Junction, New Georgia Junction and Thumb-ups Junction into "no go zone" and destroyed marketers' tables.

They allegedly ignored community policing approach that was being applied by the responding officers to restore peace, but continued with their action.

Police say this prompted the use of non-lethal force by launching tear gas to restore sanity in the community. Police say it resulted to the dismantling of all illegal checkpoints and roadblocks and the arrest of the suspects charged.

They have been sent to the Monrovia City Court to face trial.



Flashback: A protest at Caldwell

# Coastal road gets boost

The Government of Liberia and the ECOWAS Bank for Development and Investment or EBDI on Friday December 7, 2018 signed an aide-memoir, an instrument that would pave the way for the provision of USD100 million loan for the construction of phase one of the proposed Coastal Highway project.

The phase one which represents 96.6 km will begin from Barclayville in Grand Kru County through Sasstown to Sinoe.

Public Works Minister Mabusu Vlah Nyepan signed for the Government of Liberia, while Mr. J. Doe-Weah Wallace, a Consultant of EBDI signed on behalf of the ECOWAS Bank.

The ceremony was witnessed by Minister of State Nathaniel McGill, Finance Development Planning Minister Samuel Tweah, Information Minister Eugene Nagbe and other government officials present.

Public Works Minister Nyepan told journalists at the signing ceremony Friday night that the penning of their signatures represents a firm commitment of the bank to provide the initial funding to begin the government's much



trumpeted coastal road project.

In an upbeat appraisal, he told journalists that the commitment made by the ECOWAS bank follows President George Weah's request-a move which was followed by the Bank sending a technical team that was in the country for four weeks on a fact finding mission.

Mr. Nyepan said move by Mr. Weah to reach out for developmental assistance demonstrates his desire to

ensure that Liberia's infrastructure gap is closed.

The agreement when finalized will see the construction of the coastal road phase one beginning in 2019.

The Publics Works Minister whose ministry is considered as the priority ministry under this government listed several roads construction projects which he said are in progress.

He mentioned the ELWA Junction to Coca-Cola 4 lane road, the community roads

pavement which is ongoing and the immediate opening of county access roads. He said the road between Grand Bassa and Rivercess is also being discussed.

For his part, EBDI consultant Wallace in his post signing comments said the EBDI mission presence in Liberia is based on the Government of Liberia's request for assistance.

He said following the signing of the aide-memoire he will remain in country for couple of days to complete the signing of all further relevant documents to know the way forward.

Making a brief comment at the ceremony, Finance and Development Planning Minister Tweah indicated that the securing of the initial funding for the coastal road demonstrates the commitment of the Weah administration to

the people of Liberia when he promised to build coastal highways to link the entire country.

Mr. Tweah recognizes the efforts of President Weah to as he said "lift the marginalized from poverty."

He said this was worth mentioning because Mr. Weah is leading the country at the time aids and grants were in the decline and yet the president is looking all over the place for assistance.

He mentioned the recent USD300, 000 scholarship awarded to medical students, USD4.5 million for community roads, a USD 3m for small businesses to be deposited at the LBDI bank and the amount of USD4 million realized from the cleaning of the teacher's payroll as few of the president's achievements in 10 months. -writes **Othello B. Garblah**

## Cyril Allen takes on Cummings

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

An executive member of the governing council of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change is picking bones with the political leader of the opposition Alternative National Congress, Mr. Alexander Cummings, describing him as someone with poor judgment and low thinking about politics in Liberia.

Mr. Cummings recently launched a stinking attack against the Weah administration noting that

since its incumbency, the government has not told Liberians where they want to take the country and how they will get there. "There are no plans for infrastructure, education, healthcare or agriculture; no milestones, goals or plans for the various sectors, except road building," the ANC leader said on OK FM in Monrovia.

The opposition leader who has been gaining strong ratings as a credible voice, cited unwillingness, inability and lack of competence in government as obstacles

impeding forward move of the country.

But speaking to the NewDawn on Sunday, December 09, Chief Cyril Allan instead notes, due to Mr. Cummings' incompetence, he could not convince Liberians to elect him as president. "He was [not] competent enough to win the democratic process. What they do is to cause noise and post nonsense on the social media about their country," Chief Allen says.

"Alex Cummings is not smarter than us. We can teach him. He's not competent than any of us here; we went to the same school together and he was my junior. I've been in politics and there are lots of us including Professors Wilson Tarphe and D. Ansu Sonii and Minister Moses Kollie, we teach and guide him in his endeavors."

According to him, Cummings joined the Coca Cola company, which is a conventional and bureaucratic system and worked along line that does not show he can handle the country. He notes that in most instances, conventional companies' managers are good leaders.

Chief Allen, Chairman emeritus and advisor of the Governing Council of the CDC, says Mr. Cummings should consider bringing investors to

## NEC summons

Starts from back page

which is not a good thing for a new administration.

He points out that some of the reasons for the party struggle could be personal gains above love for country, something he notes, is not necessary in this dispensation.

He discloses the Liberia Council of Churches and some individuals within the diplomatic circle are working to resolve the crisis.

Allen says he's worried about the stability of the country because there are tons of idle minds out there waiting on things to spark up and to take advantage.

He reflects on the infamous 1979 Rice Riot that led to hundreds of lives lost, properties destroyed, which

eventually led to 14 years of bitter civil conflict and saw 250, 000 lives taken recklessly.

"So for these reasons, we decided to intervene immediately to handle the matter before it gets out of hand. There are many out there who use these kinds of situations to exploit the country and its people," he cautions.

The chairman emeritus expresses gratitude for the interest of all stakeholders especially, President George Weah, who mandated him and other key partisans of the NPP to resolve the issues in whatever ways and means possible. -Editing by **Jonathan Browne**



Mr. Alexander Cummings

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

Liberia, but instead, he calls his friends and makes noise about incompetence.

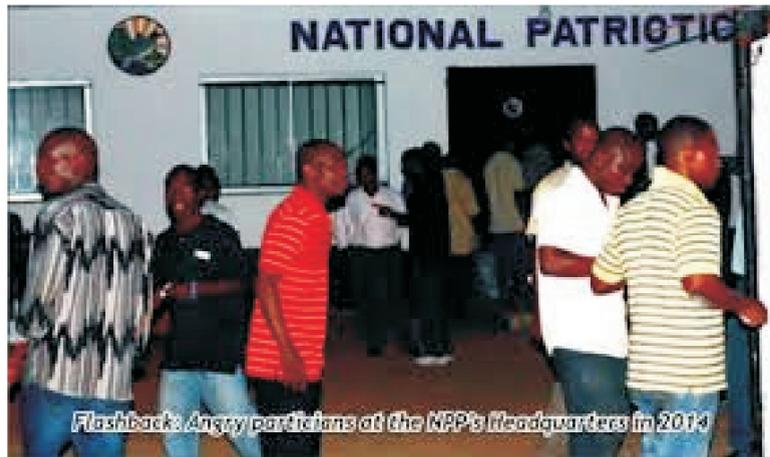
"This is a man who featured 73 representative candidates in the 2017 elections with sufficient funds and one won, that's means he has poor judgment and terrible decision making and he should sit and reflect on his defeat."

"Some of the politicians who are criticizing this regime are lawyers who failed in their field of studies and quickly jumped into politics for

survival, unlike me who studied politics and remain in my field of study. Some of the people who open law firms here only to exploit the Liberian people who once ill-treated in the court rooms and they later chased for their votes during elections' time. They represented investors' interest the locals and claimed of loving the people and wanting to protect. When they started doing that?" He wonders. -Editing by **Jonathan Browne**

# NEC summons NPP

## -As Chief Allen cautions all sides



Flashback: Angry partisans of the NPP's headquarters in 2014

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

The Board of Commissioners of the National Elections Commission (NEC) summons officials of the National Patriotic Party of detained former President Charles Taylor for hearing over perpetual internal crisis which has claimed both local and international attention.

Speaking to the NewDawn,

on Sunday morning, the chairman emeritus of the NPP, Chief Cyril Allen said the NPP is to appear before that body on Thursday this week to provide detailed information about the internal fight.

Recently, embattled Chairman James Biney's faction of the National Patriotic Party expelled its Standard Bearer, Vice

President Jewel Howard Taylor and former Liberia's Vice President John Gray, from the party on allegations of taking the NPP to court, for reportedly 'grossly violating the party's constitution and bringing it to public dispute.

Prior to the expulsion of Vice President Taylor from the party, Madam Taylor's faction of the party had expelled James Biney from the NPP in for what was termed as 'gross disrespect to party officials.

Chief Allen, who heads the negotiation committee of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change on the NPP's crisis says the internal fight within the NPP has the propensity to lead bigger problem if not handled under the George Weah administration,



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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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