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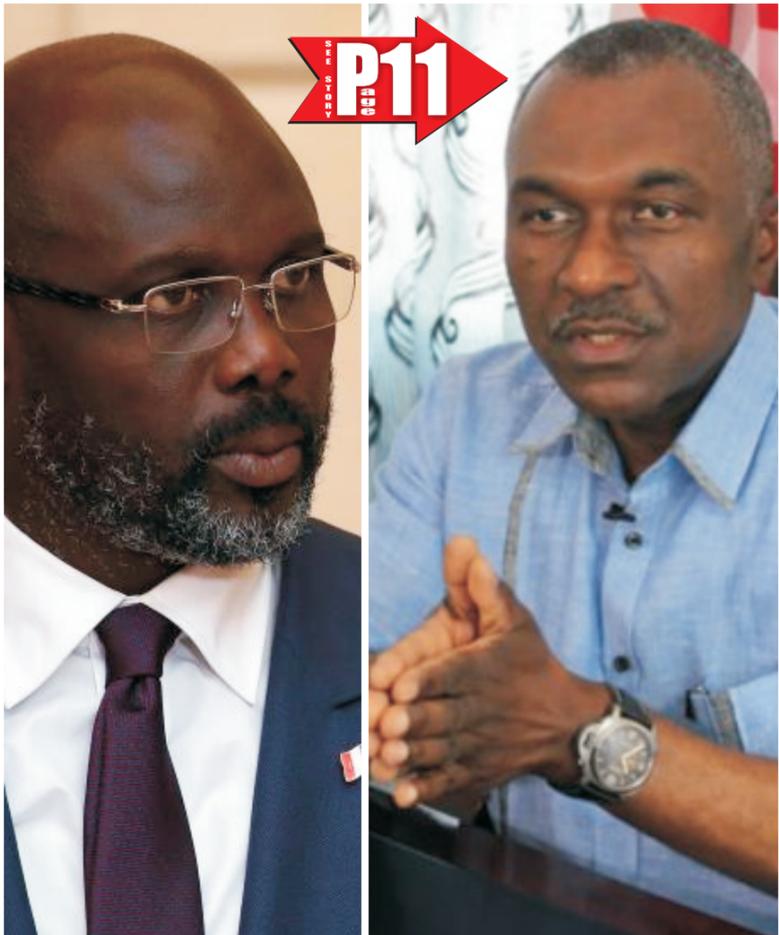
TRULY INDEPENDENT

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

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P11

Cummings vows to prosecute Weah

President George Weah ANC Leader, Alexander Cummings

Baby burns to death

-As fire guts 4 houses in Ganta



P11

Charred body of the late Saye Konah



One of the fire victims speaks to the press

Public Service Announcement

The Management of the Searchlight Communications, publisher of the NewDawn Newspaper wishes to inform all its clients and many readers that its website is undergoing technical development and will be active of Monday, January 14, 2019. Sorry for the inconvenience.



Continental News

DR Congo presidential election: Church questions results

The influential Catholic Church has questioned the official results of the Democratic Republic of Congo's controversial presidential election.

Opposition candidate Felix Tshisekedi was named the winner on Thursday.

However, the Church, which posted 40,000 election observers, says the result does not match its findings.

The runner-up, opposition candidate Martin Fayulu, has accused Mr Tshisekedi of reaching a power-sharing deal with the ruling party.

Mr Tshisekedi has denied cutting any deal. There are fears the result could trigger unrest, with at least two people killed in the western city of Kikwit on Thursday.

Two police officers were also killed, and 10 people were wounded, AFP news agency reports.

However, most parts of the country appear to be calm. If confirmed, Mr Tshisekedi will be the first opposition challenger to win since the DR Congo gained independence in 1960.

He has vowed to be "the

president of all DR Congolese", saying: "No-one could have imagined such a scenario whereby an opposition candidate would emerge victorious." However, runner-up Martin Fayulu, who is also an opposition candidate, has described it as an "electoral coup".

The current president, Joseph Kabila, is stepping down after 18 years in office. The candidate from Mr

Kabila's party had initially been expected to win, but ended up finishing third - and is not challenging the results.

Mr Fayulu's supporters say this backs their suspicion that Mr Tshisekedi has cut a power-sharing deal with Mr Kabila. Mr Tshisekedi's spokesman, Louis d'Or Ngalamulume, said there was "never any deal".

Meanwhile, the Catholic Church says the result given by the electoral commission does

not correspond with its own tally, and the French and Belgian governments have also expressed doubts about the result.

The church did not name anyone in its statement, and urged all parties to refrain from violence.

However, three diplomats speaking anonymously to Reuters said the church tallies had showed Mr Fayulu winning.

According to the National Electoral Commission (Ceni), Mr Tshisekedi received 38.5% of the vote in the 30 December election.

The full results were, with turnout reportedly 48%. However, the result can still be challenged.

Why is the Church so influential?

About 40% of DR Congo's population is Roman Catholic and the church has a wide network of schools and hospitals.

It is seen by many Congolese as a moral voice in a country where politics has so often been tarnished by corruption, the BBC's Africa editor, Fergal Keane, reports.

The Church may now be publicly doubting the results but it will be very wary of any public demonstrations, because it knows from the experience of past crackdowns that leading people onto the streets can have tragic consequences, our correspondent adds.

The security forces have used live ammunition as well as tear gas and beatings during previous protests. DR Congo is a country the size of Western Europe and Mr Kabila had promised its first orderly transfer of power since independence from Belgium in 1960.

He took over from his assassinated father Laurent in 2001.



There have been jubilant celebrations from Felix Tshisekedi's supporters

Man from Uganda police swims 5km to escape

A Kenyan fisherman says he escaped arrest and cheated death on Tuesday night after he jumped into Lake Victoria to escape from armed Ugandan marine officers who had impounded his boat during a fishing expedition near

Majanji beach.

Mr Ben Wandera from Buduong'i village in Funyula Constituency of Busia County told the Nation that he swam for about 5 kilometres to save his life.

He said during the 1am incident, three of his

colleagues were arrested and taken to a detention camp in Uganda.

"They (the soldiers) ambushed us when we were casting our fishing nets and started hitting us with clubs. They were about ten officers in an ordinary boat armed with guns and machetes.

"My colleagues who were at the front of the boat were hard hit but as some of the officers approached me, I grabbed a lifesaver jacket from our boat and dived into the lake," said Mr Wandera.

With the help of the jacket, he said he swam to the shores of the lake near Sio Port town.

"I dived into the lake to divert their attention with the hope that they would leave my friends but I could still hear their cries as I swam away. They did not even bother to follow me," he added.

The fisherman, who said he is yet to report the ordeal to the police, appealed to Kenyan authorities to secure the lake



Local fishermen at Lake Naivasha, Kenya

South Africa teacher suspended over class 'split by race'

A teacher in South Africa has been suspended "with immediate effect" after a photo emerged of her pupils sitting in racially separate groups.

A black parent told the TimesLive news site that she thought her child's first day at school in had got off to a good start until she saw the image.

"This was meant to be an exciting day for me, but it's not," she said.

Local authorities say they "highly condemn" the incident and have removed the teacher "pending investigation". The BBC's Milton Nkosi in South Africa says Schweizer-Reneke is conservative rural town with a population of just under 50,000, surrounded by a farming community made up of mainly white Afrikaners.

Sello Lehare, the education minister for the

North West province, said the school's explanation was that "the learners were separated according to those who could understand Afrikaans and English".

He added: "We are suspending her [the teacher] because we want the investigation to be fair and free". Racism is still deeply embedded in South Africa nearly 25 years after white-minority rule ended. Language policy has historically been used to exclude black learners. Parents had dropped their children off on Wednesday morning for their first day of school at Schweizer-Reneke primary school. Apparently to reassure parents that all was going well, the class teacher reportedly shared a photograph of the children to the school's private WhatsApp group. BBC

and protect them from perennial harassment by Ugandan security men.

"Kenyan fishermen have been reduced to hostages in the lake by Ugandan soldiers. The government seems to have neglected its people. We are at the mercy of the Ugandan

forces who not only steal from us but also beat up our people," he said.

He urged President Uhuru Kenyatta to immediately deploy Kenyan marine officers to protect them from attacks. BBC

EDITORIAL

The AFL upholding its peacekeeping duty

LIBERIA IS RETAKING its place on the global stage in maintaining international peace and security with the deployment of troops of the Armed Forces of Liberia on peace mission in Mali and shortly, to South Sudan. Indeed, peace is a sine qua non to fostering economic, political and social cohesion in the comity of nations.

A **PLATOON OF** the newly restructured AFL is currently serving in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali that is fending off Islamic jihadists and maintaining regional peace and stability.

ALTHOUGH THE ARMED Forces of Liberia lost one soldier and several others sustained injuries in Mali as a result of attack from roaming jihadists, our boys are up to the task since they were embedded with the Nigerian Contingent in 2013.

THIS NATION OWES it not only to the entire region, but the rest of the world in giving back, because they came to our rescue when we needed them. Nations from Africa, Europe and Asia under the umbrella of the United Nations in 2003 deployed 15,000 multinational peacekeeping force in Liberia, which successfully achieved ceasefire, disarmament and restored civilian administration thru UN-supervised democratic elections.

IT IS IN this vein that we welcome news that the Government of Liberia has received request from the United Nations to send troops for peacekeeping mission to South Sudan where prolonged civil war has left hundreds of thousands of people dead.

WE URGE OUR men and women in arm to continue to keep the courage as they take up peacekeeping mission abroad. The world has become a global community in which what affects one member of the community, affects rest of its members.

LIBERIA'S PEACE MISSION history is traced to the 1960s when the first cohorts of AFL soldiers stepped on the soil of Congo where they served with distinction and honor, and came home with pride after their peacekeeping duty.

THAT HISTORIC MISSION to Congo has been documented as one of the best in UN peacekeeping missions around the world even up to today. The restructured AFL seems determined to maintaining this legacy in flying the national flag high.

MEMBERS OF THE AFL are soldiers for good, both at home and abroad. They must be encouraged and supported in flying the Flag of Liberia while on peacekeeping missions abroad. They are our finest to the world.

WE THEREFORE CALL on authorities of the Ministry of National Defense in Monrovia to provide everything that is required to make our troops going for peace duty abroad focus on their mission in order to serve with diligence and distinction as they had done in the past.

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Tel: +231-0886484201, +231-0777007529, +231-0886551057

E-mail: info@thenewdawnliberia.com; www.thenewdawnliberia.com

COMMENTARY

By Joseph S. Nye

The Year of Trump?

If Trump's iconoclastic style was merely a breach of traditional presidential etiquette, one might argue that his critics were being too fastidious, or were trapped in old-fashioned views of diplomacy. But crudeness can have consequences.

BEIJING - Time magazine did not choose Donald Trump as its Person of the Year in 2018, but it may do so this year. Trump ended last year facing criticism for announcing troop withdrawals from Syria and Afghanistan without consulting allies (resulting in the resignation of his respected defense secretary, James Mattis) and partially shutting down the government over a Mexican border wall. In 2019, with Democrats having taken over the House of Representatives, he will face increasing criticism of his foreign policy.

Administration supporters shrug off the critics. Foreign policy experts, diplomats, and allies are aghast at Trump's iconoclastic style, but Trump's base voted for change and welcomes the disruption. In addition, some experts argue that the disruption will be justified if the consequences prove beneficial for American interests, such as a more benign regime in Iran, denuclearization of North Korea, a change of Chinese economic policies, and a more evenly balanced international trade regime.

Of course, assessing the long-term consequences of Trump's foreign policy now is like predicting the final score in the middle of a game. Stanford historian Niall Ferguson has argued that "the key to Trump's presidency is that it is probably the last opportunity America has to stop or at least slow China's ascendancy. And while it may not be intellectually very satisfying, Trump's approach to the problem, which is to assert US power in unpredictable and disruptive ways, may in fact be the only viable option left."

Trump's critics respond that even if his iconoclasm produces some successes, one must assess them as part of a balance sheet that includes costs as well as benefits. They argue that the price will be too high in terms of the damage done to international institutions and trust among allies. In the competition with China, for example, the United States has dozens of allies and few disputes with neighbors, while China has few allies and a number of territorial disputes. In addition, while rules and institutions can be restraining, the US has a preponderant role in their formulation and is a major beneficiary of them.

This debate raises larger questions about the relevance of personal style in judging presidents' foreign policy. In August 2016, 50 primarily Republican former national security officials argued that Trump's personal temperament would make him unfit to be president. Most of the signatories were excluded from the administration, but were they correct?

As a leader, Trump may or may not be smart, but his temperament ranks low on the scales of emotional and contextual intelligence that made Franklin D. Roosevelt or George H.W. Bush successful presidents. Tony Schwartz, who co-wrote Trump's book *The Art of the Deal*, notes that "Trump's sense of self-worth is forever at risk. When he feels aggrieved, he reacts

impulsively and defensively, constructing a self-justifying story that doesn't depend on facts and always directs the blame to others." Schwartz attributes this to Trump's defense against domination by a father who was "relentlessly demanding, difficult, and driven...You either dominated or you submitted. You either created and exploited fear, or you succumbed to it - as he thought his elder brother had." As a result, he "simply didn't traffic in emotions or interest in others," and "facts are whatever Trump deems them to be on any given day."

Whether Schwartz is correct or not about the causes, Trump's ego and emotional needs often seem to color his relations with other leaders and his interpretation of world events. The image of toughness is more important than truth. Journalist Bob Woodward reports that Trump told a friend who acknowledged bad behavior toward women that "real power is fear...You've got to deny, deny, deny and push back on these women. If you admit to anything and any culpability, then you're dead."

Trump's temperament limits his contextual intelligence. He lacked experience, and has done little to fill the gaps in his knowledge. He is described by close observers as reading little, insisting that briefing memos be very short, and relying heavily on television news. He is reported to have paid scant attention to staff preparations before summits with experienced autocrats like Russian President Vladimir Putin or North Korea's Kim Jong-un. If Trump's iconoclastic style was merely a breach of traditional presidential etiquette, one might argue that his critics were being too fastidious, or were trapped in old-fashioned views of diplomacy.

But crudeness can have consequences. While pressing for change, he has disrupted institutions and alliances, only grudgingly admitting their importance. Trump's rhetoric has downplayed democracy and human rights, as his weak reaction to the murder of Saudi dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi demonstrated. Although Trump has echoed President Ronald Reagan's rhetoric about the US being a city on the hill whose beacon shines to others, his domestic behavior toward the press, the judiciary, and minorities has weakened the clarity of America's democratic appeal. International polls show a decline in America's soft power since he took office.

While critics and defenders debate the attractiveness of the values embodied by Trump's "America First" approach, an impartial analyst cannot excuse the ways in which his personal emotional needs have skewed the implementation of his goals - for example in his summit meetings with Putin and Kim. As for prudence, Trump's non-interventionism protected him from some sins of commission, but one can question whether his mental maps and contextual intelligence are adequate to understand the risks posed to the US by the diffusion of power in this century. As tensions grow, reckoning with Trump may well become unavoidable in 2019.



Lord, why push a man to tyranny?

Dear Father:

Like seriously? Like really is that what they are pushing this Footballer, now turned Country Giant into? While turn an innocent person into a tyrant? Is this the only way to gain favor? Is this not a complete hypocrisy? Don't you know you are making him more unpopular?

My son, my son, my son, and how many times have I called you? What is going on, who are those you talking to?

No mehn Father. You have called me three times but am just angry. Haven't you heard? The other day they say people from the Footballer's camp was planning to make him an archbishop of our village. Initially I thought it was a mere gossip because you know how the they say goes in our village but that until I listen to one of the chiefs from our Traditional Council saying it live.

Can you imagine what they are trying to do here in our village Father? It is better we start bringing this to their attention before they turned around and start blaming the young man, when they in fact turned him into a dictator and a tyrant.

But you know it looks like we will never learned lesson in this village of ours. When we were growing up as kids, we heard "Geek si fano kon" meaning leopard fears nothing. And the rest is history.

Yes, Father the rest led us to 14 years of stupid killings and destructions, and because the leopard had no fear it went on engaging in all kinds of atrocities. The man came on the throne with a pure heart with love for country and people, but the people who surrounded him turned him into a monster, because they had advised him wrongly for their own benefits against his own good.

Today, the same has started. People are calling the Footballer Country Giant, with suggestions of making him priest for our highly forested village and you can imagine what other type of advice that they are giving him.

And trust me Father, he is a human and the tendency of self-gratification is part of the human DNA, and what happens next is personal ambition turning into a dictator. But this is all as a result of those who are around him and what they are telling him.

You know, it is often said that tyrants make fools heroes, but what we don't often say is that fools make well intended individuals tyrants. Yes, Father I know others are going to argue that but like seriously in every individual is a degree of arrogance and it only takes your surroundings to decrease or increase your level of arrogance and the end result is that you are either a turned tyrant or a dictator.

*Hmmm my son this is very serious
Yes Father. And you know I love to watch movies from Uncle Sam's village because they have some hardcore lessons too. The people from Uncle Sam's village love to create their own monsters and later call on authorities to hunt it down.*

Am so afraid that these very people going around giving the Footballer all kinds of names and heaping different titles on his head don't turned around one day to castigate him, because you have helped to turned him into a real African dictator.

He may have come to the throne with a very pure heart but with the different names and kinds of dictatorial advises he can turned into a monster right into our hands all because of hypocrites who intended it so for their personal benefits. And another thing they forget is that the more we make these stupid suggestions about our village leader, we make him look no different from other African dictators and bring shame to our village.

Yes, just in case you people have forgotten recently in our backyard was a dictator who turned himself into a spiritual healer, voodoo priest claiming he could cure HIV/AIDS and all that. He was given several titles including Dr. Dr. Dr. and this was all the making of those who wanted favor.

OPINION

By Harold James

Italy's Writing on the Wall

PRINCETON - As the home of both the Roman Empire and the Renaissance, Italy has long been at the forefront of cultural developments in Europe and Western Eurasia. But it has also long served as an example of political decline. Edward Gibbon's classic *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, after all, was meant as a warning to the author's empire-building contemporaries.

Italy's economic stagnation after the early seventeenth century was also held up as a cautionary tale. The nineteenth-century English critic John Ruskin implored members of Britain's mercantile society to ponder the tragedies of Tyre and Venice. Describing Venice in "the final period of her decline," he wrote of "a ghost upon the sands of the sea, so weak - so quiet - so bereft of all but her loveliness, that we might well doubt, as we watched her faint reflection in the mirage of the lagoon, which was the City, and which the Shadow."

Then came the post-World War II period, when Italy was the poster child for fruitful European integration. The country developed a cultural style that is still uniquely influential to this day, particularly in the domain of fashion, where it is a global trendsetter. Around the world, upmarket shopping malls, high streets, and airports are lined with boutiques featuring Italian designs (if not Italian products).

But now Italy has become a cautionary tale once again. Since its general election last March, the country's political scene has fascinated and horrified international observers. The formation of a left-right populist government has led many to wonder if such a coalition is a fluke, or a symptom of the political and intellectual bankruptcy of neoliberal globalization.

It is often said that Italy's divergence from the rest of Europe (in terms of per capita income) started either with the ratification of the Maastricht Treaty in 1993 or with the adoption of the euro in 1999. But this chronology masks a more profound transformation in modern Italy. The early 1990s, after all, is also when the old Italian two-party system disintegrated, with both the center-right Christian Democrats and the center-left Socialists succumbing to the Tangentopoli (Kickback City) corruption scandal.

Behind the headlines about corruption was the fact that older ideas about shared responsibility no longer applied. Thus, the dissolution of Italy's two main parties led to even more - and more institutionalized - corruption, embodied by former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi. A real-estate developer cum entertainment and media tycoon, Berlusconi combined the spectacle of serial infidelity and glamorous young women with a populist politics based on tax cuts and sympathy toward autocratic petro-states like Russia. Berlusconi's political style - a combination of buffoonish narcissism and unbridled venality - was Trumpism avant la lettre.

Italy's political revolution was due not to chance, but to specific social developments dating back to what Italians call the "Years of Lead" of the 1970s. That period and its implications for the present are the subjects of Edoardo Albinati's long, meandering, but stunningly successful novel *La scuola cattolica*, which will be published in English this year.

Albinati combines pointillist description with far-reaching social analysis. As a former prison teacher in Rome, he is able to draw on a wealth of first-hand encounters with a wide cross-section of Italian society. In fact, the novel is semi-autobiographical, because it revolves around the 1975 "Circeo Massacre," a brutal rape and murder that involved some of the author's upper-middle-class schoolmates.

Albinati uses this shocking historical episode to analyze the disintegration of the Italian bourgeoisie and the decline of traditional religion. His is a story about the uselessness of men in modern society. For most of human history, men's superior physical strength, aggression, and prowess in combat translated into unchallenged social and political dominance. But in the new world of office politics, those with creativity and the ability to navigate complex social relations have the upper hand.

This profound social transformation left men feeling constantly under attack, as well as desperate to demonstrate their masculinity. Having grown up with the social privileges of the post-war era, they found themselves suddenly condemned to irrelevance - a useless gender, comparable, in Albinati's telling, to a lizard's tail that twitches for some time after being severed. Many reacted with rage and violence. Some sought the community of neo-fascist movements channeling an aggressive form of masculinity, while others joined far-left groups with their own cults of violence.

In the world Albinati describes, money assumes a special importance. The extension of new freedoms to a wider class of people suggests that anything is possible, but only if one has the means. Albinati admits, grudgingly, that the "spores of Marxism" have led him to this conclusion. But it is nonetheless inescapable: money creates the illusion of more freedom, and thus increasingly has come to define the modern world. Though Albinati's novel is set in Italy, that world is its subject, leaving open the question of whether there can be any escape from the unchecked pursuit of personal gain that underlies today's prevailing social and political malaise.

The Roman Empire was unsalvageable after its fall, and it took the Italian Peninsula

THE PERSPECTIVE

"Opinion Of Taxes In The Republic Of Liberia And Its Effect On The Liberian Economy"

By Samora P.Z. Wolokolie, MBA, CFE, CA, CPA, CFIP, CTP.
Contributor

Atlanta, Georgia

Published, March 27, 2017 and
Republished Friday, January 11, 2019

Referenced resolution of February 1, 2017 under the banner of the Patriotic Entrepreneurs of Liberia (PATEL), in which some burning issues affecting Liberian businesses and the well-being of the Liberian people in general were highlighted and presented to the National legislature and the Executive branch for their intervention to curtail the situation, I hereby again provide some detailed explanations with recommendations that will pacify the situation to wit:

Count 1.0 (b) of the Resolution "Halt to multiple assessments on imported goods by LRA" by definition means the Liberia Revenue Authority must secure uniform assessment of customs duties in keeping with Section 1207 of the Revenue Code of Liberia and must be done at one-stop-shop instead of multiplicity of assessments.

BIVAC Clean Report of Findings (CRFs) once obtained by the importers as required under the Pre-shipment Regime should serve as final arbiter for customs duties collection by Government instead of re-assessing CRFs and uplifting duties already calculated by BIVAC to avoid uncertainty. It should be noted that the issuance of Clean Report of Finding on any imported or exported consignment entails that BIVAC has done the relevant due diligence on price/valuation, quantity, origin and duty and related charges assessment/calculation as required by the Government for which BIVAC is being contracted and inspection fees paid by importers to conduct pre-shipment inspection. Discrepancies that may arise after inspection and shipment with container sealed resulting from BIVAC's error or failure to do due diligence should be attributed to BIVAC and not to chase after the importers.

Referring also to Destination Inspection (DI) regime, it is further recommended that declaration into the ASYCUDA database should be made after physical inspection at Customs-BIVAC DI site and the valuation process must take into account importers' invoices and the transaction processes in the countries of export instead of only relying on BIVAC's obsolete database.

Count 1.0 (g) "Address issues of CET and Protective Tariff Tax" by this we refer to the concomitant use of two (2) tax instruments, namely, "the Harmonized System and Customs Tariff Schedules 2012" and the ECOWAS Common External Tariff (CET) without adequate public tax awareness and/or migration plan circulated or published in newspapers for certain commodities that are being selectively assessed by LRA under the 2012 tariff regime. It is recommended that the CET be applied holistically with reference to Section 3 (e) of the Revenue Code of Liberia quoted as follows: "Where an international agreement ratified by the Legislature has entered into force and establishes rules inconsistent with those provided by this code, the international agreement takes priority over and supersedes this code to the extent of the inconsistency."

We further refer to LRA's arbitrary increase in excise tax rate of tobacco from 35% to 80% and GST from 7% to 10% on November 1, 2016 when there was no law to the effect at the time. A tax refund for excess tax payment on imports from November 1 to December 22, 2016 is hereby recommended to be made to the importers concerned.

Most Administrative Regulations that are being enforced by the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) are arbitrary, meaning that they have not been promulgated and published through the Ministry of



THE AUTHOR

Foreign Affairs in keeping with the requirements enshrined in the Revenue Code of Liberia. Additionally, Section 10.5 (1) of the Executive Law requires that the President of the Republic of Liberia is to approve all regulations but this has not been the case. More besides, some of the aforementioned regulations are excessive in application with specific reference to the Destination Inspection Penalty regulation that has been in use for over ten (10) years, states 10% on CIF value for first & second DI offense, 20% for third & fourth DI offense and 30% for fifth DI offense and above.

Another excessive tax instrument designed by LRA and referred to as "PRACTICE NOTE NO. 1-2016" has also not met presidential approval nor been promulgated and published through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs but is being enforced. The document instructs that the calculation of excise tax for selective products, alcoholic beverages and tobacco products MUST be on "tax-on-tax", meaning that the ad valorem excise tax rate now 80% must be multiplied by the (CIF plus Import Duty plus ETL plus CUF) to derive total excise tax payable only on these two products which violates the principles of uniform assessment as mentioned supra under Section 1207 of the Revenue Code of Liberia.

The undue delay of refund to tax payers by LRA when an over payment of tax due is established must be addressed, thus disallowing the tax payers to always be at the disadvantage end in the Government-tax payers partnership.

Also, the deliberate delay to adjudicate protest cases by LRA to the level of a year or more is unfair and frustrating to the tax payers. Redress must be given by LRA to tax queries in the soonest possible time interval to restore confidence and trust in the Government-Tax payer's partnership. It is hereby recommended that the Board of Tax appeal be reconstituted to fill the vacuum in dealing with this issue.

That considering the current economic conditions of the country where inflation has seriously undermined the purchasing power of the ordinary consumers who suffer the trickle-down effect of tax increment in any given situation, it is hereby recommended that the Tax Amendment Act which was approved on December 20, 2016 and published on the 22nd December 2017 instant in which taxes were increased but was not accompanied by adequate public tax awareness, be further reviewed and revert to status quo ante pending economic normalcy divorce of inflation, uncertainty and inconvenience in the competitive market environment, the dual currency exchange rate and other economic factors in the country. Being cognizant of the fact that Government needs to collect revenue, it should be paralleled, noted that the certainty and convenience of the tax paying public is paramount in the endeavor as outlined in Adam Smith's book, "The Wealth of Nations" under the principle of taxation.

About the author:

Samora P. Z. Wolokolie, MBA, CFE, CA, CPA, CFIP, CTP.

Over the course of a professional career in business and finance spanning 14+ years, Samora P.Z. Wolokolie has lived and worked in Liberia; serves as Deputy Minister for Fiscal Affairs at the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning. His primary responsibility is to manage the financial resources of Liberia; develop and administer the financial rules and regulations of the republic. He oversees and executes all matters relating to government accounting, including pay, pensions, and other allowances as well as develop fiscal policy. Additionally, he is responsible to oversee all matters concerning the framing of proposals regarding tax and non-tax revenue, tax reform as part of fiscal consolidation, coordinate with and generally perform all such services relative to the management of government finances as may be required by law; and implement expenditure proposals of Ministries and Agencies of Government as appropriated in the budget. Immediately prior to his appointment as Deputy Minister for Fiscal Affairs at the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning by His Excellency Dr. George Manneh Weah, Hon. Wolokolie served as Managing Partner of a BICON. INC. national firm; his professional experience includes a period of service with Baker Tilly, Liberia (then VOSCON INC) and PKF, Liberia at senior management levels (Before joining BICON, Inc.), Mr. Wolokolie is a recognized, professional accountant, auditor and tax practitioner in Liberia and has served as Engagement Manager in-charge of Audit and Tax with as well as Audit Supervisor at Baker Tilly, Liberia (then VOSCON, INC) and PKF, Liberia respectively in Monrovia. He also served as Director of the Internal Audit Division at the Ministry of Finance under a definite World Bank / GOL contract. Mr. Wolokolie is an adjunct lecturer of Auditing, Taxation and Accounting at the Arthur Barclay Business College of the Stella Maris Polytechnic and the Financial Management Training Program (FMTP), graduate school, of the University of Liberia and financed by the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning through a World Bank-funded project. He has spoken at various professional gatherings and forums in several workshops and seminars in and out of Liberia.

Samora is a multi-skilled, business consultant. His successful track record as a high-level consulting and risk management, tax and audit practitioner in competitive national and international markets has required, a willingness to appreciate, learn and successfully employ skills in a number of key multi-disciplinary areas. Samora's skill sets and prior experience include:

- Business evaluation and Corporate Strategy
- Corporate Governance, Risk Management, and Internal Audit
- Process Mapping and the Design / Implementation of Control Systems
- Financial Management
- Corporate Financial and Regulatory Reporting
- Audit and Assurance (External and Internal)
- Project Management, training, and Human

Resource Management

Samora is a Liberian scholar and holds an MBA in Accounting from the Cuttington University in 2007. He is a Chartered Accountant (CA) of the Institute of Chartered Accountants (Ghana), a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) of the Liberian Institute of Certified Public Accountant, a Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiner, USA and Certified Forensic Investigation Professional (CFIP) of the International Institute of Certified Forensic Investigation Professional of Kenya and USA.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

1,200 ghost names to be deleted from MOE payroll

By Bridgett Milton

Internal Audit Agency Director General Emmanuel B. Nyeswa says from an audit just

Speaking to a team of journalists Thursday morning, 10 January in Congo Town, Mr. Nyeswa said government cannot be paying unknown

However, Mr. Nyeswa says the names have not been deleted yet because they want to make sure.

He says those names will be on hold and they will be deleted after some time if there can be any justification.

At the Ministry of Health, Mr. Nyeswa says they got out over 500 names from the payroll, saving the government about \$1.7 million dollars.

Nyeswa explains that their plans are to clean all government payroll, saying he as part of its strategic plan to revolutionize auditing in Liberia, the Internal Audit Agency (IAA) has brought in country consignment of a modern state of the art equipment that will ease their work.

Nyeswa adds that two audit polls have been created at the IAA.

Mr. Nyeswa says since he took over, funding has been his major challenge.

He concludes that 15 of his staffer are out of the country on training.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



conducted by his agency, 1,200 ghost names are to be deleted from the Ministry of Education's payroll.

people who are not working. According to him, this will save government about US\$2.3 million.

Presidents Weah, Sall Discuss air traffic between their countries

Liberia's President George Manneh Weah, returned to the country Thursday, January 10, 2019 following a three-day official visit to the Republic of Senegal where he and his Senegalese counterpart, President Macky Sall, held fruitful bilateral discussions.

Upon return to Liberia, President Weah told reporters at the Roberts International Airport (RIA) that he and President Macky Sall held discussions on several bilateral issues, including the aviation industry—specifically on how air traffic could resume between Monrovia and Dakar.

President Weah says such an initiative could lead Air

Liverpool striker Mohammed Salah of Egypt won the award.

The President said the award ceremony invoked nostalgia of the fond days of his soccer career, particularly when he won the award.

"Indeed, it was a memorable moment," the President said.

"What I experienced last night reminds me about the work I did over the years. It was not an easy time those days

when black man was not accepted; when racism was at its peak in the soccer world. But we were able to work hard and overcome it," he explains.

President Weah says as a



Senegal to opening a Monrovia route that could benefit citizens of both countries in terms of overcoming inter-country travel challenges.

The President described the Dakar visit as positive and rewarding.

"I am not in the politics of Senegal," he said, weighing in on February 24 elections in response to a reporter's question.

"I hope the elections in that country will be peaceful in order to sustain the gains made in the country over the years."

President Weah also spoke about his participation in the CAF-organized African Footballer of the Year Award ceremonies.

former player he felt elated being recognized by Confederation of African Football and other stakeholders of the game in an elaborate manner.

"That should tell you that I am a wonderful person and I hope Liberians will know that they have a person in Africa that they can trust and make effective use of," he adds.

While speaking to journalists at the RIA, the President also extended condolences to the Armed Forces of Liberia and the family of fallen soldier, Steve Joe. He asked the AFL and Steve's family to be strong in the face of such a huge loss.--*Press release*

Gbarnga Broad Street pavement stops abruptly

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

Pavement works has abruptly stopped on the Gbarnga Broad Street of Bong County due to what is believed to be political struggle in the County.

Our correspondent says the Gbarnga Broad Street pavement project is a part of several road construction projects ongoing across Liberia from the government's agenda on roads connectivity.

Speaking in an interview with this paper on Wednesday, 9 January Harris Kennedy, a businessman in Gbarnga claims that some leaders in Bong County are obstructing the functions of the Ministry of Public Works.

According to Mr. Kennedy, the alleged action by the county authorities to stop the pavement is undermining the progress of the county.

Kennedy says if the work cannot resume, there are plans underway to extend communication to the government.

But contrary to Kennedy's allegation, the Public Relations Officer at the Ministry of Public Works Mr. Prince Toe Nagbe says the pavement was suspended due



to the failure of the contracted company to adhere to the mandate of the Ministry of Public Works.

Mr. Nagbe states that the Ministry of Public Works took the decision in consultations with authorities of Bong County as it relates to the enlargement of the Gbarnga Streets.

The Sidani Holding Group was reportedly hired by the Ministry of Public Works to complete the pavement of 2.4

km stretch of road in Gbarnga, a project that was previously being undertaken by East International Group Incorporated.

Initially in 2016, the project started under the support of the county and social development fund project for Bong.

The county should have paid US\$1.35 million for the project from the development funds.

A turnover note that former

superintendent Selena Polson Mappy presented to the current superintendent, Esther Walker, says the county had paid US\$676,875, half of the total amount, to East International.

In March 2017, the project became stalled for the second time, with county officials citing "lack of funds" to pay the contractor as a factor for the delay.

Sidani Group Holding became the new company hired to continue the work and no new information has been provided about the whereabouts of the previous company or the status of the contract the company signed with Bong.

Mr. Nagbe however told reporters that their action to put halt to the continuation of the road pavement is directly from the Ministry of Public Works and not from any county officer.

He however appeals to citizens of the County to engage the relevant authorities whenever they have concerns about the streets' pavement, rather than speculating.

However he did not disclose when the ministry will resume the pavement. President George Manneh Weah has instructed the Minister of Public Works to pave all feeder roads across the country.--*Edited Winston W. Parley*

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Store owners want government reopen Waterside Road

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Store owners down Waterside, Monrovia, are asking government to remove sellers from streets who have blocked entrances to businesses in the densely populated market.

Petty traders operating table markets and others carrying goods in wheelbarrows have for many years blocked certain portion of Water Street that extends to Waterside, preventing buyers from driving into the area freely.

Several foreign business owners who spoke to our reporter have termed the action of the marketers as economic sabotage.

These foreign businesses are arguing that customers that are supposed to buy from the stores find difficulties to reach to their destinations because market tables are erected in front of their stores right in the street.

Messrs. Hassan Mohammed and Nisiree Wahene, dealers in general merchandise at

central Water Street, argue that they are paying huge taxes to government for their respective business establishments.

But they wonder how they can be paying taxes to government without any protection.

They also complain that there is no way for container trucks conveying their goods to reach its destination simply because the entire street is blocked by marketers.

"No one can stand on the street and see the kinds of goods that we are selling in our

store because the market people under the LMA [Liberia Marketing Association] sit there to sell, thereby preventing our numerous customers desirous of doing business with us not to do so", they lament.

When the authorities at the LMA were contacted at the entity's office at the Rally Time General Market for comment, no official there was willing to speak on the matter.

Meanwhile, foreign business owners are appealing to government, especially the Monrovia City Corporation (MCC) to immediately do something about the situation and bring relief to the general business population.

The route was closed to the public after former Liberia President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf in consultation with the leadership of the LMA chose to relocate hundreds of marketers from the West Point General Market.

The blockade of the route by marketers continues to cause traffic congestion on Water Street.

Vehicles traveling from Ashmun Street and Slipway have to make their way through the direction of the National Housing and Savings Bank (NHA) before moving toward the Zolu Duma Bridge which connects Vai Town on Bushrod Island to Waterside, Monrovia.--Edited by Winston W. Parley



GOL lauds China for support

The Ministry of Youth and Sports lauds the Government and People of China (PRC) for continual support to the developmental drive of Liberia.

Deputy Youth and Sports Minister for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Peter S. Bemah, says China's continued support is in line with the "Pro-Poor" Agenda of the Coalition

and Sports but suffered serious damages during the 14-year civil war in Liberia. However, it was restored by former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf in 2012.

But the school had been shut down for two years now, before it was again officially reopened on Monday.

"I want to thank the Government and People of the People's Republic of China for its continued support to our

program very seriously for the betterment of Liberia.

Assistant Minister for TVET, Mallias Z. Sheriff, recounts the many benefits and opportunities from China to Liberia, saying "Chinese are not cosmetic partners", but they are partners who believe in tangibles.

"I want to urge you; the students, to remain focused. If this nation is to progress, there must be agricultural



for Democratic Change (CDC) led government of President George Manneh Weah.

He made the commendation recently at the official reopening of the Klay Agriculture and Vocational Training and Recreational Center (KATVC) in Klay District, Bomi County.

KATVC was once operated by the Ministry of Labor, Youth

development, especially in the area of training," says Bemah.

He also recommitments the Ministry of Youth and Sports' renewed vigor in building the capacity of Liberian youth, adding the Ministry strides to build the capacity of youth, and considers agriculture as one of the key areas.

The deputy Minister urges students to take the training

revolution and the youth must be the pace setters of this."

In remarks, the Director of the China-Aid Liberia Bamboo and Rattan Weaving and Vegetable Planting Technical Assistance Project, Nie Yongdou, says the six-month program is of great significance to the future development of youth, especially youth in the western

Women, 45, jailed for embezzlement

By Emmanuel Mondaye

The West Point Magisterial Court on Thursday, 10 January jailed a 45-year-old woman identified as Comfort Whitefield for mismanaging LD\$500,000.00 and US\$16,000.00 worth of goods entrusted to her care by her business partner Madam Doris Gibson.

The court decision to jail defendant Comfort Whitefield results from the deliberate refusal of the defendant to pay the money to complainant Doris Gibson since July 2018.

The complainant told the court that instead of the defendant paying the money, she travels to China to purchase goods with her (Dorris') business money.

According to Doris, Comfort's action has deprived her of needed cash to sustain her business.

The complainant says prior to the defendant's travel to China, she promised to pay the money but departed Liberia without her concern.

Dorris says one of their colleagues informed her that Comfort had travelled out of Liberia, noting that upon her

return to Liberia, she (Doris) grabbed the defendant.

According to Doris, defendant Comfort produced at least LD\$150,000.00, while US component and additional Liberian Dollars remain unpaid.

Dorris told the court that since that time, the defendant went into hiding. But she says it was a week ago when she again apprehended the accused.

During the hearing of the case, complainant Doris Gibson presented to the court documentary evidences of how the transaction was held between she and the defendant.

A lawyer representing the legal interest of the defendant failed to secure her temporally release because of the lack of a valid insurance bond as provided for under the laws here.

In a related development, the court on Thursday, 10 January reserved a case involving a woman and her husband over felonious restraints.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

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region of the country.

He discloses that the program will train students in bio gas production and vegetables planting, among others.

Sheriff reveals that top

performing students will be afforded opportunity to pursue further studies in China. -

Editing by Jonathan Browne

Français

Le gouvernement Weah a déçu (opposition)

Le bilan de l'administration Weah au cours de sa première année de son mandat est loin d'être satisfaisant, car l'équipe gouvernementale dirigée par la Coalition pour le Changement Démocratique (CDC) n'a pas répondu aux nombreuses attentes du peuple libérien. C'est du moins l'observation de l'ancien parti au pouvoir, le parti de l'unité de la présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

En effet, s'exprimant lors d'un débat télévisé sur une chaîne privée locale (Sky TV), le mercredi 9 janvier à Monrovia, Wilmot Paye, président national du parti de l'unité, a déclaré que la coalition pour le changement démocratique n'a pas fait grande chose au cours de sa première année.

Le président Wilmot Paye s'est dit déçu et consterné par le fait que la coalition au pouvoir qui a remporté 14



des 15 comtés lors du second tour de l'élection présidentielle ait échoué aussi lamentablement au début de son mandat.

Il a accusé le président George Manneh Weah et ses fonctionnaires d'accumuler quotidiennement des richesses et de construire des villas, pendant que les électeurs ont du mal à s'offrir

ne serait-ce un repas par jour. Il reproche aussi au président d'avoir dépensé des sommes énormes lors de ses nombreux voyages en dépit des difficultés économiques auxquelles est confronté le pays.

Le président Weah est actuellement en visite d'État à Dakar, au Sénégal, pour assister à la cérémonie de

remise du prix du meilleur joueur de la Confédération Africaine de Football (CAF).

Le président de l'ancien parti au pouvoir a également fustigé l'administration Weah pour s'être vantée pour la réalisation des travaux de construction des routes de desserte lancés par l'ancien régime. « Ces routes, en particulier les routes communautaires pour lesquelles ils se vantent, c'est nous qui les avons commencées et ils ne font que les achever », a-t-il dit.

« Certaines de ces routes étaient presque terminées ; nous avons arrêtés les travaux à cause des élections. Le fait de revendiquer la gloire pour quelque chose dont ils n'ont aucune idée est étonnant et embarrassant. A chaque kilomètre de route bitumée, le président érige une statue et mettra le drapeau libérien sous son image. C'est une insulte à l'Etat, mais personne ne voit ça », a poursuivi Paye.

Il a en outre fait part de ses préoccupations face à la violation flagrante de la Constitution du Libéria prétendument par le Président, dénonçant la nomination d'un ambassadeur du Libéria aux États-Unis sans la confirmation du Sénat libérien.

S'exprimant par ailleurs au sujet d'un certain accord politique entre les partis politiques d'opposition, Paye a révélé que les quatre principaux partis d'opposition étaient en train de travailler pour former un plus grand front uni contre la coalition au pouvoir lors des prochaines élections sénatoriales de mi-mandat en 2020 et des élections présidentielle et législatives de 2023.

Le Gouvernement est accusé d'avoir abandonné un corps à la morgue

Le corps d'un présumé voleur à main armée de la nationalité nigérienne, tué dans un échange de coups de feu avec la police nationale du Libéria lors d'attaque de la banque Ecobank Liberia à Kakata, dans le comté de Margibi, il y a deux ans, a été abandonné par le gouvernement dans une

morgue de la ville. La fusillade qui a eu lieu le 24 juillet 2016 a fait un mort et quatre autres blessés.

Patrick Tubee, le propriétaire de la morgue privée Solomon Tubee à Kakata, a fait savoir que la police a déposé le corps du suspect nommé Akin, un ressortissant nigérien, le 24

juillet 2016 dans l'intention de procéder à une autopsie, mais l'exercice n'a jamais été réalisé et le corps a été abandonné dans la morgue.

S'exprimant dans une interview exclusive avec le correspondant de New Dawn dans le comté de Margibi, M. Tubee s'est plaint de ce que le ministère de la Justice n'a



Articles traduits

Par Valéry G. Guhéna

E-mail: valeryghn10@yahoo.com

Tel: 076 589 44 0881483394

effectué aucun paiement pour la préservation du corps.

Selon lui, le gouvernement lui doit actuellement 75 000 dollars américains. Il a indiqué avoir écrit trois lettres différentes qu'il a adressées respectivement à l'ancien procureur du comté, au surintendant de Margibi, et à la police nationale libérienne, demandant le paiement des services qu'il continue de rendre.

« J'ai fait beaucoup d'efforts en rendant cela public par le biais des médias et en informant les parties prenantes de mon sort. Mais pour le gouvernement, je ne suis pas un homme très important c'est pourquoi ils se fichent de moi », a-t-il déploré.

Il a appelé le gouvernement à régler le montant qu'il lui

doit et à récupérer le corps, car la présence continue de ce corps constitue une gêne pour son entreprise et fait monter les coûts.

Contacté par ce quotidien, l'ancien procureur du comté de Margibi Issac George, a nié avoir connaissance du corps en question, notant que l'affaire a déjà été jugée et que les trois complices reconnus coupables du crime sont en prison où ils purgent actuellement leurs peines.

Samuel N. Davis a été condamné à 10 ans de prison, tandis qu'Alex Yarkpawulo et Abraham Doe ont été condamnés à cinq ans de prison chacun par un tribunal de Kakata.

Quant au porte-parole de la police, Moses Carter, il a promis une réponse officielle dans les plus brefs délais.

Français

La coalition au pouvoir veut que les cartes d'identité nationales soient utilisées pour l'inscription des électeurs

Le président de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique au pouvoir (CDC) demande au président George Manneh Weah, aux acteurs politiques et aux parties prenantes de mener des discussions sur l'utilisation des cartes d'identité nationales pour le recensement des électeurs pour les prochaines élections.

Mulbah Morlu a fait cette suggestion mercredi lorsqu'il est allé s'inscrire au registre national d'identification pour se faire délivrer une carte d'identité nationale biométrique. La carte d'identité nationale est

Il a salué la clairvoyance du président Weah dans la nomination des techniciens et des administrateurs très compétents au registre national d'identification. Il s'est dit très impressionné par le mécanisme mis en place par l'équipe « de responsables compétents ».

« Vous nous amenez à un niveau d'avant-guerre d'une manière sophistiquée, ce qui nous permettra d'évaluer notre système électoral, et nous voyons cela comme une solution parfaite et bien meilleure par rapport à ce que nous avons eu comme système par le passé où nous avons enregistré des manques à gagner à l'ordre de plusieurs millions de dollars

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délivrée par le Registre national d'identification situé à Congo Town, dans la banlieue de Monrovia.

Le président national du parti au pouvoir a déclaré que la carte d'identité nationale comporte une fonctionnalité biométrique intégrée soutenue par une technologie qui ne peut être falsifiée. Il est convaincu que le système mis en place par les responsables du registre national d'identification dirigé par Tiah Nagbe réduira considérablement les fraudes électorales et autres vices au Libéria. Il était accompagné de plus d'une douzaine de responsables gouvernementaux.

américains », a-t-il dit. Morlus a dit qu'il a hâte de prendre part à des discussions relatives à l'utilisation des cartes nationales d'identité pour le recensement des électeurs. Il a promis de faire la proposition au président Weah pour lancer le débat, car c'est l'une des manières les plus sûres de rendre crédibles les élections au Libéria. Par ailleurs, le président de la Coalition au pouvoir a fait don de 100 sacs de riz et de 100 000 dollars libériens aux commerçants d'Old Road comme cadeau du nouvel an.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Joseph S. Nye

L'année de Trump ?

PÉKIN - Time magazine n'a pas choisi Donald Trump comme personnalité de l'année 2018, mais pourrait le faire en 2019. Trump a terminé l'année qui vient de s'écouler en s'attirant les critiques pour avoir annoncé le retrait des troupes américaines de Syrie et d'Afghanistan sans consultation préalable de ses alliés (provoquant ainsi la démission de son secrétaire à la Défense, James Mattis) et pour avoir fermé une partie du gouvernement suite au litige concernant la construction d'un mur à la frontière mexicaine. En 2019, les démocrates ayant repris la Chambre des représentants, les condamnations de sa politique étrangère ne feront que s'aviver.

Les thuriféraires de l'actuelle administration font peu de cas des critiques. Spécialistes des affaires étrangères, diplomates et alliés sont atterrés du style iconoclaste de Trump, mais sa base a voté pour le changement et applaudit à ce chambardement. Certains experts affirment que plus est que la confusion trouvera sa justification si les conséquences s'avèrent favorables aux intérêts américains, comme pourraient l'être une attitude plus conciliante de l'Iran, une dénucléarisation de la Corée du Nord, une évolution de la politique économique de la Chine et une régulation plus équitable des échanges internationaux.

Évidemment, juger aujourd'hui des conséquences à long terme de la politique étrangère menée par Trump reviendrait à prédire le score final d'un match qui n'en est qu'à la mi-temps. Niall Ferguson, historien enseignant à Stanford, n'en affirme pas moins que « la clé de la présidence Trump tient à ce qu'elle est probablement la dernière chance pour l'Amérique de stopper, du moins de ralentir, l'ascension de la Chine. Et bien qu'elle ne soit peut-être pas très satisfaisante d'un point de vue intellectuel, la façon dont Trump aborde le problème, affirmant en l'occurrence la puissance des États-Unis comme un élément imprévisible et perturbateur, pourrait effectivement demeurer la seule carte disponible. »

À quoi les critiques de Trump répliquent que si son iconoclasme devait déboucher sur des succès, encore faudrait-il les évaluer au sein d'un bilan où doivent figurer les coûts, comme les bénéficiaires. Ils maintiennent que le prix, en termes de dommages causés aux institutions internationales et à la confiance entre alliés, sera trop élevé. Dans la compétition avec la Chine, pour prendre cet exemple, les États-Unis disposent d'alliés par dizaines et n'ont que peu de contentieux avec les pays voisins, alors que la Chine ne compte que peu d'alliés et est engagée dans un certain nombre de différends territoriaux. En outre, si les règles et les institutions peuvent être contraignantes, les États-Unis conservent un rôle prépondérant dans leur adoption et en sont un des grands bénéficiaires.

Lorsqu'il s'agit de juger la politique étrangère d'un président, le débat sur la pertinence de son style personnel soulève des questions plus générales. En août 2016, 50 anciens hauts responsables de la sécurité nationale, républicains pour la plupart, ont déclaré que les humeurs du président le rendaient inapte à l'exercice de sa charge. La plupart des signataires furent exclus de l'administration. Mais étaient-ils dans le vrai ?

En tant que dirigeant, Trump peut être ou ne pas être adroit, mais ses humeurs le placent à un piètre rang lorsqu'on les compare à l'intelligence tant émotionnelle que contextuelle qui fit d'un Franklin D. Roosevelt et d'un George H. W. Bush des présidents qui parvinrent à leur but. Tony Schwartz, le co-auteur du livre de Trump, *L'Art de la négociation*, écrit : « Le sentiment de sa propre

valeur est toujours en péril chez Trump. Lorsqu'il se sent offensé, il réagit impulsivement et, pour se défendre, construit un récit d'autojustification qui n'est pas fondé sur des faits et rejette toujours la faute sur d'autres. » Schwartz attribue cela à une réaction de défense de Trump à l'égard de la domination exercée par son père, qui était « d'une exigence sans bornes, difficile et ambitieux [...]. Vous ne pouviez que dominer ou vous soumettre. Vous deviez créer et exploiter la peur ou bien succomber - ce qui fut le cas, à ses yeux, de son frère aîné. » En conséquence de quoi « il ne laisse tout simplement pas percer d'émotion ni d'intérêt envers autrui » et « les faits sont tels que Trump décide qu'ils doivent être, au jour le jour ».

Que Schwartz ait ou non raison concernant les causes, l'égo de Trump et ses exigences émotionnelles semblent souvent influencer ses relations avec les autres dirigeants ou son interprétation des événements qui surviennent sur la scène du monde. L'image donnée de la rudesse est plus importante que la vérité. Le journaliste Bob Woodward rapporte que Trump expliquait à un ami qui reconnaissait s'être mal comporté envers des femmes que « le vrai pouvoir, c'est la peur [...]. Tu dois nier, nier, et nier et faire reculer ces femmes. Si tu admetts quoi que ce soit ou la moindre faute, tu es mort ».

Les humeurs de Trump limitent son intelligence contextuelle. Il manquait d'expérience, mais il n'a presque rien fait pour combler son ignorance. Les observateurs les plus proches le décrivent comme quelqu'un qui lit peu, exigeant que les notes d'information qu'on lui soumet soient très brèves, s'appuyant essentiellement sur les nouvelles télévisées. Ainsi n'accorderait-il que peu d'attention aux préparatifs de ses collaborateurs avant les sommets avec des autocrates habiles comme le président russe Vladimir Poutine ou le dirigeant nord-coréen Kim Jong-un. Si le style iconoclaste de Trump n'était qu'une entorse à l'étiquette présidentielle, on pourrait encore dire que ses contempteurs font la fine bouche ou demeurent prisonniers d'une conception surannée de la diplomatie.

Mais la grossièreté n'est pas sans conséquences. Sous prétexte de changement, Trump a semé le trouble dans les institutions et au sein des alliances, n'admettant qu'à contrecœur leur importance. Son discours a déprécié la démocratie et les droits de l'homme, comme l'a montré sa réaction timorée au meurtre du journaliste dissident saoudien Jamal Khashoggi. Si Trump a repris le thème de la « cité sur la colline » à laquelle le président Ronald Reagan identifiait les États-Unis, son comportement « à domicile » envers la presse, l'institution judiciaire et les minorités brouille l'image de la démocratie américaine et sape son pouvoir de séduction. Les enquêtes internationales montrent un affaiblissement du soft power de l'Amérique depuis qu'il est entré en fonctions.

Tandis que contempteurs et admirateurs disputent de l'attractivité des valeurs incarnées par la voie trumpiste de « L'Amérique d'abord », l'analyste impartial ne peut excuser le président de ses difficultés émotionnelles si celles-ci entravent la réalisation de ses objectifs - comme lors des rencontres au sommet avec Poutine et Kim. Pour ce qui est de la prudence, le non-interventionnisme de Trump le protège au moins de certains péchés par commission, mais on peut se demander si ses cartes mentales et son intelligence contextuelle lui suffisent pour comprendre les risques qu'encourent les États-Unis face à la dispersion de la puissance en ce siècle. À mesure qu'augmentent les tensions, il pourrait bien devenir inévitable, en 2019, de compter avec Trump.

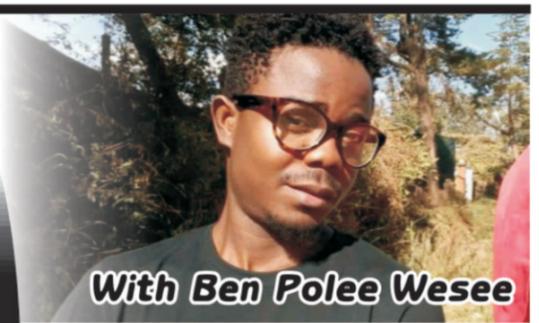
Articles traduits

Par Valéry G. Guhéna

E-mail: valeryghn10@yahoo.com

Tel: 076 589 44 0881483394

CULTURE & ENTERTAINMENT



With Ben Polee Wesee

CIC is MLMA Artist of the Year

-As MLMA award Liberian musicians

Popular Hip-Co rapper CIC passed odd-favorites DenG and Kobazzie to win two of the five MTN Liberia Music Award coveted categories - Artist of The Year and Male Artist of the Year, respectively and music video of the year.

CIC who grabbed seven nominations for the just ended MLMA, Liberia's most prestigious music awards at the Executive Pavilion in Monrovia in December 2018 also won the Video of the Year for the single "Hello."

He beat competitions from F.A and Stunna to clinch the third award of the night—the highest for any artist during the awards ceremony.

In his acceptance speech, CIC thanked his manager, King Jaffar, fans and former record label mate Kizzy W for their support over the years to his musical career.

"To my team at SOG and fans, I dedicate these awards to you people. Thanks for the constant support over the year. To the other nominees in this category, you guys are the reason why I'm in the studio working day and night to be able to come out with good songs often to match yours," he noted.

The "Pekin John" rapper's simultaneous snatching of the Artist of the Year and Video of Year tiles marked a very successful year for him. He gained more international fame from the feature with Iyana and Joey B.

By winning the "Artist of the Year" category, CIC has become one of the very few rappers (not more than five) to win such prestigious MLMA categories, a rare achievement for any rapper presently.

At the award night characterized by splendid performances, the likes of Kuami Eugene, Ghana's 2018 most popular fast-rising artist, Bucky Raw, Cjay, PCK & L'Frankie all walked away with two awards each.

Bucky walked away with the MTN People's Choice award and the coveted Artist of the Year award for his Country Soda II (CS2) album, which became the first album by a Liberian artist to top iTunes World Music Albums chart and Amazon Best Seller in the International category, respectively.

Super-talented singer Cjay also won the sought-after Song of the Year category for his smash hit, Boss Chick, and the R&B /Afro Soul Song of the Year for the same song.

PCK and L'Frankie, the last big winners of the night, grabbed the Best Group of the Year, and Afropop/Afro Dance Song of the Year for their song, "Go Down".

Meanwhile, Stunna who had the second most nominations of any other artist – after CIC's 10 nominations – was unable to win any awards in spite of his popularity and

CIC
will be performing live at the **MLMA**.
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Venue: Centennial Pavilion
Date: 22.12.18

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Lonestar Cell MTN

songs this year.

According to a statement from Lonestar Cell MTN following the awards program, the partnership with the organizers of the awards ceremony is a long-term one through which Lonestar Cell MTN will support the growth of the Liberian music industry and expose its talent to the world.

"We would like to thank all attendees and participants who helped to make the event a rousing success. Congratulations to all the winners, including: CIC, PCK and L Frankie, Bucky Raw, CJay, KZee, DJ Blue and Cypha, Alvin Soeh, Fullest 4, Jaredo, Davero, K Praise, Nassiman, Flex, C Note, Kizzy W, Steve Tequah, Tony Kabedeh, Jackie Russ, Duke Black, DJ Nelly, Pascal and Davido.

Through the awards platform, Lonestar Cell MTN will continue to support and develop the Liberian music industry by helping local recording artists gain international recognition for their music," the company said.

The awards ceremony was without its share of challenges, including sub-par lighting systems, stage designs and delays.

See full list of winners below:

- Male Artist of the Year
C.I.C
- New Artist of the Year
Jaredo
- Female Artist of the Year
Davero
- Video of the Year
Hello - C.I.C. ft Joey B
- Album of the Year
CS2 - Bucky Raw
- R&B /Afro Soul Song of the Year
Boss Chick - Cjay
- MTN People's Choice Award
Bucky Raw
- Artist of the Year

- C.I.C
HipCo Artist of the Year
Pascal
- Gbema Artist of the Year
Kzee Big Name
- Traditional Artist of the Year
Fullest 4
- R&B / Afropop Artist of the Year
Kizzy W
- Gospel Artist of the Year
Alvin Soeh
- Song of the Year
Boss Chick - C JAY
- AfroPop/Afro Dance Song of the Year
Go Down - PCK & L'Frankie
- Gospel Song of the Year
Bow Before The Your Throne - K-Praise
- ft Sayon Mayson
- Hip-Hop Artist of the Year
Cnote
- DJ of the Year
DJ Nelly
- Producer of the Year
Duke Blac
- Video Director of the Year
Jackie Russ
- Collaboration of the Year
Bae - DJBLUE ft C.I.C., Cypha D'King & Geno
- Afropop Artist of the Year
Flex
- International/African Artist of the Year
Davido
- Best Group of the Year
PCK & L'Frankie
- Reggae / Dance Hall Artist of the Year
Nassiman
- Life Time Achievement Award
Tony Kabedeh
- Legendary Achievement Award
Steve Tequah

Murder in the Cassava Patch goes on stage

B4 Youth Theater has announced the stage play adaptation of the classic novel Murder in the Cassava Patch, written by the late literary icon of Liberia, Bai T. Moore, as part of the book's 50th Anniversary celebrations.

The stage play for the novel, which is one of the most popular literary works in the country, was held at Providence Island on December 21, 2018.

Murder in the Cassava Patch is about a toxic relationship that existed between Gortokai and Tene, which ended in an unfortunate note for her.

Gortokai, realizing that Tene was not attracted to him but other men, sought the help of a witch doctor to make Tene fall in love with him. For that to happen, Gortokai needed a delicate body part from Tene (such as hairs), but along the way found it difficult due to Tene's sister Kema.

To make matters worse, Tene gets pregnant for another man. What's more, Gortokai accidentally hears

Tene frivolously uttering words that denote a lack of respect for him.

To top it all, Gortokai then discovers that Tene regularly receives clothes and jewelries from a rich man.

The chief organizer of the event, Jasmine L. Blanks Jones, who is also founder of the B4 Youth Theater, told LIB Life that the event is intended to evoke Liberians' interest in literary works by Liberian authors.

"The goal of this stage play is to arouse the declining interest among Liberians about literary works that tell their story. During the stage play, we are going to take our audience, both young and old, on a journey back to Liberia in the 1960s to tell a story about a toxic relationship that existed between two Liberians," Mrs. Banks said.

According to Mrs. Banks, the stage play is also intended to revive and showcase the stage play as a strong tool for education, information, and entertainment.

Cummings vows to prosecute Weah

By Winston W. Parley

Opposition Alternative National Congress (ANC) political leader Alexander Cummings says if elected president, based on the facts, he will prosecute President George Manneh Weah and go after people who steal from Liberians.

“Let me say very directly to you and the Liberian people, Costa, uh, everybody here, the answer is absolute yes,” he said Thursday, 10 January in response to Montserrado County Rep. Yekeh Kolubah’s question via mobile phone if Mr. Cummings would take the courage to prosecute President Weah if elected president.

“If we going to end the culture of impunity we got to prosecute people,” he says further on the Costa Show in Monrovia.

The ANC political leader says he does not want to prejudge what will come out of U.S. experts’ investigative report on Liberia’s alleged missing [\$15.5] billion Liberian Dollars, but he warns that there has to be consequences for bad behavior.

“We should not let this 16 billion dollars, the 25 million US that was supposed to be to mop up excess dollars. We want to know what happened to our money, that it didn’t



end up in people’s pockets because it appears to have done that ...,” he says.

Mr. Cummings expresses hope that the report is released soon and it is not watered down or tampered with on the basis of geopolitical reasons, saying it must be given as it is.

The former Coca-Cola executive-turned politician recalls that the civil war was a horrible period in Liberia, but he believes that economic crimes and corruption have had the most devastating impact on Liberia today.

In the wake of this

argument, Mr. Cummings insists that anyone who wants to lead Liberia has to commit to go after “people who have stolen and looted” when given opportunity to lead Liberians.

“By any economic measure, the economy is failing, the economy is not working,” Mr. Cummings says.

He says unemployment is increasing, businesses are either making less [money] or losing money, while looking at inflation, he says prices are going up.

“Fiscal deficit is increasing, revenue is dropping, so by any measure, the economy is

failing,” he continues.

The ANC political leader says if you were going to grade this government on the economy, “it would make an ‘F’”.

Further, he says if you were to [make comparison] relative to others after one year, this would be the worst performance, noting this government would have a zero.

Cummings indicates that the economy is in very, very bad shape and Liberians are feeling the pinch.

More besides, he says Liberians are feeling disrespected by the Weah administration, citing the alleged disregard for the public procurement process, commissioning of ambassador who has not been confirmed by the Senate, among others.

He describes the government as “inept and incompetent,” promising to increase his tune in his criticism against the Weah regime while equally advancing recommendations to help with solutions.

According to Mr. Cummings, there appears to be no plans, solutions or strategies by the government to solving the problems that the people are facing as a result of government’s “very poor performance” on the economy.

He claims that there is “a false sense of arrogance,” noting that the government is almost ignoring the plight of the people, and it is not following up on recommendations he has made on radios and other forums.

He additionally argues that excluding him, other people did attend President Weah’s meeting with the opposition and suggestions were made there, but nothing has happened.

Advancing recommendations to the government, Cummings says the corruption and “stealing has to stop,” urging Weah’s government to hire people who know what to do to resurrect the economy.

He says government has to start to pay people consistently so that demand is created, urging the regime to focus on a more medium term, look at agriculture by making investments to support farmers to help create jobs.

He also asks government to look at the tax and regulatory environment to make it simple and conducive, as some practical solutions and value addition to assisting commodity production.

He urges the government and its officials to stop looking after themselves and begin to focus on the Liberian people.

Baby burns to death

By Thomas Doloquee/Nimba

Residents of Congo Community in Ganta City, Nimba County are still recovering from both emotional and traumatic shocks following a recent fire incident that gutted four homes and left a year-old baby burnt to death.

According to report, the toddler was asleep when fire swept the home of its parents.

A 70-year-old woman, who owns the house, Yar Glaye Power, describes the incident as mysterious.

She narrates to the New Dawn that all occupants were outdoor, while she was in the yard with the children, but

only heard an explosion and in few seconds, saw her house ablaze.

Madam Power explains that the deceased and his twin semblance were with her prior to the incident, but little Saye Konah met his untimely death in one of the six rooms the fire razed.

She is widow, who survives daily by selling greens in the market.

The incident in Congo Community brings to four, the number of houses wrecked by fire in Ganta less than a month.

In all of the incidents, victims were unable to secure any personal effects or belongings.

Few days ago, fire destroyed three bedrooms in Gbatu Quarter, while a five bedrooms building in a community named Public Works Yard was swept to the ground. A taxicab was recently left in flames in the main street of Ganta where it completely burnt to ashes. Residents of Ganta are benefiting from cross-border electricity, but the commercial city lacks fire service trucks.



Charred body of the late Saye Konah



CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA



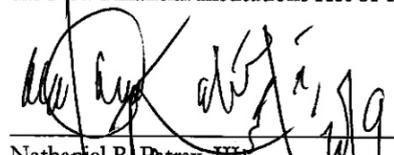
PRESS STATEMENT

CBL Never Received Money for Former Staff of First International Bank Liberia Limited (FIBLL)

MONROVIA – January 10, 2019: The Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) categorically denies the allegation made by some media institutions that the CBL received money to make severance payment to former staff of First International Bank Liberia Limited (FIBLL).

Due to the insolvent and illiquid condition of FIBLL, the CBL implemented a Banking Resolution called Purchase and Assumption (P&A) Agreement which involved the acquisition of assets and liabilities including most of the deposits of FIBLL by GNBL as well as the retention of staff consistent with the P & A Agreement.

Meanwhile, all other assets and liabilities not acquired by GNBL, including outstanding payments to staff are currently being managed through a second phase of the resolution process of FIBLL which includes liquidation. In this regard, CBL contracted a reputable International Auditing Firm to identify and vet the remaining assets and liabilities and subsequently proceed with recovery. Finally, the CBL is proceeding with the resolution of FIBLL in accordance with the New Financial Institutions Act of 1999.


 Nathaniel R. Patray, III
 Executive Governor
 Central Bank of Liberia

CBL denies paying severance to former FIBLL staff



The Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) clarifies that due to the insolvent and illiquid condition of the former First International Bank Liberia Limited or FIBLL, it implemented a Banking Resolution called Purchased and Assumption (P&A) Agreement which involved the acquisition of assets and liabilities including most of the deposits of FBILL by GN Bank Liberia Limited as well as the retention of staff consistent with said agreement.

In a press statement signed by Executive Governor Nathaniel R. Patray, the CBL categorically denies allegation by some media institutions that it received money to make severance payment to former staff. **Friday, January 11, 2019** **Advert for First International Bank Liberia Limited (FIBLL). See page 11 for full text of the CBL Press Statement.**

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Pacquiao plays down presidency talk

Manny Pacquiao played down reports linking him to a bid for the presidency of the Philippines on Wednesday, insisting he remained solely focused on the twilight of his boxing career.

The 40-year-old boxer, already a member of the Philippines Senate, has been repeatedly linked to a future run for the presidency in his homeland where he remains a national hero.

However Pacquiao told reporters on Wednesday he had put any future political aspirations on hold as he prepares to defend his World Boxing Association regular welterweight title against Adrien Broner on January 19 in Las Vegas. "A lot of people are saying that I can be the next President," Pacquiao told AFP.

"But I'm not thinking about that. I don't have plans right now. Whatever path that God gives to me I will fulfill it."

"Being a public servant is different from sports. It's more on the mind and a lot of problems, thinking about how to solve those problems in the country, and also to provide solution to those problems."

Pacquiao is reuniting with longtime trainer Freddie Roach for his clash with Broner at the MGM Grand Garden Arena, following a two-year rupture in what was once regarded as one of the most tightly knit fighter-trainer relationships in boxing.



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