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# The New Dawn

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# Continental News

## Hotel attackers killed by Kenyan forces

Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta has said a siege by suspected militants in Nairobi is over and all the attackers have been "eliminated".

Gunmen attacked the compound in the Westlands district of Kenya's capital on Tuesday, killing at least 14 people.

Officials originally announced the end of the siege hours after it began, but gunfire and explosions were heard again early on Wednesday.

The Somalia-based militant group al-Shabab said it was behind the attack.

It is not clear how many attackers there were.

The complex houses the DusitD2 hotel as well as offices.

In a TV address to the nation, Mr Kenyatta said 14 people had been killed but 700 others were safely evacuated from the complex.

However, the Kenyan Red Cross put the number of dead

at 24.

A US citizen is among the dead, the US state department said. He has been named as Jason Spindler.

A British citizen with dual South African nationality was also killed and another Briton was wounded, the UK Foreign

Office said.

"I can now confirm that... the security operation at Dusit is over and all terrorists have been eliminated," the Kenyan president said.

"We will seek out every person that was involved in the funding, planning and

execution of this heinous act," he added, vowing to pursue them "relentlessly".

"We are a country governed by laws, rules and regulations - a country that embraces peaceful coexistence... I must also state that we are also a nation that never forgets those who hurt our children."

How did the attack unfold?

The attack began at about 15:00 local time (12:00 GMT) when four gunmen threw bombs at vehicles in the car park before entering the lobby, where one blew himself up, police say.

A woman working in a neighbouring building told Reuters news agency: "I just started hearing gunshots, and then started seeing people running away raising their hands up and some were entering the bank to hide for their lives."

Security camera footage showed at least four heavily armed men walking in and opening fire. There are reports they had been seen visiting the compound in recent days.

At 23:00, Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i said

all the buildings in the complex had been secured by security forces.

"The situation is under control and the country is safe," he told reporters. "Terrorism will never defeat us."

But just an hour later gunfire and sporadic explosions were reported in the area. There was more heavy gunfire at about 07:00.

Security forces combed their way through the building where frightened workers had barricaded themselves inside.

In the early hours of Wednesday, more than 100 people were rescued. About 30 people are being treated at Nairobi hospitals, media reports say.

The five-star DusitD2 hotel has 101 rooms. Located in the Westlands suburb, minutes from the capital's business district, it has its own spa and several restaurants.

Kenya has seen a number of terror attacks in recent years - most notably in areas close to the Somali border and in the country's capital. -BBC



Image copyright REUTERS: The attackers, two of which are shown here, were caught on CCTV as they entered the complex

## Zimbabwe pastor arrested amidst protests

Police in Zimbabwe have arrested a prominent activist, Pastor Evan Mawarire, as protests against soaring fuel prices enter their third day.

Mr Mawarire was taken from his home and charged with inciting violence.

Offices and businesses remained closed on Wednesday and the streets of the capital, Harare, were largely deserted.

Several people have been

killed and hundreds arrested in the protests. Mobile networks, acting on government orders, have suspended internet access.

The BBC's Shingai Nyoka in Harare says many Zimbabweans are questioning what happens next, especially as they can no longer access popular messaging platforms such as Whatsapp - a major source of information.

Earlier on Wednesday, police fired tear gas to

disperse a crowd that had gathered at the only supermarket currently operating in Harare's business district.

However, there have not any fresh reports of protesters manning barricades on Wednesday - as seen earlier this week.

Pastor Mawarire was arrested by armed police at his house on Wednesday morning.

The pastor gained fame as a figurehead of the #ThisFlag protests against the former president, Robert Mugabe, in 2016.

He was cleared in 2017 on charges of attempting a violent overthrow of the government.

The latest street protests have coincided with a three-day strike called by unions angered by a more-than-twofold increase in the price of fuel.

President Emmerson Mnangagwa said the price hike was aimed at tackling shortages caused by an increase in fuel use and "rampant" illegal trading.

Popular anger over the decision has been spurred by discontent over runaway inflation and a decline in living standards.

The protesters have

## Ex-Ivory Coast leader Gbagbo intends to return home: daughter



Former Ivory Coast President Laurent Gbagbo's daughter Marie Laurence is seen during an interview in front of the International Criminal Court in The Hague, Netherlands, January 16, 2019. REUTERS/Piroschka

Former Ivory Coast President Laurent Gbagbo intends to return to his homeland after his release by the International Criminal Court, his daughter told Reuters on Wednesday.

She declined to comment on his possible political ambitions.

"My father will not live in any other country than Ivory Coast. He would go back and

we expect him to go back," Marie Laurence Gbagbo said in an interview.

Gbagbo was acquitted of all charges at the war crimes court on Tuesday but judges have yet to rule on whether to attach any conditions to his release. Prosecutors have asked he not be allowed to travel to Ivory Coast due to fears he would not return to The Hague for appeals. -Reuters

accused the president - currently on a tour of Russia and Asian countries - of failing to live up to his promises.

Mr Mnangagwa came to

power in November 2017 after Mr Mugabe resigned following a military takeover and mass demonstrations. -BBC



Image copyright REUTERS: Armed security forces have been controlling access to a central Harare supermarket

# EDITORIAL

## “Green city” turns smoky city

**MONROVIA CITY MAYOR** Jefferson Kojjee's dream to transform the Liberian capital into a “green city” is becoming far-fetched as marketers and residents of various communities have resorted to burning heap of uncollected garbage across the capital, spewing thick smoke instead, over the city.

**FOR ABOUT NEARLY** two to three months, the Monrovia City Corporation (MCC) headed by Mayor Kojjee has failed to collect garbage in the streets and at market places, resulting to stockpile of filth engulfing the city, accompanied by flies, cockroaches and rats.

**MONROVIA MAY SOON** face a potential health hazard as these insects and rodents could lead to diseases such as dysentery, diarrhea, typhoid, and yellow fever, among health problems.

**IN A BID** to get relief from the stinks that have engulfed the city, residents have resorted to burning the garbage both day and night, sending thick smoke into the air that has created serious pollution, even creating more danger for the population.

**THE YOUTHFUL CITY** mayor came to office, promising to make Monrovia green thru a 180-day campaign with support from the government and partners.

**PRESIDENT GEORGE MANNEH** Weah, accompanied by First Lady Clar Marie Weah, and officials of government launched the “Weah for Clean City Campaign” March last year in several communities across Monrovia.

“**THE CAMPAIGN WE** hope will reach out to every area of society and seek to instill in Monrovia, particularly residents and visitors to this city, the importance of keeping our public places and city clean,” Kojjee had said.

**BUT BARELY 10** months after the launch, has the campaign completely come to a standstill with MCC garbage trucks inconspicuously absent from the streets, leaving residents and the general public to contend with the heaps of garbage and the associated stinks and looming diseases.

**KOIJEE AND HIS** team of officials are providing no explanation for the ugly situation, which if left unchecked, may lead to a national health crisis. Something urgently needs to be done to address the problem.

**IF THE CITY** Mayor cannot live up to the task, he should relinquish the office immediately to give way to somebody serious because the lives of more than 1.5 million inhabitants of Monrovia should not be sacrificed for his apparent insensitivity and inaction.

# COMMENTARY

By Robert Skidelsky

## Rhymes from Central Europe

**T**he rise - or better, the return - of “illiberal democracy” in parts of Europe today surprises us, because it refutes the established narrative of progress. But what is odd is not the reappearance of ancient faiths and prejudices, but rather the liberal belief that they could so easily be overcome.

**L**ONDON - On December 3, 2018, the Central European University announced that from September 2019 it would relocate most of its teaching from Budapest to Vienna. Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's government had, in effect, closed down the CEU, founded by Orbán's favourite bogeyman, George Soros. “Arbitrary eviction of a reputable university is a flagrant violation of academic freedom,” declared the university's rector, Michael Ignatieff. “It is a dark day for Europe and a dark day for Hungary.”

But not for Orbán, who, as The New York Times reported, “has long viewed the school as a bastion of liberalism, presenting a threat to his vision of creating an ‘illiberal democracy.’” And Orbán's “desire to shut it down was only deepened by its association with Mr. Soros,” whom he “has spent years demonizing.” In particular, he accuses Soros, who was born in Hungary and survived the Nazi occupation and the Holocaust, “of seeking to destroy European civilization by promoting illegal immigration.”

Mark Twain is often quoted as saying, “History doesn't repeat itself, but it often rhymes.” Sadly, we are a history-blind generation. Most people who read history do so for fun, not for instruction. The European Union is a symbol of overcoming the past, marking out a future guided by insights from science and economics, not from history. Yet disturbing recent developments, not just in Hungary, rhyme with ideas and discourses that most thought had been discarded decades ago.

Norman Stone's sparkling new book, *Hungary: A Short History*, is a warning against ignoring history. It presents a country that never quite “caught up” with the West, and therefore never “settled down” to a calm post-nationalist existence. The modernizing influence of industrialization has always been subsumed in the problem of borders, religions, languages, and nationalities.

Hungary dreamed of nationhood long before it became a nation. Class structure took a typical East European form: German landlords, a Jewish merchant and financial class, and a “native” peasantry. A standardized Hungarian language was invented in the nineteenth century before any but “peasants and back of beyond clergymen” spoke it. Hungarian nationhood came too late - and was too often frustrated - to be readily reconciled with a larger European identity; nor, unlike in Germany, was nationalism discredited by self-inflicted catastrophe.

In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the medieval Catholic Magyar kingdom of Hungary disappeared, its territory squeezed between Islam and Protestantism. It was first conquered by the Ottomans and then incorporated into the Habsburg Empire, before re-emerging as a “gigantic dwarf” with the establishment in 1867 of the Austro-Hungarian dual monarchy.

The Treaty of Trianon (1920) broke up the Austro-Hungarian empire into its “national” parts (including a much-shrunken Hungary), roughly in line with Woodrow Wilson's principle of “national self-determination,” but left large, unhappy Hungarian minorities in Romania,

Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia. Of the three successor states, only Czechoslovakia managed to establish a stable democracy - but only by keeping Hungarians (and far more numerous ethnic Germans) out of government.

Hungary was ruled by a dictator, Admiral Miklós Horthy, from 1920 to 1944. In the Vienna Award of 1940, Hitler handed back Transylvanian Romania to Hungary in exchange for Hungarian adherence to the Axis. After 1945, Hungary reverted to its 1920 frontier, nominally independent, but in fact part of the subordinate “people's democracies” of the Soviet bloc. It regained its sovereignty in 1989 and joined the European Union in 2004. In its current truncated form, Hungary is not big enough to strut on the European stage, but not small enough to fit into a post-nationalist mold.

Stone is particularly good on the role of Jews in Hungarian history. Although the Jewish contribution to modern Hungary was “overwhelmingly positive” in culture, thought, and economic development, there were enough “dark sides” to entrench anti-Semitism. The ability of emancipated Jews to remake themselves into whatever form circumstances required fed the great anti-Semitic conspiratorial myth. Twenty-eight of the 36 leaders of the short-lived Hungarian Soviet Republic of 1919 were Jewish. This led directly to the birth of Hungarian fascism and, ultimately, the deportation and extermination of more than 400,000 Jews in 1944. Jews who survived were also prominent in Mátyás Rákosi's Stalinist regime from 1949-1956.

The rise - or better, the return - of “illiberal democracy” in parts of Europe today surprises us, because it refutes the established narrative of progress. But what is odd is not the reappearance of ancient faiths and prejudices, but rather the liberal belief that they could so easily be overcome. Our theory of progress is unidirectional. It links the growth of civilization to the growth of knowledge. But as the political philosopher John Gray points out, in ethics and politics, unlike in the natural sciences, things that are learned don't necessarily stay learned. Even in the United States, torture was rehabilitated during the Bush presidency, and Trump is certainly some kind of throwback.

Likewise, different countries do not necessarily learn the same thing. That is why attention to their particular histories is so important. To understand why 17.4 million people in Britain voted to leave the EU, it is not enough to call them “left behinds” or ill-educated. One needs to know British history to understand why one suit does not fit all sizes.

Two rhymes from history can be heard in contemporary Hungarian politics: nationalism and anti-Semitism. So it is not foolish to draw parallels with interwar fascism. But to rhyme is not the same thing as to repeat. There is no parallel today to the existential crisis of European civilization following the World War I. And anti-Soros sentiment is a pale shadow of classical anti-Semitism. With a modicum of common sense, liberals should be able to ensure that the old tunes are muted. Not everything done in the name of history should be condoned. But nor should we neglect history as a portent of alternative futures.

**New Dawn**  
FULLY INDEPENDENT

O-PED

By Bernard J. Tyson

# Ending the Mental Health Stigma

**O**AKLAND - The world faces an epidemic of mental health problems that cuts across borders, economies, and cultures and carries a stigma that leaves people suffering in silence. Tackling the problem requires political, business, and civil society leaders to make mental health and wellness a global priority, starting with the Globalization 4.0 discussions at this month's annual meeting of the World Economic Forum.

Davos is clearly an appropriate forum in which to raise the issue. According to a study by the World Health Organization, depression and anxiety disorders cost the global economy \$1 trillion every year in lost productivity. Yet the same study also suggested that every dollar invested in scaling up treatment for depression and anxiety - the two most common mental health conditions - can generate a return of \$4 in terms of improved wellbeing and increased ability to work.

The WHO study is a welcome intervention. For too long, we have detached the mind from the body and regarded mental conditions as something separate from our overall health. As a result, millions of people needing mental health support have been ignored, with a dramatic impact on economic resources, productivity, and output.

The reality, of course, is that mental and physical health are closely connected, with each contributing to overall wellbeing. We must recognize this if we want the world to be a happier and more prosperous place for future generations.

To succeed, efforts to tackle major global problems such as mental health must be collaborative and sustainable. In this spirit, I urge leaders joining me in Davos to consider adopting four critical priorities to support mental health and wellness.

First, we need to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health in the workplace. No one should suffer in silence with a condition that can be treated and even prevented in some cases. By acknowledging mental health and wellness issues at work, we can make a difference in our homes, schools, and communities as well. Seeking mental health care should be as routine and unremarkable as seeking treatment for high blood pressure, diabetes, or a heart condition.

Furthermore, we must reduce mental health inequity, a frequently ignored issue. This is often a problem in lower-income communities, where populations may be at greater risk of pathology and often face the highest obstacles to getting care, in part owing to a lack of the specialized resources available in wealthier areas. There are some innovative approaches to addressing this problem, such as Zimbabwe's Friendship Bench, and I look forward to learning more about this project from one of its representatives in Davos.

Third, our health systems must shift from "sick-care" to "well-care." To move mental wellbeing into the mainstream of health care and pursue primary prevention as the most efficient approach, we must understand how to counteract and ameliorate the effects of adverse childhood experiences, which are highly correlated with poor mental and physical health later in life. The game-changer will be found not in hospitals or clinics, but in communities that nurture rather than traumatize the next generations. For companies such as ours, this means learning how best to deliver health, not just health care.

Last, and most relevant for health-care leaders, we must redouble our efforts to connect mind and body. By better integrating mental health services into primary care systems, we can show that a mental health condition is no different from a respiratory, endocrine, or heart issue. And people needing treatment beyond what can be delivered in primary care should be able to see a specialist in the same way they would be referred to an orthopedist or cardiologist. A healthy mind is just as important to our overall health as strong bones and hearts are.

For the past three years, I have sought to use the World Economic Forum to make mental health and wellness a global priority. This year, I am encouraged and gratified to see that mental health will be a larger part of the discussions in Davos.

By bringing together global leaders from all sectors, we can make further progress toward ending the silent stigma surrounding mental health issues. We can devise innovative ways to improve mental health services, as well as people's access to them. And we can help to ensure that mental health joins physical wellbeing as an essential component of Globalization 4.0.



**MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING**  
REQUEST for EXPRESSION OF INTEREST  
FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES  
(REPAIR OF GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA E-BILLBOARD)



(RFP No. MFDP/QCBS/001/18-19)

1. The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning anticipates funds from the Government of Liberia National Budget for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 and intends to apply part of it to eligible payments under the contract Repairs of Government of Liberia E-Billboard (RFP No. MFDP/QCBS/001/18-19)

2. **Background:**

In 2014, the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP), through USAID GEMS hired the services of an Italian Firm (Tecno Vision) to erect a digital billboard to be used for the Government of Liberia Open Budget Initiative. The intent of the billboard was to create public awareness of the Government of Liberia commitment for increased efficiency, accountability, and economic development. It gives detailed information on budget allocation across spending entities, developmental projects spanning across all sectors, revenue collection and how it is expensed. The billboard has for the past years stopped working, the CPU that connects the monitoring displayed is no longer working. The lighting of the billboard has some technical problem as it doesn't send light to the entire screen. The technology used is "Tecno Vision".

The E-billboard Repairs will scale to support the display of detail information on budget allocation across spending entities, developmental projects spanning across all sectors, revenue collection, expenditure reports, etc. The e-billboard will display other governmental activities that are to come in the near future. This process is geared toward identifying a qualified vendor that would repair the e-billboard.

Firms with the requisite qualification can provide a complete proposal to successfully implement this project. MFDP is seeking a qualified consultant firm with the requisite experience to perform this task as indicated in the Terms of Reference (TOR) below.

3. The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning now invites Expression of Interests (EOI) from eligible registered ICT Consultant firm for this service.

4. The Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Quality Cost Based Selection (QCBS) consultancy selection method procedures enshrined in the 2010 Public Procurement & Concessions Act (PPCA) of Liberia.

5. The selected consultant firm shall perform the consultancy services for the execution of the project;

6. **Scope of Work:**

This assignment seeks a competent firm to fulfill set requirements that the MFDP has identified as it relates to the E-billboard. Namely, the conducting of assessment, cataloging the issues, bringing back online the Government of Liberia E-billboard and training of ICT staff to take over the management of the e-billboard.

7. **Qualification Requirements:**

- Show proof of experience in providing consultant service for similar projects in the last ten years. (list project title, project cost, project location(addresses, emails and phone numbers-minimum Three clients);
- Conduct an assessment on the E-billboard to enable the consultant presents a Detailed understanding of the Requirements and Tasks
- The lead on the project must have a degree in electrical engineering with at least five years of post-degree experience. CVs should be provided.
- Provide Current Business Registration certificate
- Provide Article of Incorporation
- Provide Recent Tax Clearance certificate
- Provide Reference list of past clients, addresses and contacts( minimum three)
- Must show proof of PPCC Vendor registration

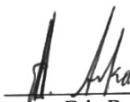
8. Sealed Expression of Interest (EOI) must be delivered to the Procurement Unit not later than 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 7, 2019. Late EOI will be rejected and returned to consultants unopened. EOI will be opened/recorded in the presence of consultants who choose to attend or their representatives on Thursday, February 7, 2019 at 1:00 p.m in the 10<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room of the Ministry of Finance and Development, Broad & Mechlin Streets, Monrovia, Liberia.

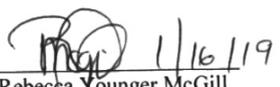
9. Consultant firms that meet the qualification requirements will be short-listed and invited to submit final proposals.

10. Expression of Interest (EOI) must be submitted in one (1) original set and two (2) copies

11. The address referred to is:

Procurement Unit  
Ministry of Finance and Development Planning  
Broad and Mechlin Streets  
Monrovia, Liberia  
Cell#: (+231) 88 657 9455 or 88 075 3568  
Email: [ebarkoi@mfdp.gov.lr](mailto:ebarkoi@mfdp.gov.lr) or [mgldaydor@mfdp.gov.lr](mailto:mgldaydor@mfdp.gov.lr)

Signed:   
Eric B. Arko  
Procurement Director

Approved:   
Hon. Rebecca Younger McGill  
Deputy Minister for Administration

# LIBERIANS DEBATE

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



The campus-based Student Unification Part (SUP) of the University of Liberia in a press statement issued Wednesday, 16 January called on authorities of the UL to immediately reverse or revoke the suspension of political activities at the State-run institution.

The New Dawn asks some Liberians in Monrovia what they make of the call coming from the SUP leadership on campus.



**Diana Kollie**

“That was a great decision by the authorities of the University of Liberia and I salute them for this marvelous decision. I hope you guys will just forget about too much politics now and go to class. SUP still joking; you people need to go to LINSU to conduct free and fair election, because we recognize LINSU. You people just try to disrupt our peace. There will be a serious trouble. We the masses will take the Law into our own hand.”



**Soon Noring**

“I will support SUP on this, if only they can keep on engaging all stakeholders to ensure that the democratic credential of Liberia is not mutilated by pro-fascists and opportunists. The history of Liberia all came from the university; I just hope this will not go very long before some politicians make use of the problem. I say this because those guys, who are acting like they are defending our rights as students, are doing this for what they can get for themselves. That’s the only way now to get money because of the tuition-free school. The ban on student political activities is the beginning of a new revolution and we pray for good result.”

**Fatu Borbor**

“SUP must embark on ideological aid. This failed enterprise is dying rapidly. Long Live the Vanguard Student Unification Party and Long Live the fighting spirit of the ideological soldiers and/or militants of SUP. But force is the not best way to solve problem as university students. We know SUP has put out great people, who are working in and out of Liberia, so let the party name speaks for what it stands for.”



**Aaron Jallah**

“SUP will fight with everything in order to protect the rights of the ordinary people and the University student in general. We have absolute right to participate in politics on the campuses of the University of Liberia. Sup is the only hope for the masses. Together, we can do better and we will not bow down to any golden image in Liberia. Long live the fighting spirit of the indomitable Vanguard Student Unification Party (SUP). We believe in the resilience of the student masses. SUP will never die.”



**Abraham Toles**

“I support SUP 100% this one; I say this because in this 21st Century you can’t stop people from freedom of speech and association. I think our striving democracy is under attack under President George M. Weah, a Head of State who has grossly violated almost all of our laws including our Constitution in less than a year. We know he did not go to any university in Liberia, but he knows that SUP is a freedom fighting party, and not under his leadership it will go to sleep. I think political freedom is an indispensable democratic value; it is unreasonable and inconsiderate for any university or regime to



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callously cease the political rights of over 19,000 conscious students. I see the banning of student political activities reechoes Liberia’s gloomy past and there are enough signs to prove that dictatorship is virulently evolving.”

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Weah declares Thursday, 17 January ECOWAS Human Rights Day

President George Manneh Weah has by proclamation declared Thursday, 17 January as Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Human Rights Day and is to be observed throughout the nation as a working holiday.

executing appropriate programs to suit the day's observance.

A Foreign Ministry release reveals that the celebration will take place at the Bella Casa Hotel in Sinkor.

The event will be held under the international

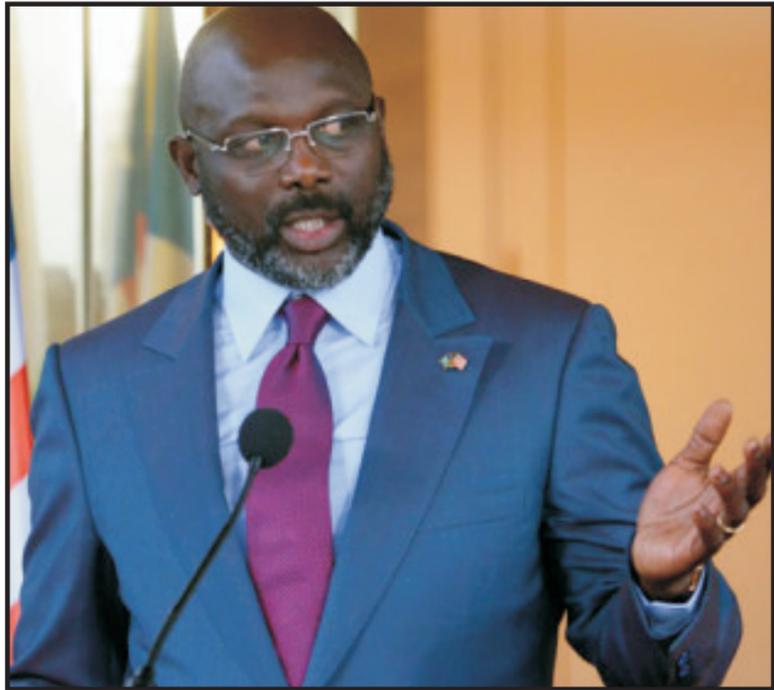
reflect and recommit to the solemn undertakings by the ECOWAS and the Liberian people to safeguard human and people's right," the release says.

The celebration further intends to awaken greater awareness for the peoples and governments of the ECOWAS about the value of life and humility and to renew the sub region's collective commitment to protect, respect and uphold fundamental human rights.

The symbolic celebration of the event shows gratitude of partnership and continued collaboration aimed at strengthening the cooperation between the West African States and the National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI).

"Meanwhile, Liberia as a founding member of ECOWAS expressed strong commitment to the principles of human rights by establishing an Independent National Commission Rights (INCHR) through an act of the National Legislature in 2005," the release says.

The proclamation says that the 50th Ordinary Session of the Authority of Head of State of Government of the ECOWAS was convened on 16 December in Abuja, Nigeria to promote human rights and inclusive government mainly with regards to women's rights.--  
*Press release*



According to a release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Wednesday, 16 January, the proclamation orders citizens and foreign residents within the Republic, national and international organizations concerned, as well as government agencies to join the Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR) in

theme: "Promoting Affirmative Actions on the Rights of Girl Child Education" with the national theme: "Take Actions to Protect our Girls from Harmful Traditional Practices".

"The existence of this day guarantees the promotion, protection and respect for human rights by state parties. It is also an opportunity to

# IDA identifies with two schools in Bomi

By Lewis S. Teh

In an effort to buttress government's response strategy to strengthening the educational sector of Liberia, a non-profitable NGO called Initiative for Democratic Alternatives (IDA) has restored hopes of destitute kids in two public schools in Tubmanburg, Bomi County.

IDA Consultant Mr. Alvin M. Freeman delivered two separate checks to the Jenneh Public School and Kingdom Builders School Thursday, 10 January in Bomi.

At the Kingdom Builders School, he presented a check for LD\$90,000.00 and at the Jenneh Public School, he also

benefiting from the assistance in five counties.

He says the five counties include Montserrado, Bomi, Grand Cape Mount, Grand Bassa and Margibi.

According to Mr. Freeman, IDA has been involved into providing school materials like text books, bags and funding for their tuition.

He says IDA has 231 students in 11 schools that are benefiting from the financial assistance being provide by his organization.

Meanwhile, Freeman says IDA seeks assistance from donors and partners before meeting its obligation of



presented a check for LD\$34,460.00, respectively.

Mr. Freeman says IDA embarked on the mission as a result of the prevailing economic situation that puts parents in difficult position to send their children to school.

"We are involved into school and community programs, offering scholarship [to] less fortunate children in Montserrado and other counties," he states.

He says text books and other educational materials being provided include the financial assistance by IDA in the tune of US\$5,165.00 for the 231 students that are

providing financial assistance.

"We are hoping to take this kind gesture to [the] rest of the counties and the introduction of skills training and adult literacy for people in other counties," he explains.

According to him, IDA focuses on students from kindergarten to sixth grade, and students that are not above 15 years.

Speaking on behalf of the Jenneh Public School, the Vice Principal for Administration Brima S. Coomber expressed delight over the financial assistance being provided by IDA.--  
*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

# Rep. Koon briefs constituents -Health, Education top priority list

By Ethel A. Tweh

Montserrado County Electoral District # 1 1 Representatives, Richard N. Koon, says under his leadership, the district has made significant progress both in health and education, noting that his people now enjoy better health centers and services.

He says in his first year in office, he prioritized the two sectors because they are very important to the needs of the people.

Reporting to his constituents on Sunday, 13 January at the Barnesville Town in the suburb of Monrovia, Representative Koon details that during the period under review he donated drugs, an ambulance and medical equipment to various health centers across the district.

undertakings.

He promises to continuously lobby for assistance for the development and growth of his district, assuring that the plight of the people will always be highlighted at the House in



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seeking their welfare.

However, Representative Koon, who is also a lecturer at the state-owned University of Liberia, notes that he had gone at the Capitol with the perception that the House of Representatives is a place where money falls from

heaven, but disappointingly, this is not so.

Koon defeated incumbent lawmaker Gabriel Nyenkan in the 2017 elections to take over District#11 as its direct Representative in the House. -  
*Editing by Jonathan Browne*

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**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

# SUP wants suspension on politics lifted

## -Calls on stakeholders to intervene

By Roosevelt G. Jabah

The campus-based Student Unification Party or SUP at the University of Liberia calls on authorities of the university to immediately lift the recent suspension of political activities on campuses of the UL.

The UL Administration last week (January 11, 2019) suspended all student groups and campus-based political activities on all its campuses, until further notice.

Vice President for UL Relations, Norris Tweah, in a press release last Friday, said no political group shall assemble or hold meetings or engage in any political-related activities on any University of Liberia campus during the period of suspension.

The release explained the pronouncement affects political/solidarity marches, political gatherings, the wearing of symbols and emblems depicting and promoting campus-based political groups and student protests, among others.

The administration threatened to expel any student involved in any activity that disrupts normal university activity, reminding that the UL Student Handbook strictly prohibits violence as a means of solving problems.

Rules 9, 10 and 11 of the

Student Handbook, states: No student shall for any cause whatever insult, assault or battle teachers, staff, fellow students and other university personnel or visitors to the University campus.

But a reaction, SUP says the move by the administration on campus is ill-informed, unwarranted, and influenced

Nyumah, says the commotion on the campuses of the University of Liberia last Friday was orchestrated by thugs and renegade groups allegedly hired by Monrovia City Mayor Jefferson Kojjee, Minister of State for Presidential Affairs Nathaniel McGill, Representative Acarous M. Gray and Minister of Finance and Development Planning Samuel Tweah.

cease political rights of over 1900 students. The banning of students activities re-birth Liberia gloomy past”, Student Nyumah notes.

According to him, the suspension violates the UL 1952 charter, the 2012 Student Handbook, the 1986 charter on Human and People’s Rights, the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and Articles 15 and 16 of the Constitution

Council, Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Liberia to intervene before the current situation goes off hand.

“Our striving democracy”, it emphasizes, “is under attack and those democratic gains made so far are fast diminishing under President George M. Weah - Head of State who has grossly violated almost all of our laws including our Constitution in less than a year.”

Meanwhile, SUP says it no longer recognizes the current leadership of the Liberia National Student Union (LINSU), claiming that it has fallen prey to the Coalition for Democratic Change-led government.

“We are pleased to announce to you a group named Liberia National Conscious Students Union (LNCSU), with an AD hoc leadership of the newly formed alternative voice of all students across our Republic.”

Secretary General Nyumah names students J. Butu Levi, as President, Clint Paawah Layweh, Vice President for National Affairs and Jusu Kamara, Secretary General as members of the Ad hoc leadership that will work closely with SUP, solidarity forces and their prominent student to stand in the defense of students.

SUP has of late, been critical of the government, citing mismanagement of the economy, constitutional violations, among other excesses. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*



by the government and pro-regime stooges.

Addressing a news conference Wednesday, 16 January on the Capitol Hill campus of the university, party secretary general Ephraim T.

“In this 21 century, when freedom of speech, association and political freedom have become indispensable democratic values, it is unreasonable for any university or regime to

of Liberia.

Nyumah explains that the government has been in fear since Student Martin K. N. Kollie emerged as Standard Bearer of SUP, troubled of his possible ascendancy as President of the University of Liberia Student Union (ULSU).

SUP calls on the UL Board of Trustees, the National Legislature, Liberia Council of Churches, National Muslim

# Bomi caucus damns Supt. Robinson

## -For sale of county's only yellow machine

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Senator Sando Dazoe Johnson of Bomi County says the county’s legislative caucus has brought a guilty verdict against Superintendent Adama Robinson for singlehandedly

selling the only yellow machine that belongs to Bomi.

He says members of the caucus reached the verdict on 13 January following an intensive investigation.

He adds that officials of the county had been concerned

who really stole the single yellow machine and motive behind the action.

According to Senator Johnson, Superintendent Robinson admitted to the caucus that he sold the earthmoving equipment as scrap with the knowledge and consent of other local officials of the county.

The Bomi County Senator quotes Superintendent Robinson as saying that he sold the equipment because it had not been in good condition for several years prior to his appointment as Superintendent.

He says the caucus has instructed Superintendent Robinson to appear on two of the county’s community radio stations to publicly apologize for his illegal action.

Effort by the New Dawn to contact Superintendent Adama Robinson on the matter proved fruitless as one of his office staff Kadala Allison, told this paper the Superintendent would speak on the matter through a formal statement.



# CDC lawmakers

Starts from back page

president including the speaker and others,” Gray explains.

He says official vehicles were given to members of the 54th Legislatures, which saw the Speaker’s vehicles increased three.

But Rep. Sloh continues that before the 54th Legislature could take its annual recess, it was concluded among members of the House that the government was broke and could not give both cars and the US\$39,000 for legislative project.

According to him, majority members took the car instead. But he says since then, they are yet to receive any of the two.

The two CDC lawmakers were bitter with each other while in studio, and they also received lashes from many callers that phoned in to the program to express their views.

Among the callers, Thomas phoned in from Gbarpolu County, noting that “it’s a shame on you lawmakers to be on air fighting over money while the people that elected you are less taking care of.”

This week, some members of the House of Representatives including Rep. Sloh vowed not to attend sessions until their concerns can be addressed by the House of Representatives.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

# Français

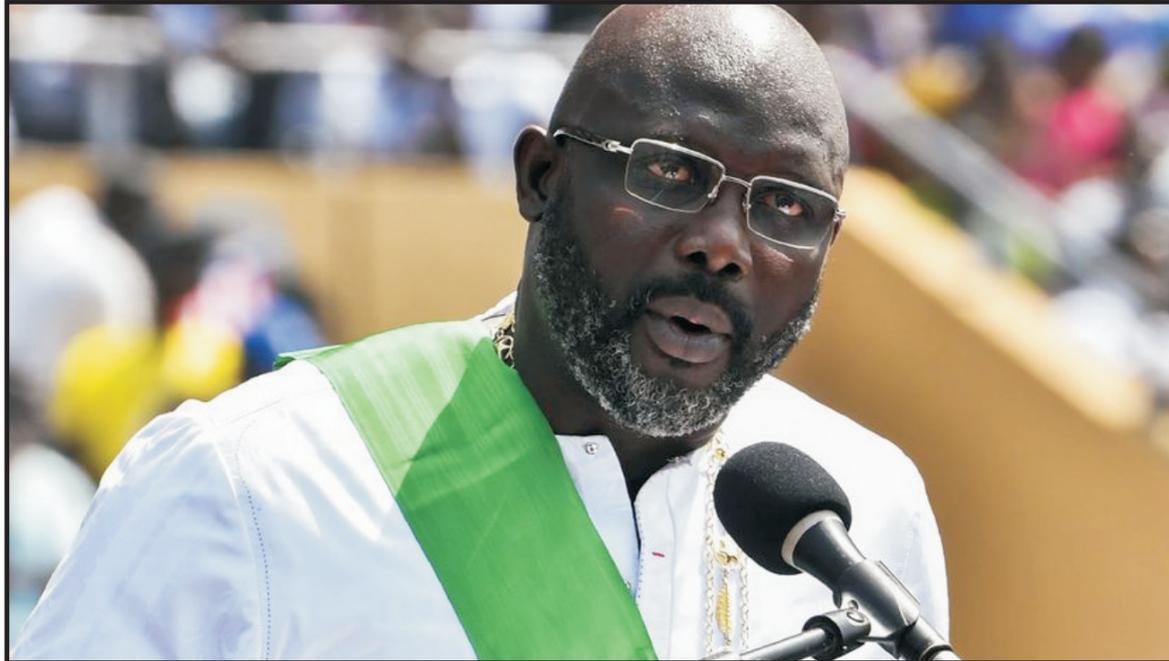
## Une série de manifestations risquent de perturber le message annuel de Weah

Pendant que le président George Manneh Weah se prépare pour livrer son deuxième message annuel le quatrième lundi 28 janvier conformément à la Constitution, des législateurs de Capitol Hill et des membres du groupe de la société civile, Economic Freedom Fighters of Liberia, prévoient d'organiser des manifestations pour perturber l'événement.

Selon des reportages du Capitole, Thomas Goshua, représentant du comté de Grand Bassa, et le législateur du comté de Montserrado, Yekeh Kolubah, se plaignent de ce que l'exécutif et son chef, le président Weah, n'aient pas mis à disposition du financement pour entreprendre des projets dans leurs districts respectifs.

Ils soupçonnent le président de vouloir les punir à cause de leurs critiques à l'égard du gouvernement, en particulier pour avoir dénoncé la manière dont certains responsables gèrent les affaires de l'État.

Les deux représentants Kolubah et Goshua menacent



de quitter la chambre commune William Richard Tolbert au Capitole lorsque le président Weah prendra la parole pour transmettre son message annuel le lundi 28 janvier 2019, si le pouvoir exécutif ne verse pas les fonds pour leurs projets communautaires.

Le représentant Kolubah, qui s'était présenté comme

candidat indépendant et a remporté un siège à la Chambre basse, a déclaré qu'il était contacté avec d'autres législateurs pour qu'ils rejoignent la manifestation.

Quant au soi-disant commandant en chef des combattants de la liberté économique du Libéria, Emmanuel Gonquoi, il a annoncé que lui et ses

camarades descendraient dans la rue à Monrovia pour la deuxième fois, si le gouvernement ne révélait pas les résultats de l'enquête sur la disparition présumée des 16 milliards de dollars libériens.

S'exprimant devant le NewDawn le mardi 15 janvier, via un téléphone, Gonquoi a dénoncé le fait que le

gouvernement n'ait pas divulgué les conclusions de l'enquête.

Selon lui, l'équipe d'enquête présidentielle mise en place par le gouvernement avait soumis ses conclusions à plusieurs reprises depuis, mais l'administration Weah refuse d'en informer le public, car le contenu l'incrimine.

Il est inacceptable pour lui que le Président, face à l'énorme scandale financier auquel est confronté l'État, se présente devant le peuple libérien pour livrer « son soit disant message annuel ».

L'article 58 de la Constitution du Libéria stipule que : « Le quatrième lundi du mois de janvier de chaque année, le Président doit présenter le programme législatif de l'administration pour la session à venir et présenter au Parlement une fois par an un rapport sur l'état de la République, tout en mettant en exergue la situation économique de la République. Le rapport doit ainsi couvrir les dépenses ainsi que les recettes de l'Etat.

## Les législateurs promettent de boycotter la session parlementaire en cours

Certains membres de la Chambre des représentants ont décidé de ne pas prendre part à la session parlementaire tant que les autorités de la chambre basse ne se penchent pas sur leurs préoccupations.

Ce mardi 15 janvier, six représentants, à savoir notamment les députés Jay Nagbe Sloh de Sinoe; Beyan D. Howard de Lofa; Thomas Goshua et Vincent S. T. Willie

de Grand Bassa, Adolph A. Lawrence et Yekeh Y. Kolubah, de Montserrado, ont demandé à la plénière de suspendre l'ordre du jour de la Chambre en vue d'une séance exécutive.

Dans une communication adressée à la séance plénière, les six législateurs ont déclaré que leur demande avait pour but d'inviter la Chambre des représentants à débattre d'un certain nombre de questions

très pertinentes qui affectent le bon fonctionnement de l'hémicycle.

Selon eux, ces problèmes ont également de graves répercussions sur leur prestation de services dans leurs circonscriptions respectives. Ils ont menacé de ne participer à aucune discussion autre que la session exécutive qu'ils ont demandée.

Mais, à la suite de la lecture de la communication, le représentant Acarous Moses Gray, membre de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) au pouvoir, a proposé que la question soit publique, car ils n'avaient rien à cacher.

La motion a été appuyée et la parole a été donnée au représentant Sloh. Mais celui-ci a déclaré qu'ils voulaient discuter des questions concernant la Chambre des représentants et non le public.

Mais le représentant Gray a insisté qu'il n'y a rien dans la communication qui puisse convaincre la plénière de la nécessité de se réunir en

session exécutive.

A Gray d'ajouter « Si vous voulez qu'il ait une session exécutive, il faut que la question soit clairement définie. Il faut que l'on sache pourquoi on va en session exécutive ».

Par ailleurs, le représentant Adolph A. Lawrence a déclaré qu'au cours des sept années qu'il passées au Capitole, jamais des questions qui touchent les membres du parlement n'ont été abordées en public.

Après plusieurs minutes de débats entre les législateurs, le représentant Gray a proposé que la communication soit rejetée, les législateurs ne voulant pas parler en public.

Dans une interview avec le représentant Sloh après la séance, il a déclaré vouloir savoir ce qu'il advient du carburant hors taxes qu'il ne reçoit plus depuis un mois.

Ils veulent des explications sur les bénéficiaires du carburant. Selon le député Sloh, lorsque le président Chambers était un législateur ordinaire, il avait présenté un projet de loi appelant à la

normalisation des salaires et des avantages du Président et du vice-président de la Chambre des représentants.

Sloh a fait observer cependant que le budget de Chambers a été multiplié par 15 par rapport à ce que gagnent les députés, pourtant ils sont tous égaux en tant que députés.

Le représentant Sloh déplore en outre que, lorsqu'ils ont adopté le budget, le président de la Chambre des représentants leur ait dit que l'exécutif n'était pas disposé à leur donner des voitures. Mais par la suite, deux options leur ont été présentées. Il fallait choisir entre la voiture ou le projet de soutien législatif. Mais apparemment ils n'ont reçu ni les voitures, ni le soutien financier.

Par ailleurs, le député Sloh a qualifié le président de la Chambre des Représentants B h o f a l C h a m b e r s d'incompétent. Selon lui, il n'est pas capable de diriger 73 personnes. Il a en outre averti qu'il n'est pas ici question de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC).



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# Français

## Éditorial

### La « ville verte » se transforme en une poubelle en fumée

Le rêve du maire de la ville de Monrovia, Jefferson Kojee, de transformer la capitale libérienne en une « ville verte » semble s'éloigner de plus en plus, tandis que les commerçants et les habitants de diverses communautés ont recours à la combustion des déchets, ce qui dégage une épaisse fumée en plein milieu de la ville.

Depuis près de deux ou trois mois, la Corporation de la Ville de Monrovia (MCC), dirigée par le maire Kojee, n'a pas pu débarrasser les rues et les marchés des ordures dont l'accumulation risque d'engloutir la ville, outre la prolifération sans précédent des mouches, des cancrelats et des rats.

Monrovia risque bientôt de faire face à un problème de santé, car ces insectes et rongeurs pourraient entraîner des maladies telles que la dysenterie, la diarrhée, la fièvre typhoïde ou encore la fièvre jaune, pour ne citer que ces pathologies.

Gênés par la puanteur insupportable, les habitants se sont mis à brûler les collines d'ordures, projetant ainsi malheureusement dans l'air une épaisse fumée avec un risque de pollution grave, voire un danger accru pour la population.

Le jeune maire de la ville de Monrovia, lors de sa prise de fonctions, avait promis de faire de la capitale Monrovia une ville verte avec le soutien du gouvernement et de ses partenaires.

Le président George Manneh Weah, accompagné de la Première Dame, Clar Marie Weah, et des représentants du gouvernement, avait lancé la campagne « Weah for Clean City » en mars dernier dans plusieurs communautés de la ville de Monrovia.

« Nous espérons que la campagne touchera tous les secteurs de la société et cherchera à inculquer à Monrovia, en particulier aux résidents et aux visiteurs de cette ville, l'importance de garder nos lieux publics et notre ville propres », avait déclaré Kojee.

Dix mois à peine après le lancement de la campagne, nous assistons à un silence radio, les camions à ordures de la MCC étant absents de la rue. Les habitants et le grand public sont alors confrontés au flot de déchets, aux puanteurs et aux maladies qui en découlent.

Le maire Kojee et son équipe ne fournissent aucune explication sur la situation déplorable qui, si elle n'est pas contrôlée, pourrait conduire à une crise sanitaire nationale. Il est donc urgent de faire quelque chose pour résoudre le problème.

Si le maire s'avère incapable de s'acquitter de cette tâche, qu'il quitte immédiatement son poste pour céder la place à quelqu'un de sérieux, car on ne peut pas sacrifier les plus de 1,5 million d'habitants de Monrovia pour son insensibilité et son inaction apparentes.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Robert Skidelsky

### Les échos de l'histoire en Europe centrale

LONDRES - Le 3 décembre 2018, l'Université d'Europe centrale a annoncé qu'elle relocaliserait à partir de septembre 2019 ses enseignements de Budapest à Prague. Le gouvernement du Premier ministre hongrois Viktor Orbán a en effet décidé de la fermeture de l'UEC, établissement fondé par George Soros, la bête noire d'Orbán. « L'éviction arbitraire d'une université renommée constitue une violation flagrante de la liberté académique », a déploré le recteur de l'université, Michael Ignatieff. « C'est un jour sombre pour l'Europe, et un jour sombre pour la Hongrie. »

Certainement pas pour Orbán, qui, comme l'a rapporté le New York Times, « considérait depuis longtemps cet établissement comme un bastion du libéralisme, représentant une menace pour sa vision de la création d'une « démocratie illibérale » ». La « volonté d'Orbán de procéder à cette fermeture a été renforcée par le lien unissant l'établissement à M. Soros », que le Premier ministre hongrois « diabolise depuis des années ». Orbán accuse notamment Soros, né en Hongrie, survivant de l'occupation nazie et de la Shoah, « de chercher à détruire la civilisation européenne en soutenant l'immigration illégale ».

Mark Twain est souvent cité pour sa formule « L'histoire ne se répète pas, mais elle produit souvent des échos ». Triste constat, notre génération est sourde aux enseignements de l'histoire. La plupart de ceux qui parcourent les livres d'histoire le font pour se divertir, pas pour s'instruire. L'Union européenne constitue le symbole d'une démarche consistant à surmonter le passé en se traçant un avenir fondé sur les connaissances scientifiques et économiques, plutôt que sur les enseignements historiques. Or, un certain nombre d'évolutions récentes, et pas seulement en Hongrie, font écho à des idées et discours que la plupart d'entre nous pensions abandonnés depuis des décennies.

Le brillant ouvrage récent de Norman Stone intitulé *Hungary: A Short History* est une mise en garde contre notre tendance à oublier l'histoire. Il décrit un pays qui n'a jamais véritablement « rattrapé » l'Occident, et qui par conséquent ne s'est jamais « installé » dans une existence post-nationaliste apaisée. L'influence modernisatrice de l'industrialisation a toujours été engloutie par des problématiques de frontières, de religions, de langues et de nationalités.

La Hongrie rêvait du statut de nation bien avant de devenir un État. La structure de classe a pris une forme typiquement est-européenne : propriétaires germaniques, classe commerçante et financière juive, et classe paysanne pour la population native. Une langue hongroise normalisée a été instaurée au XIXe siècle, avant même que les « paysans et curés de campagne » ne sachent la parler. Mais le sentiment d'une nation hongroise est apparu trop tardivement - et a subi trop de frustrations - pour pouvoir être réconcilié avec une plus large identité européenne. Par ailleurs, à la différence du cas allemand, ce nationalisme n'a pas été discrédité par un désastre auto-infligé.

Aux XVIe et XVIIe siècles, disparaît le royaume médiéval catholique des Magyar de Hongrie, dont le territoire sera divisé entre l'islam et le protestantisme. Il sera pour la première fois conquis par les Ottomans, puis incorporé à l'empire des Habsbourg, avant de resurgir en tant que puissance à la fois majeure et mineur, avec la création en 1867 de la double monarchie austro-hongroise.

Le traité de Trianon (1920) officialise la dislocation de l'empire austro-hongrois en différentes parties « nationales » (dont la très réduite Hongrie), globalement en phase avec le principe d'« autodétermination nationale » de Woodrow Wilson, mais laisse de côté d'importantes minorités insatisfaites en Roumanie, en Tchécoslovaquie et en

Yougoslavie. Sur ces trois États successeurs, seule la Tchécoslovaquie parviendra à instaurer une démocratie stable - mais seulement en maintenant les Hongrois (et encore beaucoup plus de Germains ethniques) à l'écart du gouvernement.

De 1920 à 1944, la Hongrie sera gouvernée par un dictateur, l'amiral Miklós Horthy. Lors du deuxième arbitrage de Vienne, en 1940, Hitler rend la Transylvanie roumaine à la Hongrie, en échange d'une adhésion hongroise à l'Axe. Après 1945, la Hongrie retrouve ses frontières de 1920, théoriquement indépendante mais en réalité partie intégrante des « démocraties populaires » du bloc soviétique. Elle regagnera sa souveraineté en 1989, et rejoindra l'Union européenne en 2004. Sous son actuelle forme tronquée, la Hongrie n'est pas suffisamment étendue pour peser sur la scène européenne, mais pas assez réduite pour entrer dans le moule post-nationaliste.

Stone évoque avec beaucoup de justesse la question du rôle des juifs dans l'histoire hongroise. Bien que la contribution des juifs à la Hongrie moderne ait été « éminemment positive » en termes de culture, de pensée et de développement économique, certains « côtés sombres » ont malheureusement conduit à l'ancrage de l'antisémitisme. La capacité des juifs émancipés à renaître sous quelque forme nécessaire face aux circonstances est venue alimenter le grand mythe conspirationnel antisémite. Pas moins de 28 des 36 dirigeants de la brève République soviétique de Hongrie de 1919 étaient juifs. Ceci a donné naissance au fascisme hongrois, puis à la déportation et à l'extermination de plus de 400 000 juifs en 1944. Les juifs qui ont survécu ont par ailleurs joué un rôle majeur dans le régime staliniste de Mátyás Rákosi entre 1949 et 1956.

La montée en puissance - ou plus précisément le retour - de la « démocratie illibérale » dans certaines régions d'Europe aujourd'hui est pour nous surprenante, dans la mesure où elle réfute le discours dominant autour du progrès. Mais la surprise réside moins dans la réapparition des convictions et préjugés d'autrefois que dans la croyance libérale selon laquelle ces convictions et préjugés seraient facilement surmontables. Notre théorie du progrès est unidirectionnelle. Elle associe l'avancée de la civilisation à l'avancée de la connaissance. Or, comme le fait valoir le philosophe politique John Gray, en matière éthique et politique, contrairement aux sciences naturelles, les enseignements entendus ne deviennent pas nécessairement des enseignements acquis. Aux États-Unis mêmes, la torture a fait sa réapparition pendant la présidence Bush, tandis que Trump incarne clairement une forme de régression.

De même, différents pays n'apprennent pas nécessairement la même chose. C'est pourquoi il est si important de prêter attention à leur histoire particulière. Pour comprendre comment 17,4 millions d'électeurs en Grande-Bretagne ont pu voter la sortie de l'UE, il ne suffit pas d'expliquer qu'ils seraient « laissés pour compte » ou peu instruits. Il faut connaître l'histoire britannique pour comprendre pourquoi une solution à taille unique ne convient pas à tous.

Deux échos de l'histoire résonnent dans la politique actuelle de la Hongrie : nationalisme et antisémitisme. Il n'est pas absurde d'établir certains parallèles avec le fascisme de l'entre-deux-guerres. Mais la résonance d'un écho ne signifie pas la répétition de l'histoire. Il n'existe pas de parallèle entre la situation actuelle et la crise existentielle de la civilisation européenne qui suivit la Seconde Guerre mondiale. Le sentiment anti-Soros est une pâle version de l'antisémitisme classique. Avec un minimum de bon sens, les libéraux devraient parvenir à faire taire les vieilles rengaines. Tout ce qui a été commis dans l'histoire ne saurait être pardonné. Mais nous ne devons pas non plus négliger l'histoire en tant que présage d'un futur tout autre.

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**Liberia's Smallholder Agriculture gets US\$25m boost**

Liberia's Smallholder Agriculture Transformation and Agribusiness Revitalization Project (STAR-P) receives a boost of US\$25 million, the World Bank announces.

According to a press release, the World Bank Board of Executive Directors approves an International Development Association (IDA) credit of \$25 million for the project, aims at increasing agricultural productivity and commercialization of smallholder farmers for selected value chains in Bomi, Grand Cape Mount, Lofa, Nimba and Margibi counties, respectively.

The release says STAR-P is aligned with the World Bank Group's (WBG) twin goals of ending extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity, and the emerging priorities of Liberia's new administration as reflected in the Government's five-year Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD). The project focuses on the economic empowerment of rural poor farmers and will directly contribute towards increasing shared prosperity and helping Liberia tackle its worsening challenge of poverty.

"Supporting agriculture with focus on enhanced private sector investment and key value chains will ensure economic diversification, pro-poor growth and boost food



security," says World Bank Liberia Country Manager, Larisa Leshchenko.

The release says emphasis will be placed on addressing critical market failures limiting the development of the rice, oil palm and horticulture value chains, by seeking to increase agricultural productivity and promoting smallholder commercialization thru private sector investment in selected value chains.

It will also strengthen productive links between smallholder farmers and selected agribusiness firms through a business climate lens. Adaptation approaches and mitigation measures will

be applied for rice and oil palm production to enhance the climate resiliency of production and to minimize climate risks.

The STAR-P has 17,500 direct beneficiaries who are mainly smallholder farmers, 30 percent of whom are women farmers. Beneficiaries of project services must be active, resident smallholder farmers in the project locality who are already engaged in producing one of the target crops (rice, oil palm or horticulture), and they must be a member of a farmer-based organization (or willing to become a member). These farmers will benefit from increased income accruing

from productivity increases and improved access to markets for the sale of their products.

"The STAR-P is a transformative project and intends to commercialize the operation of smallholder farmers while attracting private sector investment into agriculture. This is an opportunity for Liberians in diaspora to make meaningful profitable investment in agriculture," says Co-Task Team Leaders Abimbola Adubi and Adesimi Freeman.

The Project was designed based on extensive consultations with the client, private sector, International Finance Corporation of the World Bank Group, and development partners to leverage resources from both the public and private sectors.

It will seek to support institutional capacity building and strengthening the enabling environment for farmers, state and non-state actors; enhance productivity and competitiveness; and boost project management, monitoring and evaluation, citizens engagement, and contingency emergency response.

The World Bank's International Development Association (IDA), established in 1960, helps the world's poorest countries by providing grants and low to zero-interest loans for projects and programs that boost economic growth, reduce poverty, and improve poor people's lives. IDA is one of the largest sources of assistance for the world's 77 poorest countries, 39 of which are in Africa. -Press Release

**Former Police Commandant commends Pres. Weah**

Former police Commandant Mr. James D. Hallowanger, commends President George Weah for the level of development his government has embarked on.

An Executive of the Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) currently based in the United States, Mr. Hallowanger, is former Deputy

construction being carried out by the Weah administration.

"I am really impressed over the level of changes that have taken place in the short time since I arrived in the country recently. I was here during the campaign time and the election as well. I ran campaign in most of these communities."

"Most of these places did

**ANC man braces for Nimba senatorial seat**

A stalwart of the Opposition Alternative National Congress or ANC is gearing up to battle Nimba County incumbent, Senator Thomas in 2020 midterm senatorial election.

ANC's Taa Wongbe reveals his intention to vie for the senate in his native Nimba.

Liberia is gradually gravitating to a youthful generation of leadership and Nimba County is no exception. A vote-rich county, Nimba is deeply divided on political ideologies.

On local radio stations,

messages of donations from various political auxiliaries are aired regularly, while senatorial aspirants are busy moving around, making pledges and presenting cash to win the hearts and minds of voters, something many have considered as "pre-campaigning."

Among the emerging names include incumbent Senator Thomas Grupee, Mr. Taa Wongbe, Rep. Jeremiah K. Koung, Supt. David Dorr Cooper, and former Nimba County Superintendent Edith Weh, among others.

These individuals are

building their strength in different sectors of the county. While others are using their political influence, Taa has over the years built his constituents among the youthful generation of Nimba.

Many youth consider him as their mentor and face in the 2020 race. At the Nimba County Community College (NCCC) many youth have benefitted from his scholarship fund. The County honored him with his name on a statue of the former President for the college. Taa recently donated 50,000 Liberia dollars to help students build a palava hut at the NCCC.

Many youth point to his message of education and empowerment while others are interested in his message of building the agriculture sector in Nimba. Last year, through his advocacy, over 20 women agricultural groups across the county benefited from a multi-year program.



Mr. James D. Hallowanger

Director of the Special Security Service (SSS), now the Executive Protection Service (EPS) besides serving as Commandant of the National Police Training Academy, during the administration of former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

Mr. Hallowanger says he is specifically impressed about the level of feeder road

not have paved roads as they are now. Some of these things previous governments have not been able to in years, the CDC led government is doing it in less than a year. I think we need to commend these efforts and allow him to carry out [these] projects", he concludes. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

**#For the Pro-Poor Agenda to succeed undo the errors by your predecessors. #**

# RIA terminal opens in two months

By Winston W. Parley

Within two months, Liberians will for the first time experience the usage of a modern terminal on home soil as work on the facility nears completion.

A visit at the Roberts International Airport (RIA) Wednesday, 16 January in Margibi County as part of President Weah's inspection team saw engineers busy with finishing touches.

Though it looks small from outside, the new terminal has huge space within both arrival and departure halls. Built to an international standard, it is expected to attract other major aircraft once completed and opened.

During the tour President Weah jokingly remarked the popular saying that "the people say the terminal small." However, authorities say the airport is built in a way that it can be expanded from the east and west wings when the need for the expansion arises.

It is expected to be dedicated on 15 March, which might once again put Liberia in a position to give its visiting friends the confidence of gradual development here.

The new terminal is being built courtesy to Liberia's Chinese counterparts with the aim to boost the public infrastructure in the wake of challenges facing the post-war and Ebola affected West African state.

The new terminal project began in 2017 under former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf's regime following the signing of a US\$50m loan agreement with China to pay with interest within 25 years.

Following a tour Wednesday, President Weah expressed delight over



progress made on works at the new RIA Terminal, saying it has everything that an airport needs that have a facelift.

Further, he says today Liberia has a new airport, noting that though some people say it's very small, but everything is being done possibly to ensure that the people are satisfied.

He describes the new airport terminal as a beautiful airport, arguing that if you look at the old terminal and the new one, you can only say glory be to God.

"All of the things you need for [an] airport to have a facelift, we have it now, even though people say it's small. But if you can't take care of the smaller things, than you can't have the bigger things," he says.

President Weah emphasizes on the level of seriousness that his government has attached to the the new airport terminal, 14 Military Hospital and Ministerial Complex projects in nine months to ensure that when "our friends" come in,

they cannot continue to mock the country for lack of development.

Before touring the RIA terminal, President Weah made his first stop at the Ministerial complex also being constructed by the Chinese.

Located in Congo Town, the Ministerial Complex is also nearing completion, and it is another project that began under former President Sirleaf's regime.

"...It's a facelift and uh, it's good for the country. So what we're going to do now is all the agencies that are doing the same work will be able to go in there so we can't be going to one office to another office," says President Weah.

He tells journalists that even though some of these projects started during former President Sirleaf's term, his mandate is to continue the projects that were left behind and create new projects.

"It's a good thing. I'm impressed. You know when, uh, we all, negatively, we were castigating and talking about

they breaking the building down (demolished Defense Ministry), and why they can't continue that building," he recalls his days in opposition.

However, President Weah admits that those that have the idea to put up new building felt that the demolished Defense Ministry building did not have the strength to maintain what engineers wanted to put there.

He says today "we can see a new" ministerial complex that will compliment even the [overhead] bridges that are due to be constructed by the Chinese.

Following the inspection at the Ministerial Complex Mr. Weah also stop at the Military 14 Hospital where construction work there is in an advance stage.

Talking about progress on the 14 Military Hospital for which he broke grounds last year, President Weah says he is very satisfied and impressed that "we've gone almost 75 percent".

During the tour Wednesday, it was observed that engineers

have constructed the military hospital at roof level.

The one - storey military hospital building will contain over 200 beds and it holds an area of 4000 meter square.

Contractors say in six weeks they will complete the roofing of the military hospital, President Weah's legacy project, and engineers at the RIA new terminal also say the facility will be dedicated on 15 March this year.

President Weah cautions Liberians that when you entrust a leader to a country, then you have to look up to the leader and help him to develop the country.

He recalls criticisms on both social and traditional media that nothing was being done on the 14 Military Hospital.

To complement the 14 Military hospital, President Weah says his Chinese counterparts are coming with a diagnostic center that will be the biggest in Africa, the first time in Liberia.

Besides, he says the 14 Military Hospital will train surgeons to prepare for cases of operations that may come about.

President Weah was accompanied on the inspection tour by House Speaker Bhofal Chambers, Pro - Tempore Albert Chie, Public Works Minister Mobutu Nyenpan, Minister of State Nathaniel McGill and scores of officials.

Speaker Chambers says the programs are a typical visualization of the reality, saying there is no way that one can say the airport is not growing.

Pro - Tempore Chie says on a rotational basis, they will allot money in the budget to train doctors, specialists to augment the manpower of the 14 Military Hospital. *-Edited by Othello B. Garblah*

## African legal support facility to receive € 5 million EU grant

The European Commission has approved a grant of 5 million euros to the African

Legal Support Facility, to finance the Facility's Medium Term Strategy for the next five years.

ALSF, hosted by the African Development Bank, to date has supported African countries to negotiate commercial deals worth more than US\$60 billion in potential investments, mainly in the infrastructure and extractive sectors.

This assistance from the European Union, will boost resources required to consolidate these achievements and reinforce partnership between the two organisations in other common areas of interest, such as support to development work in fragile states, climate resilience and debt sustainability, ALSF Director Stephen Karangizi said.

Karangizi, thanked the EU

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for its generous support. He noted that the grant would help ALSF fulfil its mandate to assist African countries to negotiate and conclude equitable and sustainable agreements which would deliver greater benefits to African governments and their citizens in the years to come.

About ALSF

The African Legal Support Facility is an international organization hosted by the

African Development Bank Group. The Facility is dedicated to providing legal advice and technical assistance to African countries in their negotiation of complex commercial transactions, creditor litigation and other related sovereign transactions. The ALSF also develops and proposes innovative tools for capacity building and knowledge management. *-Press release*

# CDC lawmakers gone bitter



Rep. Nagbe Sloh



Rep. Acarous Gray

By Ben P. Wesee

Two ruling party Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) lawmakers are in serious war of words over the provision of vehicles and allotments for their legislative projects in their various districts that have not yet been received.

Newly elected Sinoe County Representative Nagbe Sloh accuses House Speaker Bhofal

Chambers of electing the funds allotted for vehicles and legislative projects.

But Montserrado County District# 8 Representative Acarous Gray says his colleague is proceeding wrongly because of his refusal to learn.

Appearing on a local talk show Wednesday, 16 January in Monrovia, Rep. Sloh indicated that since Speaker Chambers' ascendancy to the third

highest position in the country, the Speaker has allegedly brought over three vehicles for his comfort while leaving members of the House Representatives have no vehicles to tour their various districts.

"Since Speaker Bhofal Chambers became Speaker of the 54th Legislature, he has brought more than three cars for himself. He drives one in the morning, one in the afternoon and one in the evening while we [are] left with no answer to give to our people that elected us about their project," Rep. Sloh narrates.

But Rep. Gray rejects the claim in defense of Speaker Chambers, saying the Speaker didn't buy the three cars as claimed.

"It's a normal process that new Speaker also inherits the vehicle from his predecessor and upon the president taking office, the president brought cars for the former president and vice



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# Lawyers to quiz Ronaldo's ex

A British model who claims she has evidence to "damn" Cristiano Ronaldo is to be questioned by US lawyers who are pursuing a rape claim against the football superstar, it has emerged. Jasmine Lennard made a string of allegations against Ronaldo on social media last week, and says she dated him in 2008 when he was playing for Manchester United. Ronaldo,

33, who now plays for Italian side Juventus, has denied ever being in a relationship with Ms Lennard. He is already battling a claim that he raped 34-year-old American model Kathryn Mayorga in 2009 in a Las Vegas hotel room. He insists he and Ms Mayorga had consensual sex.

Ms Lennard, a former Celebrity Big Brother contestant and daughter of a Bond girl, offered to help Ms Mayorga's case against Ronaldo, and US

lawyers for Ms Mayorga are now preparing to fly to the UK to talk to the model.

Larissa Drohobyczer, who is part of Ms Mayorga's legal team, said they have already spoken to Ms Lennard by phone and attorney Leslie Stovall now wants to meet her in person.

"Mr Stovall's travel to London will be based upon discussion with London lawyer Jonathan Coad and his client Jasmine Lennard", she said.



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