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The New Dawn

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TRULY INDEPENDENT

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

VOL. 8 NO. 240

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 2019

PRICE LD\$40.00

In Nimba: **11-year-old girl gang raped to death**



Flashback: Vivian Wreh, 15 recently gang raped to death in Monrovia

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Rep. Nagbe Sloh



Rep. Adolph Lawrence



Rep. Yekeh Kolubah

3 lawmakers under investigation

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Rejoinder: An Open Letter to Mr. Lester Tenny

16 January 2019

Mr. Lester Tenny,

I read your comment (Facebook post dated Jan. 14, 2019) in response to my post regarding the suspension of political activities at the University of Liberia. I like to provide few preliminary comments on your ill-fated and irresponsible post in this premise.

First, you have stated that 'no CDC element was involved in the disruption of classes on the main campus'. Your claim is false. The reality of the disturbance on the main campus of the University of Liberia is that two Assistant Ministers in the CDC led government were visibly seen dropping off zogoes who began stone throwing on the main campus of the University. Assistant Ministers Alvin Wesseh and Eddie Talawaly dropped of these criminal elements that disrupted academic activities at the University on last Friday.

Second, you have claimed that 'I have flouted the UL Code of Conduct by attacking the CDC government'. Let me inform you that I am a Political Scientist and a Development Specialist. I am also the current Vice Chairperson for National Affairs of the New DEAL Movement, a National Political Party in Liberia. By this, you need to know that I am an opposition Politician. In all these capacities, I have the right, duty and obligation to observe, review, analyse and monitor government's policies, comment on them verbally and through written publications and make recommendations where necessary. This task is my national responsibility to the state and the People of Liberia. In addition to this, as a Full Time Lecturer at the IBB Graduate School of International Studies, I am suitably placed to comment on national and international policies based on the National Interest of Liberia (security of the state and the wellbeing its people). I can understand your academic limitations for which you would wish to hide behind Code of Conducts to restrict academic freedom, civil liberties, free speech, and democratic governance. I will comment on your academic inadequacies in the concluding part of this open letter.

Third, you have said that 'I have consistently attacked the CDC government and accused it of corruption'. Indeed, this is great compliment to us. In lieu of our state and national duties as (Political Scientist, Development Specialist, and Full Time Lecturer and a National Politician who served as one time Chief of Staff in the Office of the Chair on Executive, House of Representative; Assistant Foreign Minister for Africa, Asia and the Pacific; and Deputy Foreign Minister for International Cooperation and Economic Integration), we have the moral responsibility to critique the CDC led government. For the first year of the CDC government, evidence shows that the government is about 100 times corrupt than any government that has existed in the history of Liberia. Under this government, billions of dollars in containers went missing since March 2018. Up to date, the government has not shown both Liberians and the international community any iota of proof to absolve itself of the missing billions. What we rather see is the massive construction of personal properties by top government officials, the purchases of villas by government officials.

Also, the 25 million US 'placed in the hands of the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning to mop up excess liquidity' is yet to be accounted for. Simultaneously, the exchange rate of the Liberian Dollar to USD is still rising. The prevailing rate is now around 161 LD to 1 USD. This means that the so-called mopping up expedition has fallen flat on the ground. Besides these egregious economic mismanagement practices and crimes, there are several other corrupt cases found across government ministries and agencies. All of these have not been appropriately dealt with in the premise of President Weah's promise that 'he would end corruption'.

Fourth, you pride yourself as a CDC stalwart that protects and defends the party. I must unequivocally state that you are not a genuine partisan of the CDC for the following reasons. You cannot claim to be a genuine CDC partisan when you have told us several times that 'President Weah is the wrong man to lead Liberia, but you are on missing as part of his party and government to get your share of corrupt resources because you know that no one (both former and present officials) will be prosecuted for corruption under your government'. You

made these claims in our GD Building offices on campus. Other professors on campus were present and can attest. You did not stop there, you have said your 'current boss, is inept and unfit for the post, but got it by offering her body to President Weah'. You have told us that you "are the one running NOCAL due to your current boss' incompetence". For the record, I am strongly convinced that your boss is more academically fit than you. I will address this in the closing parts of this open letter.

Additionally, you cannot be a genuine CDC member when you characterise the Finance and Development Planning Minister 'as unfit and incompetent'. In fact, you claim to be the one to replace Comrade Tweah. How can you, an academic and economic criminal, ever become a Finance and Development Planning Minister? A genuine partisan will work with his or her fellow colleagues to address problems facing a party and a government. A genuine partisan will not praise the President and Party only on Facebook and come on the University campus to condemn the President of the Republic, his boss and other officials working in the same government without evidence on the issues under discussion. Instead of being a true member of the CDC, you are rather a snake in the green grass seeking the slightest opportunity to squander national resources as you did during the construction of the Belleh Yalla Road in Gbarpolu County (more details to be provided in the closing parts of the letter).

Fifth, you have said that "I was fired for what is alleged to have been inappropriate financial behaviour at the MOFA, and that your government is yet to pursue me on these issues". Great that you have used the word 'alleged'. I am proud to have served in the Post of Deputy Foreign Minister for International Cooperation and Economic Integration under the aegis of comrade Minister Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan. Regarding the fraudulent acts surrounding the Japanese grant across several ministries and agencies including the MFA, all Liberians should hail me as a national icon for standing against fraud, abuse and waste of national resources. I provided evidence to the media including the New Democrat in the context of the Freedom of Information Law indicating the extent to which the Japanese grant intended to support government's implementation of projects that have social and economic impact on the poor was being abused and corrupted. I even wrote the Senior Management Team of the Foreign Ministry and Office of the President about a colleague Deputy Foreign Minister, who in collaboration with his project manager squandered over \$220,000.00 US from the \$360,000 US grant given the Ministry for institutional capacity development prior to my arrival from Australia to take on the post. That corrupt Deputy Minister still serves your CDC led government. My claim can be verified and validated by the forensic audits conduct by the Internal Audit Agency and the General Auditing Commission.

Mr. Tenny, the audit reports mentioned above are public. I further questioned the Presidency on how a Naturalized Liberian would become a Deputy Foreign Minister, something President Sirleaf viewed as a direct challenge to her appointing powers. So, my evidence provided to her regarding the massive looting of the grant and to the press validating the stolen components of the Japanese grant across government as well as my challenge to her appointing authority made me to leave the post at her will and pleasure-an action that is constitutional as all ministers serve at the will and pleasure of the President. I am exceedingly proud to have been one Liberian standing up against fraud, waste, abuse and corruption of public resources. If I have the chance to do that again any time in public or private service, I would not hesitate to do so because a single dollar stolen from public resources leaves several others to live and die in poverty.

Furthermore, since this is your government, I challenge you and your government to review all audit reports from the past administrations and prosecute all public officials including you and private entities that used public funds for their personal benefits. I equally urge your CDC led government to account for our missing billions that have gone missing, corrupted and misappropriated under the leadership of President George Manneh Weah that is presently engaged in massive construction of real estate properties that he could not construct during his days as a sports icon and millionaire.

I am certain that the prosecution of all corrupt former

and present officials will include you for your role in mismanaging, abusing and squandering funds intended for the construction of the Belleh Yalla Road in Gbarpolu County. For the record, you publicly told us (some Lecturers at the UL Graduate School) that you got half million USD (500,000. US) as your cut or share of corrupt funds from the project-reasons why the project did not get successfully completed. You further indicated that it was from this money that you built your real estate properties on the RIA highway. You are still constructing structures in the same terrain (pictures will be published soon). In my view, you are a common criminal that must be arrested, prosecuted and thrown in prison, and your property from the corrupt public funds confiscated by government. I am prepared to serve as a state Witness in this regard because I was present when you divulged this to us in our Lecturers' lounge at the UL Graduate School.

Finally, since you situated your comments in the context of the University of Liberia, a place of academic excellence in Liberia, I like to provide public information about your fraudulent academic records at the University of Liberia. **You always pretend and claim to have earned a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Liberia. I challenge you in this public manner to produce a legitimate undergraduate diploma and transcript from the University of Liberia. If you provide such document from the UL, I will immediately resign my employment at the University.**

For the record, you did not complete any undergraduate degree at the University of Liberia. The truth is that you failed in the Science courses several times and therefore transferred from the Science College to Business College where you did not complete any degree and joined some SUP comrades that Liberia after the March 21, 2001 invasion of the University by Taylor's SOD police force. Since then, you have never gone back to School, but criminally obtained a transcript from the Admission Office, used that falsified transcript to get an online master's degree from UK and used that online degree to obtain a bogus and so-called Doctorate degree from Nigeria. I challenge you to proof this contrary.

Mr. Tenny, I know all of this because I was then the Chairman on Membership, Recruitment and Mobilization of the Ever-Potent Vanguard Student Unification Party (SUP). You claim to be a veteran of SUP, but for public record, this is false. To become a veteran of SUP, you must remain a member of the Party and must have graduated from the University. Yes, you joined SUP as a ruling party when we defeated your former party STUDA, but you did not graduate from the UL. So, you are not a SUP Veteran. In fact, we are not surprise of your move to the CDC as you always enjoy being party of ruling parties.

In view of the above, you cannot be considered a substantive holder of a Doctorate degree. I think President Weah is better off having gained an honorary Doctorate than you who claim to hold a Doctorate without a bachelor's degree. Therefore, you are Mr. Tenny, not Dr. As a matter of fact, your name did not appear in the Convocation Book of the December 2018 Convocation held on 12 December 2018. I challenge you to show where your name as a Lecturer at the University can be found in this Book. Our names as Lecturers are printed in bold letters. We obtained our excellent academic credentials transparently rather than yours that are beclouded with fraud, tricks and forgery.

I thank you, Mr. Tenny, for opening a window of opportunity that we will use to expose your fraudulent academic and economic reputation. Thanks also for recognizing our role as opposition politicians who are holding your government's feet to the fire. We know for sure that our advocacy for transparency, accountability and democratic governance is touching lost souls like you that are dragging our country back into the dark ages. With this preliminary open letter, the battle has begun. **Watch out for Part Two on your Fraudulent collection of monies from Students and Thesis Candidates at the MBA/MPA Graduate School at the University of Liberia.** Liberia First!

Shalom,
Thomas Saidu Bah Kaydor, Jr.
MPP (Distinction); M.A (Highest Distinction), PgD, B.A (Magna Cum Laude)
CC: The Media

EDITORIAL

COMMENTARY

By Bernard J. Tyson

"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.

Ending the Mental Health Stigma

Every dollar invested in scaling up treatment for depression and anxiety - the two most common mental health disorders - can generate a return of \$4 in terms of improved wellbeing and increased ability to work. But the most important step toward improving mental health will be to make access to care routine and unremarkable.

OAKLAND - 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.

New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc., Crown Hill-Broad Street,
Adjacent Afriland Bank Monrovia-Liberia.

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

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



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 Yanis Varoufakis

Run Down the Brexit Clock

ATHENS - The overwhelming defeat that Britain's Parliament inflicted upon Prime Minister Theresa May's Brexit plan was fresh confirmation that there is no substitute for democracy. Members of Parliament deserve congratulations for keeping their cool in the face of a made-up deadline. That deadline is the reason why Brexit is proving so hard and potentially so damaging. To resolve Brexit, that artificial deadline must be removed altogether, not merely re-set.¹

Leaving the European Union is painful by design. The process any member state must follow to exit the EU is governed by Article 50 of the bloc's Lisbon Treaty, which, ironically, was authored by a British diplomat keen to deter exits from the EU. That is why Article 50 sets a two-year negotiation period ending with an ominous deadline: If negotiations have not produced a divorce agreement within the prescribed period - March 29, 2019, in Britain's case - the member state suddenly finds itself outside the EU, facing disproportionate hardships overnight.

This rule undermines meaningful negotiations. Negotiators focus on the end date and conclude that the other side has no incentive to reveal its hand before then. Whether the allotted negotiation period is two months, two years, or two decades, the result is the same: the stronger side (the European Commission in Brussels in this case) has an incentive to run down the clock and make no significant compromises before the eleventh hour.

Moreover, this realization affects the behavior of other key players: Tory government ministers opposed to their prime minister, the leader of the Labour opposition, Jeremy Corbyn, members of Labour's front bench who are opposed to Corbyn, and the German and French governments. Every significant political actor in this game has an incentive to sit back and let the clock tick down to the bitter end.

With fewer than three months left, the prospect of Britain falling out of the EU without a deal is, understandably, terrifying. A natural response is to call for an extension of Article 50, to reset the clock and give negotiations more time. That instinct must be resisted.

Any resetting of the clock would simply extend the paralysis, not speed up convergence toward a good agreement. Giving May another three months, or even three years, would do nothing to create incentives to reveal hidden preferences or to drop fictitious red lines.

Indeed, the worst aspect of May's deal, which Parliament emphatically and wisely rejected, was that it extended the transition process until 2022, with the UK committing to paying around \$50 billion, and possibly more, to the EU in exchange for nothing more than unenforceable promises of some future mutually advantageous deal. Had Parliament voted in favor of May's deal, it would have prolonged the current gridlock to a new cliff edge three years hence.

The only plausible reason for resetting the Article 50 clock is the aspiration to hold a second referendum on whether to rescind Brexit altogether. But, unlike the first referendum, which could be framed as a yes-no leave-stay question, there are now multiple options to consider: May's deal, a softer Brexit keeping Britain within the EU's single market, a no-deal Brexit, remaining in the EU altogether, and so forth. Agreeing on the precise form of preferential voting between these options is no easier than agreeing on Brexit in the first place.

To synthesize competing views into one coherent position, Britain needs more than a voting scheme: it needs a People's Debate that the ticking clock makes impossible, even if re-set. The standstill and the phony negotiations will thus come to an end only if the made-up deadline is allowed to expire by a Parliament willing calmly to say "no" to unacceptable deals negotiated by May and the EU. Allowing the clock to run down is now a prerequisite for resolving the Brexit conundrum.

What will happen if the impasse continues until March 29, without a formal extension of the Article 50 period? The threat from Brussels is that the EU will shrug its shoulders and allow a disorderly Brexit, with substantial disruption to trade, transport, and so forth. But it is much more likely that German business, along with the French and Dutch governments, would be up in arms against such a turn, and demand that the European Commission use its powers indefinitely to suspend any disruption in Europe's ports and airports while meaningful negotiations begin for the first time since 2016.¹

Once we are at, or close to March 29, heightened urgency will dissolve tactical procrastination. May's deal will have bitten the dust, and Remainers will be closer to accepting that time is not on the side of a Brexit-annulling second referendum, perhaps turning their attention to the legitimate aim of a future referendum to re-join the EU.

At that point, government and opposition will recognize that only two coherent options remain for the immediate future. The first is Norway Plus, which would mean Britain would remain for an indeterminate period in the EU single market (like Norway), and also in a customs union with the EU. The second is an immediate full exit, with Britain trading under World Trade Organization rules while Northern Ireland remains within a customs union with the EU to avoid a hard border with the Republic of Ireland. Narrowing it down to two options will enable Parliament to choose.

Once MPs acknowledge that freedom of movement between the UK and the EU is a red herring, the most likely outcome is Norway Plus for an indeterminate, deadline-free period. Then and only then will Parliament and the people have the opportunity to debate the large-scale issues confronting Britain, not least the future of the UK-EU relationship.

Norway Plus would, of course, leave everyone somewhat dissatisfied. But, unlike May's deal or a hasty second referendum, at least it would minimize the discontent that any large segment of Britain's society might experience in the medium term. And, because minimizing the discontent, along with a deadline-free horizon, are prerequisites for the people's debate that Britain deserves, the overwhelming defeat of May's deal may well be remembered as a vindication of democracy.

FEATURE ARTICLE

Inside Finance, Accounting and Economies

“The relevance of internal Audit in this digital age, putting a focus on the Republic of Liberia”

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

Deputy Minister for Fiscal Affairs

Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (Republic of Liberia)

Technology has revolutionized businesses, providing real-time intelligence and changing how we govern and make decisions. Cognitive technologies like predictive analytics have mixed innovative and smart ways of working to deliver value and results. Traditional tasks are being greatly improved, for instance, credit analysis, transaction processing, target marketing and fraud detection have significantly altered. The modern Internal Audit function has to keep up with the pace. In fact, it has to position itself ahead of the pack because it is a key stakeholder in ensuring that complete and accurate information is relayed to the board.

No doubt, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is fast becoming the disruptive innovation of the century, shaping how we live and how businesses are run. This is a perfect opportunity for internal auditors to roll up their sleeves, participate keenly and guide organizations to better optimize the risks and opportunities they face. Internal audit professionals will provide values to organizations by employing their skills in understanding and linking strategy and AI objectives. If internal Audit functions are to remain relevant in this conversation, they have to prepare adequately in the following three critical areas.

Internal Audit professionals have to assess whether accountability and oversight is in place to support. AI and data governance frameworks. These frameworks have to be measured and monitored against the organization's values and ethics. AI forces organizations to refocus on ethics, storage and appropriate use of information. For instance, with the current spotlight on data privacy and ethical use of data, companies using AI will need to observe stringent compliance and regulatory requirements. Overall, the framework on AI has to cover data use and infrastructure, accountability and regulatory compliance.

Internal Audit have to query whether the data maintained and used by organizations is accurate, complete, transparent and reliable to assist management and the board to make informed decisions. Most organizations do not have a documented structured approach to managing, analyzing and generating insights from their data. Many times information is achieved in different systems that do not integrate. This presents significant challenges on how data is synthesized, interpreted and what conclusions can be drawn.

Internal Auditors have to remember that there will be need to provide insight and hindsight. It is the use of data to provide foresight however, that will be the game changer. Internal Auditors have to study the data and challenge management on its use to assess mitigations and opportunities available.

With AI projects becoming a necessity, they pave way for more risks and opportunities than we can imagine. Organizations across the globe need to build robust cyber-resilient strategies that are resistant, proactive and that continuously improve. Cyber-attacks and technology shutdowns will increasingly appear on the top list of our concerns. The famous “top risks” it is the duty of internal Auditors to sensitize the board members and discuss these risks and opportunities in equal measure. There is no magic bullet to resolving emerging challenges- Internal Audit professionals have to drive value through innovation, use of AI and challenge the value drivers of AI. Internal Auditors roles are becoming more defined in this digital age, transforming into a value partner.

It is definitely time for internal Auditors to understand their role in AI and most importantly the risks and opportunities that can be harnessed. This is a call for all Internal Auditors to learn, unlearn and relearn in this digital age. No doubt, Internal Auditors will stand

up to be counted and work collaboratively with management to provide foresight in this digital age.

Institute of Internal Auditors Internal audit functions whilst independent in mind-set, operate within the infrastructure of the organization. As the business transforms, internal audit need to keep pace with developments - moving too slowly or too quickly carries the risk of providing false assurance or losing credibility with stakeholders. This will impact not only the type of internal audits undertaken and the way assurance is provided but the skills required and the audit methodology itself. This guidance addresses each of these areas in turn.

Our technical blog post

The role of internal audit in digitalization also provides a good introduction to this topic.

Internal audit plan considerations

Assurance for the digital age

Revisiting audit skills Adapting audit methodologies

Internal audit plan considerations

A comprehensive risk based internal audit plan will naturally reflect the rate of technological development within an organization, although still be open to some of the considerations in this section.

Where risk maturity is still evolving and internal audit plans are created using a variety of insights and experience to support the risk information it may be useful to think about three themes within the digital organization when developing the internal audit plan: collaboration, connectivity and communication.

1. Collaboration

In a digital organization there is a cultural shift towards collaboration both internally and with external partners, internal audit areas to explore could include:

Data governance

The replacement of siloes file systems with cloud based sharing systems heightens the need for robust controls, particularly when those systems can be opened up to external parties.

Dependency

Reliance on third party platforms is common in the digital workplace putting pressure on continuity arrangements and supplier management controls.

Decision making

Collaborative tools encourage fast decision making vital to productivity and agile project management, although appropriate due diligence is still required. With increased empowerment and less structure, delegations of authority beyond financial controls may need to be considered.

Temporary groups

Virtual meetings become easier, making it possible to set up temporary groups often negating formal protocols with the risk of personal agendas, stakeholder absence and lack of accountability. Culture Cultural shifts take longer than technological change, functions and managers continuing to work in a siloed manner present a risk to business success. Misinformation Knowledge sharing via wikis are uncontrolled and the provenance of information may not be known, understanding the risks around this is critical to internal audit and decision makers.

Innovation

It can be easy for people to get carried away with the latest crazes and lose sight of the day job, there needs to be a balance of risk/reward which internal audit is well positioned to advice on without stifling disruptive innovation.

2. Connectivity

Building on this, there is also greater connectivity of people, data and system, audit areas to explore around this include:

Data access

Increased access to data across the organization puts effective cyber security and data privacy among the top risks, both external and internal threat actors (also called a malicious actor, is an entity that is partially or wholly responsible for an incident that impacts, or has the potential to impact, an organization's security), non-compliance with protocols and human error.

End user computing

Extending beyond formulaic spreadsheets, technological innovations coupled with data access make it easier for people to undertake complex data analytics, how this potentially sensitive information is shared and used will be important.

Assets

With connectivity comes creation and the need to understand digital assets in order to protect them.

External stakeholders

Along with data privacy, ensuring appropriate protocols when collaborating or sharing information with third parties is essential, this becomes much harder in a digital organization where data is more accessible. Consumer marketing risks increase considerably in the digital era due to the commercial opportunities afforded by technology.

Flexibility

Connecting people across disparate locations whilst enabling efficiency also introduces potential cultural risks and issues of work/life balance as people work late to compensate for time differences. The ability to work from home also challenges some traditional management values which can lead to disparity between departments and disaffected employees.

3. Communication

And finally, this all leads to the criticality of communication, with audit topics to explore including:

Immediacy

Conversations on instant chat improve efficiency yet culturally may be viewed as informal - what new boundaries need to be set?

People

During times of digital transformation the technology is often the focus, when in reality the risks lie with people and change management.

Communications

Ensuring all employees know the protocols for internal and external communications becomes critical to risk management in a digital age.

Customers

Multi-directional communications are becoming commonplace and introduce new risks to brand management, complaint handling, product development, manufacturing processes and everything in between.

While it would be exciting to fill the internal audit plan with new audits directed to the host of digital threats and opportunities facing the business, this would be inappropriate. Even in the digital age there are core activities which cannot be taken for granted, the processes may change, the technology being deployed may be different but basic controls still need to be audited.

Assurance for the digital age

Integrated assurance has the potential to become the new normal in the digital age. A wealth of capability for end user analysis and monitoring will create stronger first and second lines of defense, with much more automated, real time assurance. Internal audit will need to differentiate and articulate its third line role, or a new role, very clearly in order not to become obsolete.

TO BE CONT'D

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Central Warehouse lacks essential drugs --Health Ministry says

By Winston W. Parley

As part of President George Manneh Weah's inspection team Thursday, 17 January, a tour at Liberia's Central Medical Store Upper Caldwell found that most of the drugs stored in the warehouse are not the essential drugs that the Ministry of Health needs.

Authorities at the Ministry of Health are now requesting support from government and Liberia's partners to ensure that the multi-million dollar Central Medical Store, formerly the National Drugs Service (NDS) doesn't run out of essential drugs that the health sector would need to serve Liberians efficiently.

USAID, WHO, Global Fund and UNICEF, among others, are helping with the Central Medical Warehouse, and most of the drugs donated by partners come from some programs and they do not mostly include essential drugs.

The lack of drugs at various medical centers here is one of the things that medical workers have always complained about from former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf's regime up to present.

There are Liberians who have already been trained in good warehouse drugs supply system to manage the Central Medical Warehouse upon the

departure of foreign partners, but the provision of essential drugs is of concern to health authorities.

During his tour of the facility Thursday, President George Manneh Weah said the last time he visited the Warehouse it was a different

thanks to partners including USAID, Global Fund and UNICEF, saying his government's duty is to join partners including USAID, Global Fund and UNICEF.

According to him, his government is trying to be more realistic with what it has and with what partners have given the country.

our partners are willing to help us and we are also willing to work with them," he says.

He says not just the efficiency, but the expediency that he sees at the Central Medical Store is important, congratulating all the young people at the facility.

President Weah allays fears that the recognition of young

Central Medical Store are not the essential drugs needed.

Minister Jallah appeals both to partners and President Weah for government's support to furnish the facility with the needed drugs so that it doesn't run out of drugs.

Mrs. Sirleaf dedicated the Central Medical Store in December 2017, just few weeks to the expiration of her administration, and Liberia's partners including the United States and World Bank have been involved with its construction.

The project cost was put at a total of US\$5 million, and Liberia provided US\$1.2 million of that amount.

Meanwhile, as part of his tour of ongoing projects, President Weah also inspected the Battery Factory Road project on the Somalia Drive to assess progress being made there.

He was greeted by jubilant residents in the community as he and his entourage, walked on a dilapidated wooden bridge that the new road will be replaced by the new road.

President Weah observes that the people appreciate the project, saying once they are pleased, some of those whose homes have been affected by the road project move out peacefully.

His comment was in response to Deputy Minister Claude Langlay's report to the President that affected residents were peacefully moving out to give workers a chance to do the road project.

The road is being constructed through swamp land to connect Battery Factory to Central Monrovia, and contractors are seen working on the drainages to control the water as the do pavement.



story, saying he is overwhelmed to inspect the facility.

He assures that his part is to ensure that government helps to achieve what they want to achieve.

President Weah extends

President Weah suggests that sometimes you don't need much to do better things if you are sincere.

"And I think because of sincerity, with the difficulties were are achieving a lot and we are proud and we are happy

people's role in society would mean getting rid of the older people, saying a lot of people have issues with that.

However he jokes that he thinks that if "we are trained to take the place of our elders," than the elders should be able to give the young people that opportunity for the future.

He says he is glad that today there so many educated young people that are smart and are putting their education to use.

Earlier, Health Minister Dr. Wilhelmina Jallah told President Weah that most of the drugs that they have at the

Prof. Alaric Tokpah warns of consequences, if...

By Roosevelt G. Jabah

State-run University of Liberia (UL) Political Science Professor and former student leader Alaric Tokpah is warning here that a recent decision banning all political activities at UL should be lifted or government should be prepared to face the

consequences.

Speaking Thursday, 17 January on a talk show on local broadcaster Ok FM, Prof. Tokpah warned that if the ban on student politics at UL is not lifted, the nation will not be at peace.

Prof. Tokpah warns that government will lost its

popularity for such decision.

He reveals further that if the ban is not also lifted, he fears that the clamp down on students will continue at other universities and in political parties as well.

"The student community, especially the Student Unification Party (SUP) at the University of Liberia has stood in the vanguard by fighting for social justice for its members and the nation at large even when political parties were in hidden," Prof. Tokpah says.

"As such, ban on political activities on campus is ingratitude to the student populace," he asserts.

Prof. Tokpah believes that every decision taken by the UL Administration is being influenced by the government.

Though Prof. Tokpah says he doesn't support violence by students, he however argues that provocation is the cause of students' violence on campus.

"Students should not be restricted from exercising political activities on campus or on the national scene. There



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

are other means to punish students and not ban," he notes.

It can be recalled that on Friday, 11 January, the UL Administration suspended all student groups and campus-based political activities on all of it campuses until further notice.

Meanwhile, Prof. Tokpah describes President George Manneh Weah as a dictator and

the Legislature as collaborators of a wicked dictator.

He names tampering with tenured positions, scrapping some of the the privileges of the Vice President, attack on the media and ban on political activities at the UL as offences that constitute the President being a dictator.--Edited by

Winston W. Parley

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Girls Education and Empowerment Initiative honors DMA Rebecca McGill

The Girls Education and Empowerment Initiative (GEEI), Thursday, January 17, honored MFDP's Deputy Minister for Administration Hon. Rebecca McGill with its National Feminist Leadership Award, the "2018 Administrative Leadership Award".

Presenting the award certificate to Hon. McGill at her Finance Ministry's office on Broad Street, the GEEI's Executive Director, Gwendolyn Dabah Wilson, said that the National Feminist Leadership Award (NFLA) was developed by the organization to recognize females who have exhibited exemplary character and remarkable leadership qualities.

"What set you apart from other candidates in selecting you as the recipient of this award was your ability to take charge of stressful situations, as well as the innovative, accountable and transparent management skills you've demonstrated here at the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning", GEEI's Executive Director, Gwendolyn Dabah Wilson disclosed during the ceremony.

She added that based on the work of Hon. McGill, the feminist group thought it worthy to award her as an outstanding female who serves as an inspiration to young

She conveyed profound appreciations to H.E. President George M. Weah for the opportunity given her to serve the country and contribute to his government's

post offered her by the President provided a platform for her to prove her professional competency and integrity in the discharge of her public responsibility.

Also, Deputy Minister Rebecca McGill showered warm words of gratitude on Finance and Development Planning Minister Hon. Samuel D. Tweah, Jr. for the cordiality and excellent team spirit he has exhibited as leader of MFDP's Senior Management Team and expressed thanks to him for the opportunity to serve as a member of his team.

Hon. McGill then dedicated the award to her staff and saluted their professionalism and dedication to duty.

The Girls Education and Empowerment Initiative, established in 2015, is a

registered non-profit and non-political organization that focuses on providing educational opportunities for girls from deprived communities and empowering them to step up as leaders of changed in Liberia. The organization provides mentorship to young girls, supports girls entrepreneurship, conducts awareness against teenage pregnancy, provides scholarship opportunities for disadvantaged girls, conducts a program against sexual and gender-based violence, among other programs intended to rehabilitate, empower, inspire and reshape the focus of girls into being productive citizens and future leaders. -*Press release*



women across the country.

In her remarks after receiving the certificate of honor, Deputy Minister McGill said she was humbled and honored by the recognition.

efforts aimed at improving the livelihood of the people and development of the country through the Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development. She said the

Commuters decry hike in transportation fares

By Ethel A. Tweh

Commuters in Montserrado County District#11 are frustrated over persistent hike of transportation fares by commercial drivers, lamenting that the pump price of a gallon of gasoline in the country has dropped, but drivers keep fares upward.

Speaking to the New Dawn Thursday, 17 January a group of commuters complain that though the government recently announced a reduction in gasoline price, transportation fares across

Monrovia and parts adjacent still remain exorbitant.

One of the commuters, Bill Willie, notes that commercial drivers are still charging the same high fares when the pump price of gasoline was up, something he describes as exploitation.

"When the gasoline was \$580 and \$600LD, we were paying \$130 or \$140 from Barnesville Estate to Central Monrovia, now the gasoline price has dropped to \$500 and in some places \$510, we are still paying the same fare. The government needs to step in

too and put a stop to these drivers that are exploiting us", he emphasizes.

He calls on the Ministry of Transport to regulate transport fares to stop drivers from stealing from commuters, noting that just as the Commerce Ministry announced reduction in petroleum price, the Transport Ministry should correspondingly act to ensure fare are equally adjusted downward to bring relief to the public.

Mr. Willie reminds that the government is for the poor, so they shouldn't be the ones suffering most.

A female commuter, Grace Mensah from Area 'F' community, District#11, recalls when the gasoline price was high, drivers at a point parked their cars, including operators of tricycles, demanding a reduction in price, but now that the prices have been reduced, they don't adjust fares.

"The 'killer bean' bus comes earlier in the morning and not everyone of us are opportune to get it that earlier, so we are forced to ride taxi, and from Barnesville to town is too expensive, which everyone of us cannot afford", Grace explains.

However, a taxi driver, Eric Blama, counters that gasoline

GoL, LBDI sign US\$2mn

Starts from back page

sectors expansion, business activities, support innovation but not consumption.

He emphasized, "we're not signing this loan for people to consume the fund."

He said that the government has learned from previous ventures and things that went wrong in the past five years and would help Liberians to succeed with capital supply and productive activities.

For his part, the President of Liberia Bank for Development and Investment, Hon. John S. Davis, applauded the President for his demonstrated commitment to improving Liberians participation in the economy through conceiving the idea of a Loan Fund for Liberian-owned small businesses. He also expressed gratitude for the government recognizing the Liberian Bank for Development and Investment as a financial institution to work with in actualizing the vision.

He stated that during the loan process, LBDI family will create a separate unit in the bank to follow up all transactions between the customers and the bank. He disclosed that the bank will also dedicate officers with the full responsibilities to follow up on each and every borrower potential under the program.

He assured entrepreneurs and other small business organizations that he wants to be a vehicle of success than failure during this loan process.

The Bank's president stated that the loan is being backed by a comprehensive vetting framework that will ensure all concerns are addressed.

The signing ceremony was attended by Ministers of Finance and Commerce, President for Liberia Bank for Development and Investment, private sector actors, entrepreneurs, and representatives of small business organizations.



#Stop prioritizing foreign businesses over Liberian businesses!#

is not the only reason for stepping up fares. He says drivers or car owners buy spare parts and carry out other maintenance works on their cars, which are similarly expensive.

He acknowledges the

reduction in gasoline price, but further explains due to traffic congestion, they spend long hours in the traffic enroute to town, which caused them to burn more gas per trip. -

Editing by Jonathan Browne

Français

Le nouveau terminal de l'Aéroport International Roberts sera prêt dans deux mois

Le nouveau terminal moderne de l'Aéroport International du Libéria sera mis en service dans deux mois, les travaux étant presque terminés.

Les ingénieurs ont été vus s'atteler aux dernières touches lors d'une visite de l'équipe d'inspection du président George Weah à l'aéroport international Roberts (RIA) ce mercredi 16 janvier, dans le comté de Margibi.

Bien qu'il semble petit vu de l'extérieur, le nouveau terminal offre un espace immense dans les halls d'arrivée et de départ. Construit selon les normes internationales, il devrait attirer d'autres avions importants une fois achevé et ouvert.

Selon les autorités, l'aéroport a été construit de manière à pouvoir être étendu au côté est et au côté ouest lorsque le besoin se fera sentir.

La cérémonie d'inauguration pourrait avoir



lieu le 15 mars, ce qui pourrait à nouveau permettre au Libéria de donner à ses amis visiteurs la confiance d'un développement progressif dans ce pays.

Le nouveau terminal est construit par la Chine dans le but de renforcer l'infrastructure publique à la suite des défis auxquels le pays de l'Afrique de l'Ouest a été

confronté à savoir notamment la guerre et l'épidémie de la maladie hémorragique au virus Ebola. Les travaux ont débuté en 2017 sous le régime de l'ancienne Présidente Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf, à la suite de la signature d'un accord de prêt de 50 millions de dollars avec la Chine, qui devait être réglé avec intérêts dans 25 ans.

Après sa visite mercredi, le président Weah a exprimé sa satisfaction devant les progrès réalisés, affirmant que celui-ci avait tout ce dont un aéroport avait besoin. Il s'est réjoui que le Libéria dispose aujourd'hui d'un nouvel outil, soulignant que même si certains le qualifient de très petit, tout est mis en œuvre pour que les habitants soient satisfaits.

« Tout ce que vous recherchez dans un aéroport moderne, nous l'avons maintenant, même si les gens disent que c'est petit. Mais si vous ne pouvez pas vous occuper des petites choses, vous ne pouvez pas avoir les plus grandes choses », a-t-il dit.

A en croire le président Weah, son gouvernement attache une importance aux travaux de construction du nouveau terminal, de l'hôpital militaire et du complexe ministériel d'autant plus qu'ils permettront de redonner confiance aux libériens et empêcheront les visiteurs de continuer de se moquer du pays pour son manque d'infrastructures de développement.

Avant la visite du terminal du RIA, le président Weah s'est rendu pour la première fois sur le chantier du complexe ministériel qui est actuellement en train d'être construit par les Chinois.

Situé à Congo Town, dans la banlieue de Monrovia, le complexe ministériel est également sur le point d'être achevé. Il s'agit d'un autre projet lancé sous le régime de l'ancienne présidente Sirleaf.

« C'est un soulagement et, euh, c'est bon pour le pays. Ce que nous allons faire

maintenant, c'est que toutes les agences qui effectuent le même travail pourront s'y rendre afin que nous ne puissions pas aller d'un bureau à l'autre », a déclaré le président Weah.

Il a déclaré aux journalistes que, même si certains de ces projets avaient démarré au cours du mandat de l'ancienne Présidente Sirleaf, son devoir était de poursuivre les projets qu'il a trouvés sur place et d'en créer d'autres.

« C'est une bonne chose. Je suis impressionné. Vous savez, euh, nous avons tous, négativement, critiqué et parlé de la destruction du bâtiment (ministère de la Défense démolit), et de la raison pour laquelle ils ne peuvent pas continuer dans cet immeuble », il se souvenait du temps quand il était dans l'opposition.

Le président Weah a expliqué que ceux qui ont eu l'idée de construire un nouveau bâtiment ont estimé que l'ancien bâtiment du ministère de la Défense n'avait pas la force pour maintenir ce que les ingénieurs voulaient y installer. « Nous voyons aujourd'hui un nouveau complexe ministériel », s'est-il réjoui.

Après l'inspection au complexe ministériel, M. Weah s'est également arrêté à l'hôpital militaire, dont les travaux de construction ont beaucoup avancé. Là aussi, le président s'est félicité de l'avancement des travaux qui ont atteint à peu près 75%.

L'hôpital militaire qui s'étend sur une superficie de 4000 mètres carrés accommodera plus de 200 lits. Les entrepreneurs ont annoncé qu'ils termineraient bientôt la toiture de l'hôpital.

Le président Weah a dit aux Libériens que quand on confie son pays à quelqu'un pour le diriger, on le laisse faire son travail et on l'aide à développer le pays. Le président faisait allusions aux critiques qu'il a essuyés dans les médias sociaux et traditionnels.

En plus de l'hôpital militaire, les chinois construiront un centre de consultations, le plus grand de son genre en Afrique, selon le président Weah. Il a aussi fait savoir que des chirurgiens seront formés à l'hôpital militaire.

Le parti au pouvoir répond à Cummings

La Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) au pouvoir a répondu au chef de l'opposition, Alexander Cummings, qui avait formulé des critiques acerbes à l'encontre du gouvernement du président George Weah.

En effet, la coalition au pouvoir a décrit M. Cummings comme un « chef d'entreprise dont le seul but est de piller énormément au pays le jour où il se verra confier le pouvoir de

l'Etat ».

M. Cummings, ancien directeur pour l'Afrique de la multinationale Coca Cola et leader politique du Congrès alternatif national, a vivement critiqué le gouvernement du président George Manneh Weah, l'accusant de corruption et d'amasser des richesses personnelles seulement en un an aux dépens des citoyens. Il a spécifiquement accusé le président Weah et ses fonctionnaires de piller les coffres de l'Etat.

Mais Mulbah Morlu, président national de la coalition au pouvoir, a déclaré : « l'attention de la coalition au pouvoir et du gouvernement libérien a été attirée par la dégenérescence du discours public, le recours à des allégations et des déclarations mensongères et sans fondement émanant des personnalités politiques, des substituts des médias et des commentateurs parrainés ».

S'exprimant lors d'une conférence de presse à Monrovia le lundi 14 janvier, le président Morlu a déclaré que s'il y a quelqu'un qui devait être qualifié de criminel ou de pillard, ce serait plutôt le chef de l'opposition et leader politique de l'ANC.

Selon lui, M. Cummings a reçu 10 millions de dollars américains des entreprises partenaires pour sa candidature à l'élection présidentielle de 2017, mais il n'a présenté que 200 000 dollars au parti, c'est ce qui a en partie empêché le parti d'avoir de bons résultats lors des élections législatives où il n'a remporté aucun siège. En réponse à la déclaration de Cummings selon laquelle « les dirigeants mangent en dernière position », Morlu a affirmé que cette affirmation indique clairement que le plan du dirigeant de l'ANC pour le Libéria.



Français

L'année 2019 sera décisive (le Président George Weah)

Le président George Manneh Weah a dit aux législateurs de Capitol Hill que 2019 serait une année très décisive pour l'objectif national de consolidation de la paix et de l'élimination de la pauvreté au Libéria.

Le président de la république a prononcé un discours le lundi 14 janvier à l'ouverture de la deuxième session parlementaire de la 54ème législature du Libéria. Il a rappelé que lors du lancement du plan de développement national, l'Agenda en faveur des pauvres pour la prospérité et le développement (PAPD), il avait demandé l'effort collectif et la coopération de tous les Libériens, en particulier de ceux qui dirigent en vue de transformer le Libéria en une nation moderne.

Il a aussi rappelé aux législateurs qu'ils ont été élus par le peuple pour servir et qu'ils doivent donc travailler ensemble pour répondre à leurs attentes dans tous les domaines telles que l'éducation, la santé, les infrastructures, la paix et la sécurité et l'agriculture.

Il a félicité les législateurs pour « l'excellent travail qu'ils ont accompli lors de la première session l'année dernière ».

Pour sa part, le président de la Chambre des représentants, Bhofal Chambers, a appelé ses collègues à se préparer à relever tous les défis qui se présenteront à eux cette année 2019. Il a ajouté que leurs électeurs attendent beaucoup d'eux d'où la nécessité pour eux de faire preuve de bonnes lois.

Il les a en outre exhortés à mieux exercer leurs fonctions dans le meilleur intérêt du peuple afin que les projets et les promesses qu'ils ont faites se concrétisent.

Selon le président de la chambre basse, au cours

de la première session en 2018, la Chambre des représentants a tenu 57 séances ordinaires, 43 séances exécutives, 6 séances spéciales et 15 séances extraordinaires, ce qui vaut au total 121 séances.

Toujours selon le patron de la chambre des représentants, ils ont pu adopter 26 projets de loi et 8 résolutions dans le meilleur intérêt du peuple libérien au cours de l'année 2018. Parmi les projets de loi et les résolutions, neuf émanent de la Chambre des représentants, cinq du Sénat libérien et 12 de l'exécutif.

Le Président Chambers a déclaré qu'en 2018, des preuves matérielles qui mettent en cause un juge associé en exercice de la Cour Suprême ont été présentées à la Chambre des représentants. Ces faits concrets décrivaient des abus du pouvoir et plusieurs violations des principes sur lesquels reposent les lois du pays.

Il a rappelé que la Chambre des Représentants, après avoir délibéré de manière exhaustive sur l'affaire du juge associé Kabineh M. Ja'neh, a adopté à la majorité un projet de loi qui porte destitution du juge. Et le dossier avait été transmis au Sénat libérien pour qu'il soit jugé.

Il a ajouté que l'Assemblée législative veille à ce qu'il règne une harmonie entre les trois pouvoirs de l'Etat, à savoir l'exécutif, le législatif et le judiciaire.

Pour terminer, il a promis de soutenir le programme du gouvernement pour les pauvres, sous la direction du président Weah et de toujours proposer des programmes alternatifs, des politiques nouvelles via le dialogue et des lois afin que le meilleur intérêt du peuple soit préservé.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Bernard J. Tyson

Il faut mettre fin à la stigmatisation des troubles mentaux

OKLAND - Une épidémie de troubles mentaux frappe pratiquement tous les pays de la planète, quel que soit leur système économique ou leur culture. Ces troubles stigmatisent les personnes qui en sont atteintes et qui souffrent en silence. Résoudre ce problème suppose que les dirigeants politiques, les responsables des grandes entreprises et les leaders de la société civile fassent de la santé mentale et du bien-être une priorité, en commençant par les discussions sur la Mondialisation 4.0 qui se tiennent ce mois-ci à Davos dans le cadre du Forum économique mondial.

Ce Forum est manifestement le lieu approprié pour soulever ce problème. Selon une Note d'information l'OMS, la dépression et les troubles de l'anxiété coûtent 1000 milliards de dollars par an en perte de productivité à l'économie mondiale. Le même texte indique néanmoins que chaque dollar US investi dans le développement du traitement des troubles mentaux courants (la dépression et l'anxiété) rapporte 4 dollars en termes d'amélioration de la santé et de la productivité.

Le texte de l'OMS est bienvenu. Nous séparons depuis trop longtemps le corps et l'esprit, et considérons les troubles mentaux comme extérieurs à la sphère de la santé. En conséquence, des millions de personnes ayant besoin de soins en terme de santé mentale sont ignorées - avec des conséquences dramatiques sur les ressources économiques, la productivité et la production.

Santé physique et mentale sont en relation étroite, chacune contribue au bien-être. Il faut reconnaître cette réalité si nous voulons un monde plus heureux et plus prospère pour les générations futures.

Résoudre les grands problèmes mondiaux tels que ceux posés par la souffrance mentale suppose une stratégie durable basée sur la collaboration. C'est dans cet esprit que je demande instamment aux leaders présents avec moi à Davos de considérer l'adoption de 4 priorités cruciales en faveur de la santé mentale et du bien-être :

1) Réduire les stigmates qui entourent les troubles mentaux sur les lieux de travail. Personne ne doit souffrir en silence à cause d'une souffrance qui peut être traitée et parfois prévenue. Prendre en compte la santé mentale et le bien-être au travail peut avoir un impact considérable dans nos foyers, nos écoles et notre vie collective. Il devrait être tout aussi anodin de consulter pour un problème mental que pour une tension trop élevée, un diabète ou un problème cardiaque.

2) Réduire les inégalités en terme d'accès aux soins de santé mentale, une question fréquemment ignorée. C'est souvent un problème pour les populations pauvres qui sont à la fois les plus exposées et en plus grande difficulté pour accéder à ces soins, en partie du fait du manque de lieux et de personnels spécialisés. Il existe des stratégies innovantes pour résoudre ce problème. Les Bancs de l'amitié au Zimbabwe en sont un exemple, et j'attends impatiemment d'en savoir plus à ce sujet de l'un des acteurs de ce projet qui sera présent à Davos.

3) Privilégier la prévention. L'approche la plus efficace consiste à intégrer la souffrance mentale dans l'ensemble des soins de santé et à poursuivre une prévention primaire. Pour y parvenir, nous devons comprendre comment traiter les traumatismes de l'enfance, souvent à l'origine de problèmes physiques et mentaux plus tard dans la vie. Cela ne se passera ni dans les hôpitaux, ni dans les centres de santé, mais au sein de groupes et de collectivités qui prennent soin des enfants, plutôt que de les traumatiser. Pour des entreprises comme la notre, cela signifie apprendre à prévenir et pas seulement à soigner.

4) C'est le point le plus important pour les responsables de santé - redoubler d'effort pour associer le corps et l'esprit. En intégrant davantage la santé mentale aux soins primaires, nous pouvons montrer qu'une souffrance mentale est comparable à un problème respiratoire, endocrinien ou cardiaque. Et quand les soins primaires ne suffisent pas, les personnes qui en ont besoin doivent pouvoir consulter un spécialiste, au même titre qu'un orthopédiste ou un cardiologue. Un esprit sain est tout aussi important pour la santé qu'un cœur en bon état.

Depuis 3 ans, je souhaite profiter du Forum économique mondial pour faire de la santé mentale et du bien-être une priorité mondiale. Je me réjouis de ce que ce thème tienne une place importante dans les discussions de cette année.

En rassemblant les leaders mondiaux de tous les secteurs, nous pouvons encore progresser pour mettre fin à la honte et au silence qui entoure les troubles mentaux. Nous pouvons faciliter l'accès aux soins, les améliorer et innover dans ce domaine. Et nous pouvons agir pour que la santé mentale, au même titre que le bien-être physique, soit un élément essentiel de la Mondialisation 4.0.

CULTURE & ENTERTAINMENT



With Ben Polee Wese

Culture Ambassador Juli launches latest album soon

Traditional leaders here, under the auspices of the National Council of Chiefs and Elders of Liberia and the National Governors Council of Liberia, respectively have given their blessing to the pending launch of Culture Ambassador Juli Endee's "Prevenient Grace" Album in Monrovia.

The head of the Traditional Council, Chief Zanzar Karwor, says it is about time traditional leaders join hands with Queen Juli Endee in ensuring the success of her program.

Chief Karwor notes that she has given so much to her country in the promotion of peace and reconciliation, stressing that it is now an opportunity for the people to join hands and support her latest initiative.

Meanwhile, two other prominent Liberian traditional women leaders have joined Chief Zanzar Karwor in endorsing the pending launch by Ambassador Juli Endee.

The president of the National Governors Council of Liberia, Musu Thompson and the National



Coordinator of the Traditional Council, Seta Fofana Saah, describe the initiative as a unifier for Liberia.

The two leaders said they admire the fact that the musical launch is

about promoting peace and unity among Liberians, and call on their members to support the initiative.

Governors Council President Madam Musu Thompson says Ambassador Endee has always stood for peace in Liberia, adding that it is about time the country rallies support for the Culture Ambassador.

She urges all 16 tribes of Liberia to turn out in all the counties due to host the launching exercises.

Ambassador Endee is expected to start the official launch of her Prevenient Grace Album Tour in Ganta, Nimba County, on Thursday, January 31st.

The exercises will subsequently continue in the provincial capitals of Bong, Margibi, Grand Gedeh, Grand Bassa and Bomi counties, respectively to be climaxed by a Corporate Launch and a mass launch in Monrovia in March this year.

During the coming tours in the counties, there will be lighting of peace torches at border towns to promote peace and reconciliation.

There will also be awareness on sexual and gender-based violence and HIV/AIDs. The team will educate people on culture, creative arts and capacity building for youth empowerment.

Meanwhile, the Liberia Crusaders for Peace in collaboration with the Queen Juli Endee Production will tomorrow, Saturday formally launch sale of raffle tickets for the events.

The tickets will qualify participants for a major raffle draw that will feature winners from across the entire country.

Saturday's event will be held at the Liberia Crusaders for Peace Head Office on Capitol Bye-Pass in Monrovia aimed at creating awareness for the official launch.

The program will be live on Hott FM 107.9 FM and Power FM 93.3 FM, featuring interviews with Ambassador Endee, hosts of DJs, fans, friends and well-wishers.

Who's who in LEA 2019?



The Liberia Entertainment Awards (LEA) has received full list of the 2019 nominations, in what it terms as "The Big Four" (4) categories: best new artist, video of the year, song of the year, and best artist of the year "are very competitive".

Liberia international DenG has three nominations this year, including artist of the year, video of the year and song of the year, respectively while MLMA artist of year and SOG king CIC has three nominations this year, artist of the year, song of the year and Hipco artist of the year, respectively.

Also hitting for the first time Shine P in LEA history, a new artist is nominated for artist of the year, and it is also the first time a new artist is nominated in more than one category. Shine P is nominated for artist of the year, song of the year and best new artist.

According to LEA, Public Voting runs from January 1st - January 31st online at www.LiberianEntertainmentAwards.com

Winners are determined by 50% Public Votes and 50% LEA Academy Votes. Winners will be announced on March 10th at the 10th Liberian Entertainment Awards, Rialto Center in Atlanta, GA, United States.

Check out the complete list of 2018 Liberian Entertainment Awards nominees below:

BEST ARTIST:

- DenG
- CIC
- Kobazzie
- Mai Myers
- Shine P
- Best New Artist
- Ace Cape
- Ag Da Profit
- Faith Vonic
- Kpanto (Stunna)
- Shine P

BEST RADIO PERSONALITY:

- Dede Dalmeida
- Henry Costa
- Lincoln Ward
- Master Queen
- Rickslyn Myers

BEST GOSPEL ARTIST:

- Arimetha Smith
- Evon Kawreh
- Jada Mayson Osabu
- Joe D'Publik
- Will Davies

BEST MODEL:

Amina Jajua

- Cianneh Browne
- Elly Olson
- Prince Kruz Vah
- Shi-Shi Seh

BEST MUSIC VIDEO:

- DenG ft Kcee - "Make Dem Talk"
- Flex ft Akon - "Holy Ghost Fire"
- Quincy B ft Sweetz - "My Pledge"
- Skylett White - "Buffe Ground Hold It"
- Togar Howard - "Fantasy"

SONG OF THE YEAR:

- Ag Da Profit - "Zico"
- CIC ft FA - "Jon Buttay"
- DenG - "Grateful"
- Kobazzie ft CIC - "Drinks on Me"
- Shine P ft Ali - "Drinks (Drinking Drinks)"

BEST DJ:

- DJ Ant Flahn
- DJ Daddi Rich
- DJ LIB
- DJ Nelly
- VDJ 2Much

BEST HIPCO ARTIST:

- Christoph
- CIC
- Mazie Blanco
- Shine P
- Soul Fresh

BEST MUSIC PRODUCER:

- D12
- Genius
- Just Prince

Killer Beatz

- Stone Luck Shine
- BEST ACTOR (ESS):**
- Angel Michael
- Eugene Roques
- Karishma Pelham-Raad
- Korto Davis
- Melvin Kidka

BEST COMEDIAN:

- Angel Michael
- Darlington Curtis
- Fadee "Arab Marine" Murad
- Fay Nelson
- Paul Flomo

BEST FASHION DESIGNER:

- Crystal Wonyen (J Wonyen)
- Comfort Norkeh (Comfort Couture)
- Melody Asherman (RR Fashionista)
- Monsio Saba (Monsio Couture)
- Precious Lakis (Precious Pieces)

BEST FILM MAKER:

- Alexander "Ush" Wiaplah
- Angel Michael
- Frank Artus
- Hadisa Kadi
- Mardea Tyler-Kulee
- BEST FILM:**
- ABC Gboyo
- Complicated Destiny
- Friend Request
- LIB Players
- Siatta Will Kill Me

Read The NewDawn Online Daily

11-year-old girl gang raped to death

By Thomas Domah/Nimba

Police in Saclepea, Lower, Nimba County are investigating several suspects for allegedly gang raping an 11-year-old girl to death in Bweh Town, Electoral District#7.

The victim was a first grader at the Johnny Vokar Public School in Saclepea, but

Police in Saclepea have arrested three suspects, who are being probed in connection with the alleged act.

Two of the suspects yet to be identified, linked a 48-year-oldman as an accomplice.

According to them, the 48-year-oldman came from the same direction in which the body of the 11-year-old was

Paye, 26, and 30-year-old Saye Dolo.

Statistics at the Women and Children Division of the Liberia National Police in Nimba, shows that sexual violence against women, including rape has been on the increase since 2018.

In November 2018, Police in Flumpa along the Ganta-Saclepea highway in Electoral District#8 arrested a 28-year-oldman for allegedly raping his two months old baby in the same room after his wife denied him sex that night.

Suspect Amos Dolo hails from Bong County, but had gone to Flumpa, Nimba County to speak to his baby mother when he allegedly committed the act.

Medical report established the infant was sexually abused, which led the Police to charge Amos with rape and subsequently sent to the prison compound in Sanniquellie.

However, was later seen in public which caused the baby's mother to leave her home town, Flumpa, in apparent humiliation.

At the same time, 32-year-old Saye Doe, a resident of Gbahn Town along the same Ganta-Saclepea highway, allegedly raped a baby to death, and apprehended and detained, but later released. - *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



had gone for a weekend in Bweh, her home town when she was allegedly gang raped by group of men.

Family sources told the New Dawn the deceased had gone to a creek to wash her clothes when she was allegedly gang raped.

discovered two days later with blood stains in her private parts.

Those currently undergoing police interrogation include 42-year-old Joshua Kerwon, who has been linked by the other two suspects as prime suspect. Others are Eddie

Speaker Chambers is fake

Starts from back page

error.

He says for more than one decade, Chambers learnt nothing about legislative rules and procedures, but spent his time creating 'political scenes' only to put the past administration against the public.

He claims Speaker Chambers carries 'gossips' to President George Manneh Weah about his colleagues, who are critical of his administration.

The Grand Bassa Lawmaker adds that since their arrival at the Capitol last year, the Speaker has failed to lobby with the Executive Branch of government through the Ministry of Finance to disburse allotments for their vehicles and secure funds for legislative projects as enshrined in the budget law of the country.

Representative Willie continues that Speaker Chambers is 'inept' and incompetence for the office, and his prime concern is to only fight for his personal gains, ignoring the plight of the other 72 lawmakers.

Making his contribution to the show, Sinoe County

Representative Jay Nagbe Sloh, discloses that a huge number of the lawmakers are gearing up to remove Speaker Chambers, because he has failed to improve his working relationship that could move the House forward.

But Montserrado County Electoral District #7 Representative Solomon George disagrees. He argues that lawmakers, who are yearning for cars and money for legislative projects, wantonly want Speaker Chambers to solicit bribe.

Representative George notes that some lawmakers came to the Capitol with the perception that the Legislature is a place where one earns more money than anywhere in government.

He claims a group of lawmakers headed by Montserrado County Electoral District #15 Representative Adolph Lawrence, are mobilizing some of his colleague lawmakers to publicly disrespect Speaker Chambers, but the New Dawn has not independently verified the assertion. -*Editing by Jonathan Browne*

3 lawmakers under investigation

By Bridgett Milton

Three Representatives are undergoing investigation by the Committee on Rules, Order and Administration at the House of Representatives for allegedly bringing the House to public disrepute.

Sinoe County District #2 Rep. Nagbe Sloh, Montserrado County District #15 Rep. Adolph Lawrence and Montserrado County District #10 Rep. Yekeh Kolubah have been subjected to investigation after having some disagreement with House Speaker Bhofal Chambers.

Mr. Chambers hails from the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) of President George Manneh Weah, and with the exception of Rep. Kolubah, two of the lawmakers placed under investigation are also CDCians.

The House under Speaker Chambers' leadership finds no comfort in comments coming from their fellow CDC lawmakers Reps. Lawrence and Sloh because these ruling party lawmakers are beginning to sound like staunch opposition lawmaker Rep. Kolubah who restlessly



criticizes not just the House, but the entire government.

In a communication to the House Plenary, CDC's Montserrado County District #9 Rep. and Chairperson on Executive Munah Pelham Youngblood complains that in some local dailies, Reps. Kolubah, Sloh and Lawrence accuse the leadership of the 54th House of Representative of carrying out some malpractice.

Rep. Youngblood says the

allegations were contained in some local dailies on Thursday, 17 January.

She laments that Rep. Sloh is alleging that as per a paper report, he is in possession of documents which show that with the consent of the speaker, some lawmakers have over the months received and disposed personally huge quantity of duty free gasoline that are intended for the entire body.

Rep. Youngblood complains

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further that Rep. Kolubah, while addressing reporters at the Capitol on 16 January alleged that Rep. Mariamu Fofana who chairs the Committee on Rules, Order and Administration allegedly received some items on behalf of the House but she allegedly diverted them to her private use.

Youngblood is angry that Mr. Kolubah displayed series of documents during the interview protecting his allegations.

Meanwhile the House

Plenary has forwarded the three lawmakers involved to the Committee on Rules, Order and Administration to report in one week.

Additionally to silenced opposing views by other lawmakers, an amendment was made to the motion, with a mandate added that while the investigation is ongoing against Reps. Sloh, Kolubah and Lawrence, any lawmaker who goes to the media should be suspended.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

GoL, LBDI sign US\$2mn Small Business Pro-Poor Dev't Fund loan scheme



The Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning along with Ministry of Commerce & Industry and the Liberia Bank for Development and Investment have signed a US\$2 million Small Business Pro-Poor Development Fund Loan Scheme aimed at empowering Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs), Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) and

Village Savings & Loans Associations (VSLAs) in and around the country for payment over three years period at the interest rate of seven percent.

Signing of the US\$2million Small Business Pro-Poor Development Fund Loan Scheme took place on Thursday, January 17, 2019 in the conference room of the Ministry of Commerce.

According to Finance and

Development Planning Minister, Hon. Samuel D. Tweah Jr, today's loan signing is a signature project from the President's Inauguration Speech during which he assured that Liberians will not be spectators in their own economy.

Minister Tweah described affording Liberian-owned small businesses access to loans through the Fund as one of the tangible and practical steps in fulfilling the President's promise about Liberians participation in the economy.

"This loan is minimum, but a maximum will depend on the performance of this initiative. I hope you will hear it from the President that he is willing to do more and the bank is also willing to do more and increase its contribution", he added.

The Treasury Boss said the Pro-Poor Development Fund Loan scheme is meant to support private



Speaker Chambers is fake

-Rep. Vincent Willie

By E. J. Nathaniel Daybor

House Speaker Bhofa Chambers is increasingly coming under attack; this time around, particularly from among his colleagues for alleged impropriety, insensitivity and absolute dominance.

Chambers has been in the media of recent, not for any

very good reason even as current as Thursday, 17 January when Grand Bassa County Electoral District #3 Representative Vincent Willie squarely described Speaker Chambers as 'fake' and very corrupt.

Appearing on Prime Morning Drive, a live broadcast talk show in Monrovia, Representative Willie notes that the Speaker is a complete opposite of criticisms he held against former President

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, and even one of his predecessors, Alex J. Tyler.

He further observes that Speaker Chambers, who had been in the House of Representatives for 12 years prior to his ascendancy to the speaker post, does not understand the rules and norms of governing plenary, thereby making countless



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