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The New Dawn

French Version Inside

TRULY INDEPENDENT

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

VOL. 8 NO. 242

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2019

PRICE LD\$40.00



Brumskine moans

11 arrested following bloody party



A wounded PSU officer calls for backup



Continental News

Egypt TV host Mohamed al-Ghiety jailed for interviewing gay man

An Egyptian TV presenter has been sentenced to one year of hard labour for interviewing a gay man last year.

A court in Giza also fined Mohamed al-Ghiety 3,000 Egyptian pounds (\$167; £130) for "promoting homosexuality" on his privately owned LTC TV channel.

The gay man, whose identity was hidden, had talked about life as a sex worker. Homosexuality is not explicitly criminalised in Egypt, however, the authorities have been increasingly cracking down on the LGBT community.

They routinely arrest people suspected of engaging in consensual homosexual conduct on charges of "debauchery", immorality or blasphemy. The most recent case came about after lawyer Samir Sabry, who is well known in Egypt for taking celebrities to court, filed a lawsuit against Ghiety for his interview which took place in August 2018.

The TV host, who has voiced homophobic views on a

number of occasions, spoke to a gay man who expressed regret over his sexuality and described life as a prostitute. The man's face had been blurred to conceal his identity.

Egypt's top media body, the Supreme Council for Media Regulation, immediately took the channel off air for two weeks, citing "professional violations".

The prosecuting lawyer, Mr Sabry, accused the TV host of revealing there to be financial gains of "practising homosexuality", state-owned al-Ahram newspaper reports.

In addition to the jail term and fine, the misdemeanours court also ordered Ghiety to be put under surveillance for one year after serving his sentence, Mr Sabry said.

The verdict could be appealed against and suspended if Ghiety paid bail of 1,000 Egyptian pounds, pending the appeal's outcome, he added. Egypt's media council banned homosexuals from appearing on any media outlet after a rainbow flag was raised at a concert in Cairo in 2017, in a rare public show of support for the LGBT community in the conservative, mainly Muslim country. A crackdown was also launched on suspected homosexuals with dozens of people arrested, in a move decried by human rights

groups.

The authorities rely on a 1961 prostitution law that criminalises "habitual debauchery" to charge people who they suspect of engaging in consensual homosexual conduct.

Mr Sabry was also the lawyer who filed a case against Egyptian actress Rania Youssef on charges of "inciting debauchery" over a see-through outfit she wore at an awards ceremony last year. He later dropped the case after Ms Youssef apologised. He has filed hundreds of similar cases in recent years. BBC



TV host Mohamed al-Ghiety has himself expressed views against homosexuality in the past

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

Zimbabwe accused of opposition crackdown

South Africa has said it rejected a request from Zimbabwe for an emergency loan of \$1.2bn (£932m) in December.

Zimbabwe's government had hoped the cash would help stabilise the economy and resolve fuel shortages in the country.

South Africa did not have "that kind of money", a Treasury spokesman said.

A fuel price hike imposed shortly after the request was rejected has led to violent clashes. The opposition says four of its MPs have been detained. The government has blamed the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) for stoking the violence.

The MDC has denied this and its leader Nelson Chamisa told the BBC that many of its

members had been arrested including the four MPs. Rights groups say at least 12 people have been killed in the crackdown on the protests.

They say many more have been beaten in clashes with security forces but there has been no official confirmation of this.

Zimbabwe's president Emmerson Mnangagwa announced a steep increase in

the fuel price last week, sparking angry protests in the capital, Harare, and the south-western city of Bulawayo.

On Twitter, he said he was cutting short his current foreign tour to return home "in light of the economic situation".

What happened during the protests?

Police have been violently cracking down on the demonstrations against the fuel price rise, with reports of door-to-door searches and use of live ammunition.

The UN has called on the government to halt the "excessive use of force" by police. But the Zimbabwean government on Sunday said the security forces' actions were just "a foretaste of things to come". News of the violent crackdown emerged despite the country's internet, including social media and messaging apps, being cut off.

Speaking to the state-owned Sunday Mail newspaper, a presidential spokesman blamed the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) for the violence that has accompanied the protests.

"The MDC leadership has been consistently pushing out the message that they will use violent street action to overturn the results of [last

year's] ballot," George Charamba said.

The opposition rejected a court ruling in August that confirmed that President Mnangagwa had beaten Mr Chamisa.

Why has the fuel price increased?

The price rise was aimed at tackling shortages caused by an increase in fuel use and "rampant" illegal trading, President Mnangagwa said.

But many Zimbabweans, worn down by years of economic hardship, suddenly found they could not even afford the bus fare to work.

The new prices mean Zimbabwe now has the most expensive fuel in the world, according to GlobalPetrolPrices.com. They feel that the president, who has been on a tour of Russia and Asian countries, is failing to live up to his promises following his election last year in disputed polls. He has been struggling to revive the economy, which is experiencing high inflation while wages have stagnated.

Access to the internet was intermittent throughout the week, but people found they were unable to use social media and the WhatsApp messaging platform, which has become a common way to share news. BBC



Protesters burning tyres in the Zimbabwean capital Harare

EDITORIAL

Silencing critical voices in the House

THERE IS AN ongoing attempt to silent some members of the House of Representatives, who are viewed by the leadership of that august body as being very critical against Speaker Bhofal Chambers and his leadership style.

THREE REPRESENTATIVES ARE currently being investigated by the Committee on Rules, Order and Administration at the House for allegedly bringing that body 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 are facing probe for publicly disagreeing with Speaker Chambers.

THE SPEAKER FINDS no pleasure in critical comments against his leadership in the press, attributed to some of his colleagues. He is making no secrecy in expressing his disgust about such reports.

ACCORDING TO REPORTS, Reps. Kolubah, Sloh and Lawrence accuse the leadership of the House headed by Speaker Chambers of involvement in malpractices.

HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE the unfolding development on Capitol Hill is far more than probing to set records straight. Rather, it is a calculated attempt to quiet dissenting views and renders that great hall for the exchange of ideals dormant, as it is already a rubber stamp to the Executive.

THE ALL MIGHTY Speaker Chambers is seeking absolute control of the rest of the 72 members in the House. He does not want to entertain any challenge from the floor during session.

LEGISLATIVE FUNCTIONS ARE all about disagreement and debate to derive majority consensus on a way forward. During such exercises, there would be bitter and sometimes, acrimonious exchanges, geared at getting the best ideas.

BUT AS THINGS are proceeding in the House under the Chambers leadership, debate and divergent views are being thrown out of the window. Surely, this is not the kind of legislature Liberians envisage. They do not want a House which members would spend all of their time fighting one another rather than debating the matters of state.

WE CALL ON Speaking Chambers and his entire leadership to abandon the current prosecution of lawmakers with critical views. Instead, Chambers should exercise tolerance and accept criticism in good fate in order to become a better consensus builder in serving the Liberian people rather than going after perceived enemies as the present scenario depicts.

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COMMENTARY

By José Antonio Ocampo

Decision Time for the Future of Corporate Taxation

Despite some recent steps in the right direction, the current international tax system is outdated and fails to prevent egregious tax avoidance by digital multinational companies. The world needs a corporate tax system that is fit for the digital economy and benefits developing and developed countries alike.

NEW YORK - At first glance, it appears to be a bureaucratic meeting like any other. But the discussions at the OECD in Paris at the end of this month are of the utmost importance, because the world's richest countries will present new proposals for taxing digital multinational companies such as Google, Amazon, Facebook, Apple, Netflix, and Uber.

Back in 2012, when scandals related to tax-avoidance schemes by Apple, Amazon, and Google unleashed public anger and forced the G20 to act, the OECD was called on to reform the international corporate tax system. That led, three years later, to a package of reforms known as the "Base Erosion and Profit Shifting" Project, or BEPS. The reform process was led by OECD countries and opened up to developing countries only after this initial package was unveiled. Today, 125 countries are involved, forming a group called the "Inclusive Framework."

BEPS was undoubtedly an important step toward tackling some of the most egregious tax-avoidance strategies used by multinationals. It initiated, for example, the sharing among tax authorities of country-by-country reports on these companies' profits and tax payments. Unfortunately, however, this norm will apply only to very large multinationals, and the reports will not be publicly available, depriving civil society of an essential tool of transparency.

Furthermore, BEPS failed to reach the root of the problem: companies are still permitted to move their profits wherever they want and to take advantage of very-low-tax jurisdictions. Google, for example, moved €19.9 billion (\$22.7 billion) through a Dutch shell company to Bermuda in 2017, and in the same year Facebook paid just €7.4 million (\$9.6 million) in corporation tax in the United Kingdom, despite generating €1.3 billion in revenue there.

Multinationals can do this legally by using so-called transfer pricing: a parent company sets the prices of transactions among its subsidiaries to guarantee that profits are registered in low-tax countries, rather than where the economic activity that generated the profits actually occurred. For example, Vodafone, the first big multinational to publish country-by-country data voluntarily, revealed that nearly 40% of its profits for 2016-17 were allocated to tax havens, with €1.4 billion declared in Luxembourg, where the company is taxed at an effective rate of 0.3%.

Tax avoidance can be found in all economic sectors, but digital companies best

demonstrate how outdated the current international tax system is. Because these companies' marginal cost of production is zero, the revenue accruing to them is equal to a rent, and it is therefore important to tax this rent effectively. And, contrary to what these companies' leaders claim, this taxation would not negatively affect the supply of digital services.

The Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation (ICRICT), which I chair, believes that the BEPS process has achieved what it could, given the political muscle of big corporations and the army of lawyers and accountants who have a vested interest in maintaining the status quo. In our latest report, we take stock of what has been achieved and highlight what should happen in the next phase of reform, "BEPS 2.0."

The upcoming OECD meeting will be decisive in this respect. For the first time, the OECD will present to the Inclusive Framework, including developing countries, the outlines of the BEPS 2.0 plan and its vision of a deeper transformation of the tax system in response to the challenges posed by the digital economy. It is a unique opportunity for all 125 governments in the Inclusive Framework to urge the OECD to repudiate transfer pricing and move toward a fairer and more effective system.

The lack of consensus so far on how to tax digital multinationals has led numerous countries to implement (as India, Italy, Spain, and France have done) or promise to implement (in the case of the United Kingdom) turnover-based taxes as a stop-gap measure to raise revenue. But unilateral action is not enough.

The ICRICT supports all discussions that move toward unitary taxation of multinationals, which would eliminate multinationals' use of transfer prices to shift profits, because their global income would be consolidated. Global profits and associated taxes could then be allocated geographically according to objective factors such as the company's sales, employment, resources, and even digital users in each country. We also strongly support the introduction of a global minimum effective corporate-tax rate of between 20% and 25% on all profits earned by multinationals.

The overriding priority now is to establish an international corporate tax system fit for the digital economy. The OECD BEPS process was essentially conceived by developed countries for developed countries. In Paris this month, developing countries must understand what is at stake and make their voices heard, to ensure that any new proposal benefits all.

O-PED

By Michael Spence

What Next for China's Development Model?

MILAN - China's strategy for economic growth has been a work in progress since Deng Xiaoping launched the country's "reform and opening up" in 1978. While the last 40 years of reform have been far from error-free, the government has displayed a willingness to adapt, as well as a capacity for navigating complex transitions, supported by a healthy internal policy debate. But how is China's development model likely to evolve in the future, as external conditions pose new challenges to economic growth?

A defining feature of China's four decades of reform has been the state's evolving role in the economy, about which there is still significant domestic disagreement. Some argue that the state - and, by extension, the Communist Party of China (CPC) - must retain a prominent role, in order to uphold the social stability needed to sustain economic development. Others claim that spurring the innovation needed to reach high-income status requires the state to be less like a market participant and more like a referee, regulator, and arbiter of economic and social priorities.

Without question, the state has been integral to China's development, not only by investing in areas like infrastructure and technology, but also by serving as a backstop as nascent markets and private-sector institutions developed. State involvement is also needed to help manage inequality and ensure that growth patterns are inclusive, which markets alone cannot be counted on to do.

Moreover, the Chinese state has resolved coordination problems that are not easily or efficiently handled by decentralized markets, particularly in developing countries, where market institutions and administrative capabilities may be at different stages of development. In its five-year plans, China's government establishes clear priorities and expectations that help to ensure that complementary policies and investments occur simultaneously or are properly sequenced.

Proponents of giving markets and the private sector a "decisive" role in the economy largely do not dispute these points. Instead, they emphasize that innovation, productivity growth, and overall growth have been driven primarily by the expanding private sector. A vibrant marketplace of ideas is a key part of this model. The CPC's increasing presence in private firms, heavy-handed economic intervention, and a growing preference for orthodoxy could pose a threat to dynamism and growth.

Already, the lack of clarity about the state's role in private firms is hampering outward investment by Chinese multinationals, especially in industries that involve national and cyber security, a sector that is growing rapidly as the world's economies shift onto digital foundations. If China reverts to a model in which the state owns the assets in key sectors, those sectors could underperform due to a lack of competition and experimentation, resulting in stagnation.

It is worth noting that China never adopted the shareholder-value model of corporate governance that has long prevailed in the West, though the West is now arguably moving toward a multi-stakeholder model. Instead, the Chinese authorities view corporations (and financial markets) as instruments to achieve economic and social objectives.

In a sense, therefore, China has had a kind of multi-stakeholder model all along. As environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG) takes hold in the West, the Chinese and Western models may begin to converge, with the key difference that, in China, the CPC and the state represent the non-owner stakeholders, or the public interest.

The relative roles of the state and the market in China's economy have yet to be definitively decided. The details of the model will probably be determined by pragmatic considerations and course corrections. But it is clear that achieving the authorities' technological goals, as outlined in the "Made in China 2025" plan, will require a dynamic and relatively freewheeling private sector, as well as significant state support in the form of upstream investment in advanced education and scientific research.

China's state-led efforts to spur innovation have raised tensions with its economic partners, especially the United States. But China can take steps to assuage its critics, especially by committing to respect intellectual property, remove non-tariff barriers to cross-border trade and (especially) investment, and eliminate joint-venture requirements for private cross-border investments, so that technology transfer is not coerced.

The bigger challenges concern the role of the state at the nexus of technology and national security. Private Chinese firms investing abroad must credibly signal that their focus is purely commercial, and that they are not pursuing other agendas, like national security. A commitment from the Chinese state to insulate the country's private multinationals from such agendas would go a long way. No government can be expected to renounce the use of cyber tools in espionage, but governments can avoid implicating the private sector.

China's state-owned enterprises (SOEs), by contrast, are likely to continue to face higher barriers to clearing foreign-investment review processes. Chinese SOEs can receive difficult-to-detect subsidies, privileged access to low-cost capital, and protection from competition at home. More fundamentally, when the government is the controlling shareholder, the challenge of credibly separating commercial interests from state objectives seems insurmountable.

Obstacles to cross-border investment in the Internet are also high and likely to persist. Here, too, major differences in regulation (including the state's role with respect to content and access to data) will be difficult, if not impossible, to overcome.

Convergence with the evolving Western model is unlikely in the short run. Tensions between China and the West, especially regarding the state's role in the market, will persist. But the market-oriented development path will certainly help reduce these tensions. Introducing much greater clarity about the division of responsibilities between the state and the market would remove a major obstacle to further progress.

OPINION

By Michael Spence

What Next for China's Development Model?

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LIBERIANS DEBATE

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



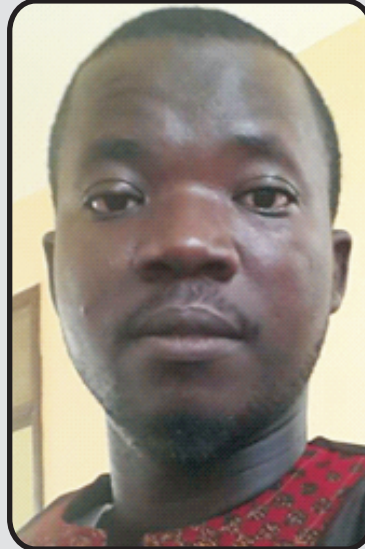
Montserrado County District#10 Representative Yekeh Kolubah's children party Sunday, 20 January in Smythe Road community turned bloody with several persons sustaining injuries, including an officer of the Police Support Unit.

The New Dawn in this spot-check asks some residents of Monrovia for their reaction to the violence that kept the Smythe Road tense for some time.



“Representative Yekeh_Kolubah, reverts to his ugly past, as he ordered his private security guard to cut off the ear of Mohammed_Bar. It's an open secret that Representative Yekeh Kolubah is a former rebel who didn't go through rehabilitation during the DDDR process, which is greatly affecting him now.

Take action and STOP #Yekeh, our state deserves better!”



James Nyenpan

“I just wonder which part of the world they call Liberia. Our attitude is too different; how will we fight to see a sitting government fail? We are not doing this to President Weah, but damaging the future of our children's and hindering the development of our country. Because no investor will ever and ever be willing to invest in a country that is not well secured because of your own gain, a whole nation cannot suffer please. Today, if you see the average of suffering people, it's too much because we fought a 14yrs senseless war. What will Yekeh and others will get from what they are doing to this government?”

“Representative Yekeh Korklubah should be suspended based on his behavior and public ridicule. Threatening the leadership of Liberia and accusing top government officials without written evidence as a Lawmaker, is completely unacceptable. He should be charged for Defamation of Character (Slander). This guy needs help.”



Bob Koijee

“It's not about Rep. Yekeh Kolubah, but about our country, our fragile democracy. The notion that bunch of gangsters disguised as government can terrorize us, Yekeh did nothing wrong, but organized a program for kids, something President George Weah has yet to do. Anything wrongs with feeding children in your district? But people see nothing wrong with what went on there because Rep. Kolubah is not on the government side. Not everybody will favor the government even if they work in the government or not.”



Adama Kamara

“People say Representative Yekeh Koluba is crazy. But it is far from reality. One thing I know in Liberia, people, who speak the truth and stand up for the truth are always considered STUPID. I'm not saying that



Yekeh is not rebel like me. But for now, he speaks exactly like real patriotic citizen who means better for his country. Everything Yekeh says is 1000% on tracks for the well being of Liberia. Having said that, police director admitted that Weah instructed him to go and disrupt the party of Mr. Yekeh and only arrest his special security assigned to him.”



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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

First Lady condemns rape

--As she consoles families of little Vivian Wright

Liberian First Lady Clar Marie Weah has consoled families of the late Vivian Wright over their daughter's reported gruesome rape and murder. Mrs. Weah's condolences

Vivian Wright, a 15-year-old student, was allegedly raped and murdered mid December 2018 while hanging out with a group of friends at a local entertainment center in Gardnerville.

Office Staff Madam Mediem says Mrs. Weah is deeply concerned about the outrageous pace at which rape is in the country, stressing "It must stop now".

A release quotes the Madam Mediem as saying that the First Lady's Office has been in touch with the family since the First Lady became aware of the incident.

Speaking on behalf of the bereaved families, the mother of the deceased, Camille Moore, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the First Lady for identifying with them during their bereavement.

Madam Moore says her family was glad that the First Lady, through her office, underwrote the cost of the burial and also took time out to listen to their concerns for justice, with assurance to do her part.

According to Mrs. Moore, the First Lady's intervention was timely and demonstrated that she is the true mother of the nation.

Police have charged and sent suspects to court in connection to the crime.--
Press release



First Lady Clar Marie Weah

were conveyed by her Chief of Office Staff, Madam Gaele Mediem over the weekend at Vivian's Burial, a release says.

The First Lady assures that the perpetrators will face the full weight of the law.

Madam Weah categorically condemns rape, describing it a cruel and unacceptable act which women and girls unfortunately still endure in the hands of wicked people.

The First Lady's Chief of

Rep. Kiazolu outlines achievements

By Bridgett Milton

Montserrado County District #17 Rep. Hanson S. Kiazolu has outlined achievements he made during the first sitting of the first session of the 54th Legislature.

Making a report to his people in Brewerville Saturday, 19 January Rep. Kiazolu said it was the first of its kind for the district to achieve so many in a short period.

According to him, during the period under review, he undertook several projects, including empowerment of market women, youth and students' empowerment,

review, his leadership was able to engage some community leaders so as to keep a good relationship between the people and their leader.

Rep. Kiazolu adds that as part of efforts to ensure sanitation within the district, he launched a community latrine project from which community dwellers are to benefit, beginning with the Gbateah Town Community.

Kiazolu says his leadership has carried out the rehabilitation of major communities' feeder roads which will soon be transformed to asphalt pavement by the Ministry of



Dr. Tokpa to distribute US\$350,000 worth of medical supplies

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

Bong County Senator Dr. Henrique Flomo Tokpa has brought in to the country US\$350,000 worth of medical supplies for onward distribution to hospitals and clinics in Bong County.

Speaking at a press conference at his Hilltop Hotel in Gbarnga recently, Sen. Tokpa said with the support of the Friends of Tokpah based in the United States of America he was able to bring into the country essential medical supplies for citizens of the county.

Some of the supplies include hand gloves, hospital bed, wheelchair and other essential clinical supplies.

He says during his campaign tour in various parts of the county, he observed the shortages of essential drugs and other medical supplies at various health facilities.

Dr. Tokpah says the medical supplies which are being kept in his warehouse will be turned over to health authorities of the county for onward distribution.

He thanks the Friends of Tokpah in the US for their continued contributions toward him and reaffirms his commitment in working with the group in and out of Liberia.

The Bong County Senator also urges health workers of the county to use the supplies for their intended purpose.

Sen. Tokpah indicates that

he has a conviction that the supplies will touch all parts of the county, saying health is paramount to the wellbeing of citizens of the county.

He vows to keep supporting the sector in order to cater to the health need of Bongese, describing health as his first priority at the moment.

Sen. Tokpah promises to work effectively in the best interest of the county.--
Edited by Winston W. Parley



health and the construction of a modern bridge linking Virginia Waterside Community with Red Hill Field Community.

He also names the construction of five hand pumps, and rehabilitation of feeder roads, among others.

Kiazolu explains that for the transformation and development of the district to be achieved, it must begin from the level of the communities, saying it was one of his major priorities.

According to the lawmaker, during the period under

Public Works.

He adds that those roads include Banjor Community Road, and Mango Town to Iron Gate Road, among others.

He also talked about giving out L\$500,000 to empower some market women in the district and L\$250,000 to petit businesses.

Rep. Kiazolu promises to continue this initiative during the next five years of his tenure, adding that electricity in his district is a must.--

Edited by Winston W. Parley

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

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MPW removes stay order on Gbarnga Street pavement

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan
In Bong

The Ministry of Public Works (MPW) has with immediate effect removed the stay order placed on the pavement of the Gbarnga Broad Street in Bong County.

Our Bong County correspondent says the stay order was placed on the pavement of the road through a written communication from Bong County authorities to the Ministry of Public Works on grounds that Sidani Group Holding Company that was hired to do the job was allegedly doing substandard works.

That project had first been awarded to East-International Group Incorporated under the regime of former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, but it came to a standstill 2017.

However the Ministry of Public Works captured the incomplete Gbarnga Broad



Street rigid pavement construction project under the Public Sector Investment Program which highlights road connectivity under the pro-poor agenda, with Sidani Group Holding becoming the

new contractor. The Gbarnga Broad Street project is one Kilometer, and the company is to construct three other roads including the 1.5km Fairground Road in Buchanan, Grand Bassa

County; the 71.7 km ELWA-Rehab Community Road in Paynesville, Montserrado County and the 1.2 km Chugbor Road in Sinkor, suburb of Monrovia.

According to a letter dated 18 January 2019 and sent to Mr. Bassam Sidani, the Head of the company, a copy of which is in the possession of our correspondent, the issue was raised by Bong County resident engineer and the local government of Bong County regarding the change of scope to the Gbarnga City Broad Street rigid pavement construction project.

It brought the project to a halt by the Ministry of Public Works since 9 January 2019.

Our correspondent says the Ministry has meanwhile instructed Sidani Group Holding to construct and complete the pavement project consistent with the existing carriageway of 9.5 meter instead of 7.3 meters as

earmarked in the project document for community roads.

Mr. Sidani is also instructed to construct 800 meters of roads in linear length, using rigid concrete pavement at 200 millimeters or 8 inches thickness instead of 1km in order to reach a compromise in terms variation.

They are also mandated to do all road furniture, including sidewalks and drainages which are to be constructed along the 800 meters road section and construct the road in line with the technical specification issued the company under the watch of the supervision consultant, JLN International.

The company is asked by the Ministry of Public Works to submit its adjusted work schedule to the consultant for prompt resumption of works on the Gbarnga Broad Street project.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

Red Cross ambulance team upgrades skills

By Winston W. Parley

The Liberian National Red Cross Society (LNRCSS) has assembled its ambulance team to a workshop in Jacob Town, Paynesville to refresh the team's skills on how to improve ambulance services to the people.

The training which took place Monday, 21 January at the Red Cross office in Jacob Town also seeks to add some more people to the ambulance team from the Red Cross Clinic down Lynch Street in Monrovia.

Access to ambulance service at night has been a big challenge here and many people often use all sorts of means including commercial and private vehicles, motorbikes and tri-cycle to take patients, including

pregnant women to health facilities through terrible terrains.

The in-service training is being conducted in conjunction with the National Public Health Institute (NPHIL).

"So this training is actually going to upgrade their skills to improve the ambulance services in Monrovia and its surroundings," Says Red Cross Secretary General Madam Sayba Tamba at the start of the training Monday.

She says the Red Cross ambulance service helps sick people, some of whom have to depend on taxis, motorbikes and transport buses to get to hospitals.

But Madam Tamba observes that the ambulances that are available cannot reach some areas because the terrains are

so terrible.

This situation pushed the Red Cross to apply for funding from the Empress Shoken Fund through the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC), following which it got the US\$30,000.00 in July 2018.

The funds are intended to facilitate the operation of a 10 - month free ambulance service which the Red Cross says started in July last year.

This funding allows the Red Cross to provide ambulance services 24 hours, most especially at night, according to Madam Tamba.

She says since they have been implementing the ambulance service in July, they have transferred more than 30 patients up to the time of the workshop.

The Red Cross official indicates that the first transferred patient was a pregnant woman from the Sowniwen Clinic to JFK.

The Red Cross says its biggest challenge in sustaining the ambulance service is funding, noting that the US\$30,000 funds will be implemented up to March this year.

According to the Red Cross, it has some challenges too with some hospitals accepting patients because of challenges that the hospitals are having.

She calls on participants at the training to be attentive and provide all their knowledge and experiences that they have so that they can all come out of the workshop with better skills to be able to serve the Liberian people.



Read The NewDawn Online Daily

Nimba Service Center generates over 17m LRD

By Thomas Domah/Nimba

The head for the Nimba County Service Center in Sanniquellie, the provincial capital, discloses that from May to September 2018 the Center generated more than 17 million Liberian dollars in revenue for government.

However, Mr. F. Mohammed Kromah notes that since the Center was established in 2016, it has not provided services to citizens in all 17 administrative districts of the

LISGIS, says Nimba is the second most populated county in Liberia next to Montserrado County with six cities. But the Service Center is located only in Sanniquellie.

Since the facility, which provides services such as issuance of driver's licenses, birth and marriage certificates, business registration, among others was introduced in the counties by the administration of former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf



county because it lacks vehicles.

He says in total, the Center generated 17, 997, 480 Liberian dollars that went into government coffers.

Mr. Kromah details that within this period, the Center served 8, 858 users, including 4,370 males and 4,488 females.

Statistics from the Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-Information Services or

as part of a decentralization policy, a huge number of Nimbaians mainly in Lower Nimba County are yet to access them due to distance and location.

Citizens from the county are calling on government to open sub-branches in administrative districts to enable them access the services. -*Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Français

La capitale Monrovia submergée par des tas d'ordures

La capitale libérienne Monrovia et ses villes environnantes sont submergées par des tas d'ordures, ce qui crée un risque grave de pollution de l'environnement et de déclenchement d'une épidémie. C'est donc en réalité une situation dangereuse pour les habitants, en particulier les enfants, ce en dépit de la campagne très médiatisée de « Ville verte » du maire Jefferson Kojee.

Impuissants devant cette situation d'insalubrité, les habitants de la capitale ont eu recours à la combustion de déchets non collectés, vu l'incapacité de la mairie de Monrovia, qui est dirigée par le maire de Kojee, à s'acquitter de son obligation, c'est-à-dire ramasser les ordures ménagères. Ça fait plusieurs mois que cette situation perdure.

Lors de sa tournée de la ville de Monrovia et ses environs, le reporter du quotidien New Dawn a dit avoir vu des montagnes d'ordures, des essaims de mouches et de cafards et des rongeurs dans



presque tous les quartiers de la capitale, devant des restaurants et dans les marchés.

Le marché de Nancy B. Doe à Sinkor, qui accueille des milliers de commerçants et leurs enfants qui fréquentent l'école du marché, l'école publique de Slipway, West Point, Randall Street, Water Front et d'autres endroits font

face à un grave danger de santé publique.

On constate d'épaisses fumées échapper de certaines décharges. Certains habitants ont mis le feu à ces dépotoirs, en violations flagrante des mesures de l'agence de l'Environnement (EPA) qui avait interdit la calcination des ordures ménagères.

Ailleurs dans Monrovia, les

eaux des égouts se déversent dans les rues, au grand dam des populations riveraines et des passants dégoutés.

Les habitants ont du mal à comprendre pourquoi la mairie de Monrovia accumule les ordures ménagères. Ils s'interrogent pourquoi le maire ne fait pas débarrasser les rues et les lieux publics des montagnes d'ordures. Certains, qui se sentent trahis, se demandent qu'en est-il de la campagne d'assainissement de la ville de Monrovia lancée par le maire Kojee dès sa nomination l'an dernier. D'autres se demandent ce que fait la mairie avec les redevances perçues pour la gestion des déchets.

D'aucuns accusent la mairie de ne se contenter que de collecter de l'argent pour la gestion des déchets, mais refuse de les débarrasser des ordures qui affectent directement leur santé.

Ils appellent ainsi le président George Manneh Weah à jeter un regard critique sur l'état d'insalubrité de la capitale et de ses environs afin de prendre des mesures proactives qui pourraient empêcher une éventuelle épidémie dans le pays. Contacté, Pেকেহ Gbuapaye, responsable des relations avec les médias de la

MCC (Monrovia City Corporation), a, à son tour, pointé du doigt l'Assemblée législative qui, selon lui, doit considérer la question des déchets comme une urgence nationale et envisager la nécessité d'accroître le budget alloué à la municipalité pour renforcer son programme de gestion des déchets managers.

D'après lui, la mairie de Monrovia est confrontée à des difficultés financières et logistiques et est dans l'incapacité aujourd'hui de procéder au ramassage des ordures ménagères qui jonchent les rues de la capitale politique du pays.

« La MCC utilise quotidiennement 460 gallons d'essence pour évacuer les déchets des points de stockage vers les stations de transfert. Dans l'ensemble, la société utilise 1 000 gallons d'essence pour transporter les déchets des stations de transfert jusqu'au site d'enfouissement de la ville de Wheine, à la périphérie de Monrovia, et 17 à 25 camions sont loués chaque jour et il faut recruter des travailleurs qui doivent être rémunérés. Tout ça coûte énormément d'argent », a-t-il dit. A en croire le porte-parole de la mairie de Monrovia, le gouvernement libérien devrait accorder à la mairie un budget de 1,5 million de dollars américains, mais malheureusement, elle n'a reçu que 750 000 dollars, ce qui représente la moitié du budget total, conséquence, l'agence n'est pas en mesure de ramasser les ordures.

« Cependant », a-t-il ajouté, « face à ces contraintes, la MCC collabore avec des partenaires, notamment la Banque mondiale et le gouvernement, pour déterminer la meilleure façon de résoudre le problème ». Il a appelé les habitants à cesser de brûler les ordures, car cela aurait un impact grave sur l'environnement. Il a déclaré que, bien que la MCC soit conscient de la présence d'ordures ici, cela ne donne en aucun cas le droit aux citoyens de jeter ses ordures dans les rues.

Sénégal : Karim Wade et Khalifa Sall ne seront pas candidats à la présidentielle

Au Sénégal, Karim Wade et Khalifa Sall ne seront pas candidats à l'élection présidentielle du 24 février. Leurs recours ont été rejetés par le Conseil constitutionnel, qui a publié la liste définitive des 5 candidats retenus dans la nuit de dimanche à lundi. Les candidatures du président

sortant Macky Sall, Idrissa Seck, Ousmane Sonko, Madické Niang, et Issa Sall ont été validées. Quant à Karim Wade et Khalifa Sall, ils ont épuisé toutes leurs possibilités de recours.

Il est 23h30 ce dimanche lorsque le Conseil constitutionnel affiche la décision rendue sur deux

tableaux à l'extérieur du bâtiment. La liste des candidats retenus est identique à celle publiée la semaine dernière. Le candidat du Parti démocratique sénégalais, Karim Wade, n'y figure pas. Son recours a été jugé irrecevable.

Autre recours rejeté, celui de Khalifa Sall. Les 7 sages considèrent toujours que la condamnation de l'ex-maire de Dakar est définitive. L'empêchant d'être électeur et donc candidat. « C'est la validation d'un coup de force imposé par Macky Sall, qui comme on l'a toujours indiqué a peur d'affronter ses adversaires, témoigne son mandataire, Babacar Thioye Bâ. Nous avons utilisé et épuisé toutes les voies de droit, sans trop y croire, la seule riposte, la seule réponse, reste l'action politique. Face au coup de force du régime de Macky Sall, la seule chose qui pourrait l'arrêter c'est de lui faire face. »

Pendant la durée de la procédure, le pouvoir a assuré que les vérifications du Conseil

constitutionnel étaient transparentes et équitables. Dans l'opposition, la stratégie pour les semaines à venir n'est pas arrêtée. Les partisans de

Khalifa Sall rejettent pour l'instant tout plan B et ne souhaitent pas soutenir un des cinq candidats retenus par le Conseil.



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Français

Éditorial

Réduire au silence les voix discordantes de la Chambre des représentants

Nous assistons à une tentative de musèlement des députés de la Chambre des représentants qui sont considérés par les dirigeants de cet auguste organe comme étant des critiques à l'égard du président Bhofal Chambers et de son leadership.

Le Représentant du district 2 du comté de Sinoe, Nagbe Sloh, le représentant du district 15 du comté de Montserrado, Adolph Lawrence, et le représentant du district 10 du comté de Montserrado, Yekeh Kolubah sont visés par une enquête ouverte par le Comité de la réglementation, de l'ordre et de l'administration de la Chambre. On les accuse d'avoir prétendument jeté du discrédit sur le parlement.

Ces députés font donc l'objet d'une enquête après s'être mis en désaccord avec le président de la Chambre des représentants, Bhofal Chambers.

M. Chambers est issu de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) du président George Manneh Weah. A l'exception du représentant Kolubah, deux des législateurs mis en cause sont également de la CDC.

La Chambre des députés, sous la présidence de Bhofal Chambers, ne semble plus supporter les critiques qui proviennent des députés Lawrence et Sloh, tous deux députés de la CDC. Ces députés, en dépit de leur appartenance au parti au pouvoir commencent à ressembler au réputé de l'opposition, le député Kolubah, qui critique sans relâche non seulement le pouvoir exécutif, mais également l'ensemble des députés.

En plus, le Président Chambers semble avoir horreur des critiques dont il fait l'objet de la part de certains de ses collègues par presse interposée. Il ne fait plus mystère de son dégoût à l'égard des critiques qui lui sont faites.

Selon certaines sources, les représentants Kolubah, Sloh et Lawrence accuseraient les dirigeants de la Chambre présidée par le président Chambers d'être impliquée dans des malversations.

Pour museler les députés qui sont opposés au leadership actuel, une décision a été prise, une décision selon laquelle pendant toute la durée de l'enquête sur les représentants Sloh, Kolubah et Lawrence, tout législateur qui s'adressera aux médias sera automatiquement suspendu.

Nous pensons qu'il s'agit là plutôt d'une tentative calculée de museler les voix discordantes. Le tout puissant président de la chambre des représentants cherche à avoir un contrôle absolu sur le reste des 72 députés. Il ne veut en tout cas aucune contradiction ni de la part de ses collègues, encore moins du public pendant la session.

Pourtant, le fondement même du rôle du parlement est d'accepter le désaccord et d'en faire un débat afin de dégager un consensus majoritaire sur la voie à suivre.

Mais, l'allure à laquelle les choses évoluent à la Chambre des représentants sous la direction de Chambers, il n'aura plus de débats et les points de vue divergents sont jetés par la fenêtre. Ce n'est certainement pas le genre de législature que les Libériens ont envisagé. Ils ne veulent pas d'une Chambre dans laquelle les députés consacraient tout leur temps à se battre plutôt que de débattre des questions d'État.

Nous appelons la chambre des représentants et l'ensemble de ses dirigeants à abandonner les poursuites engagées contre les législateurs aux voix discordantes. Que le président de la chambre basse face preuve de tolérance et accepte les critiques pour bien contribuer à créer un consensus pour servir le peuple libérien, au lieu de rechercher à s'apprendre à des gens qui sont perçus comme des ennemis, comme le montre le scénario actuel.

COMMENTAIRE

Par José Antonio Ocampo

Moment décisif sur le futur de la taxation des multinationales

NEW YORK – À première vue, il s'agit d'une réunion bureaucratique comme les autres. Pourtant, les discussions qui auront lieu à l'OCDE à Paris à la fin du mois sont de la plus haute importance : les pays les plus riches du monde y présenteront de nouvelles propositions pour taxer les entreprises multinationales du secteur numérique telles que Google, Amazon, Facebook, Apple, Netflix et Uber.

En 2012, ce sont justement les scandales liés aux stratagèmes d'évasion fiscale d'Apple, d'Amazon et de Google qui, en provoquant la colère du public, ont contraint le G20 à agir en appelant l'OCDE à réformer le régime fiscal international des entreprises. Cela a débouché, trois ans plus tard, sur le projet dit « Erosion de la Base et Transfert des Bénéfices », plus connu par son sigle en anglais « BEPS » - Base Erosion and Profit Shifting. Ce n'est qu'après s'être entendus sur une batterie de réformes initiales que les pays de l'OCDE ont ouvert la porte aux pays en développement. Ce processus concerne aujourd'hui 125 pays, réunis dans ce qu'on appelle le « Cadre Inclusif » - « Inclusive Framework ».

Il ne fait aucun doute que le projet BEPS a constitué une étape importante dans la lutte contre les plus flagrantes des stratégies d'évasion fiscale des multinationales. Il a, par exemple, initié les échanges entre les autorités fiscales des rapports pays par pays sur les bénéfices et les paiements d'impôts des sociétés. Malheureusement, cette norme ne s'appliquera qu'aux très grandes multinationales et ces rapports ne seront pas rendus publics, privant ainsi la société civile d'un outil essentiel de transparence.

Surtout, le régime des BEPS ne s'est pas attaqué à la racine du problème : les entreprises sont toujours autorisées à déplacer leurs bénéfices où bon leur semble afin de profiter des taux d'imposition très faibles offerts par certains pays. Google, par exemple, a transféré 19,9 milliards d'euros aux Bermudes par l'intermédiaire d'une société écran néerlandaise en 2017 et, la même année, Facebook a payé seulement 7,4 millions de livres (8,38 millions d'euros) d'impôt sur les sociétés au Royaume-Uni, malgré des recettes de 1,3 milliard de livres (1,47 milliards d'euros).

Ce tour de passe-passe est effectué de façon légale en utilisant ce que l'on appelle les prix de transfert : une société mère fixe les prix des transactions entre ses filiales pour garantir que les bénéfices soient enregistrés dans des pays à faible imposition, plutôt que là où l'activité économique qui a généré les bénéfices a effectivement eu lieu. Par exemple, Vodafone, la première grande multinationale à publier volontairement des données pays par pays, a révélé que près de 40% de ses bénéfices pour 2016-17 étaient attribués à des paradis fiscaux, avec notamment 1,4 milliard d'euros déclarés au Luxembourg, où la société est imposée au taux effectif de 0,3%.

On retrouve ces stratégies d'optimisation

fiscale dans tous les secteurs de l'économie, mais ce sont les entreprises du secteur numérique qui démontrent le plus quel clairement à quel point le système fiscal international actuel est caduc. Etant donné que le coût marginal de production de ces entreprises est nul, les recettes qu'elles perçoivent sont l'équivalent d'une rente, qu'il est donc crucial de taxer efficacement. Et, contrairement à ce que prétendent les dirigeants de ces entreprises, cette imposition n'aurait pas d'incidence négative sur leurs services.

La Commission indépendante pour la réforme de la fiscalité internationale des entreprises (ICRICT), que je préside, estime que le processus BEPS a fait ce qu'il a pu, limité par le poids politique des grandes entreprises et de l'armée des avocats et comptables pour lesquels il est impératif de maintenir le statu quo. Dans notre dernier rapport, nous faisons le point sur ce que cette initiative a réalisé, tout en proposant des pistes pour une véritable réforme, pour la deuxième phase du processus, le « BEPS 2.0 ».

La prochaine réunion de l'OCDE sera décisive à cet égard. Pour la première fois, l'OCDE présentera au Cadre inclusif, y compris aux pays en développement, les grandes lignes du plan BEPS 2.0 et sa vision d'une transformation plus profonde du système fiscal en réponse aux défis posés par l'économie numérique. C'est une occasion unique pour les 125 gouvernements du Cadre inclusif d'exhorter l'OCDE à rejeter le système des prix de transfert et à s'orienter vers un système plus équitable et plus efficace.

L'absence de consensus jusqu'à présent sur la manière de taxer les multinationales numériques a d'ailleurs conduit de nombreux pays à mettre en œuvre (c'est le cas de l'Inde, l'Italie, l'Espagne et la France) ou à promettre d'instaurer (comme pour le Royaume-Uni) des impôts sur le chiffre d'affaires comme solution provisoire afin d'augmenter leurs recettes fiscales. Ces actions unilatérales ne sont toutefois pas suffisantes.

L'ICRICT soutient toutes les discussions allant dans le sens d'une imposition unitaire des multinationales, qui dissuaderait les multinationales de recourir au système des prix de transfert pour allouer leurs bénéfices, étant donné que leur revenu serait consolidé à l'échelle mondiale. Les bénéfices mondiaux et les impôts associés pourraient alors être répartis géographiquement en fonction de facteurs objectifs tels que les ventes de l'entreprise, les emplois, les ressources et même les utilisateurs numériques dans chaque pays. En outre, nous soutenons fermement l'introduction d'un taux effectif minimum mondial d'imposition des sociétés se situant entre 20 % et 25 % sur tous les bénéfices des multinationales.

La priorité absolue est désormais de mettre en place un système international d'imposition des sociétés adapté à l'économie numérique. Le processus BEPS de l'OCDE a été essentiellement conçu par les pays développés pour les pays développés. À Paris ce mois-ci, les pays en développement doivent comprendre les enjeux et faire entendre leur voix pour que toute nouvelle proposition profite à tous.



Invitation for Bids

Republic Of Liberia
Ministry of Finance and Development Planning
P.O.BOX 9013
Broad & Mechlin Streets
1000 Monrovia, 10 Liberia
West Africa



Title of bid: **Exterior Painting of the Ministry of Finance & Development Planning**

Contract Identification No.: **IFB NO. MFDP/SBA/NCB/006/18-19**

1. The Ministry of Finance & Development Planning (MFDP) anticipates funds from the Government of Liberia 2018-19 National Budget and it intends to apply part of the proceeds to payments under the Contract for the Exterior Painting of the Entire Ministry of Finance & Development Planning including water drainage at the roof to avoid leakages on the building.

2. The Ministry of Finance & Development Planning now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the **Exterior Painting of the MFDP** with roof drainage protection. The delivery / painting period is a period not exceeding two months from the date of commencement of the works.

Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures approved by the Public Procurement & Concessions Commission as specified in the Public Procurement & Concessions Act (PPCA), and is open to all eligible and qualified bidders.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Procurement Unit of the Ministry of Finance & Development Planning (MFDP); Eric B. Arkoi. ebarkoi@mfdp.gov.lr and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 9: AM to 4:00 PM, Mondays through Fridays.

5. Qualifications requirements include:

- **Company Profile**
- **Current Business Registration Certificate (Liberia Business Registry)**
- **Current Tax Clearance Certificate (Liberia Revenue Authority)**
- **Articles of Incorporation (Liberia Business Registry); where applicable**
- **Provide a proven track record of Corporate Clients or Institutions**
- **Association of Liberia Construction Contractors (ALCC) Accreditation Certificate**
- **PPCC Vender Registry Compliance**
- **Copy of Public Works Accreditation Certificate**
- **Letters of Recommendation from two (2) reputable institutions**
- **CVs and copies of credentials of one Managerial Personnel and one Engineer highlighting key experience and qualifications in Civil Works/Engineering**
- **The Managerial Personnel/Contract Manager shall possess at least five years' experience in works of an equivalent nature and volume, including no less than three years as Manager; and**
- **Experience as prime contractor in the execution of at least two painting works of a nature and complexity/some equivalence to the painting works to be performed. (to comply with this requirement, works cited should be at least 80 percent complete);**
- **Ability to pre-finance for at least four weeks evident by access to credit facilities of USD \$50,000.00 net of other contractual commitments and**
- **Timely acquisition (own, lease, hire, etc.) of the essential equipment listed in 5.5 C of the BDS. Availability of the equipment should be proven by submitting either a lease agreement (notarized) for the equipment leased/Full Title of Ownership if the contractor owns the equipment.**

6. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders at the address below, upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Fifty United States Dollars (**USD \$50.00**). The method of payment will be by cash and a hard copy of the Bidding Documents will be issued to bidders.

7. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before **2:00 PM on February 4, 2019**. Electronic bidding shall not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected and returned unopened. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives and those who choose to attend at the address given below at **2:15 PM**.

8. All bids shall be accompanied by a **Bid Security** of Three Thousand Six Hundred United States Dollars (**USD \$3,600.00**) in the form of a Manager's Check, Bank Guarantee or A Surety / Bond from an Insurance Company or a Bonding Institution. Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after the deadline of Bid submission.

9. The address referred to above is:

Eric B. Arkoi
Director of Procurement
Room 045- 3rd Floor- Procurement Unit
Ministry of Finance and Development Planning
Broad & Mechlin Streets
1000 Monrovia 10, Liberia
Mobile Number: +231-886-57-9455
Web address: www.MFDP.gov.lr

Signed: _____

Eric B. Arkoi
Procurement Director

Approved: _____

Rebecca Younger McGill
Deputy Minister for Administration

Top court reverses ruling favoring Sando Johnson

By Winston W. Parley

The Criminal Court "A" at the Temple of Justice has reversed the Monrovia City Court's ruling which initially favored Bomi County Sen. Sando Johnson in a legal action filed against a farm manager defendant James Cooper.

Sen. Johnson in 2018 sued Mr. Cooper on charges of menacing and criminal malevolence, accusing Cooper of issuing threats on him (Sen. Johnson) and his family's life via several text messages.

Sen. Johnson filed the legal action after defendant Cooper publicly accused him on the Costa Show of allegedly soliciting US\$1.4m as precondition to guarantee the farmer's request for a US\$7.2 million loan from the Rubber Stimulus Fund.

Following productions of evidences and witnesses by both

the US\$1.4 million.

According to Judge Roosevelt, Sen. Johnson's lawyer had said 'what prompted that statement, the whole conversation was never played'.

"By this assertion, coupled with the Appellant (Cooper's) witnesses testimonies, it is cleared that the Appellant's claim that the Private Prosecutor (Sen. Johnson) made such a statement for a US\$1.4 million is true," the Judge says.

The Court's minutes indicate that Pastor Karkon Kazor, testifying for defendant Cooper, narrated that during a meeting among Sen. Johnson, Cooper and others, the Senator allegedly indicated that he had gone to protect his sister Johnnetta Stewart who was requesting US\$1.4m from Cooper.

According to Pastor Kazor, Sen.



parties in the case, Sen. Johnson won the case at the City Court, and Stipendiary Magistrate Kennedy Peabody sentenced defendant Copper subsequently to serve a prison term of one year.

But resident Court "A" Judge Roosevelt Z. Willie overturned Magistrate Peabody's ruling Monday, 21 January and set the defendant free, saying Cooper is not guilty of the crimes of criminal malevolence and menacing as charged.

Judge Roosevelt finds from records before the court that it is clear that Cooper's claim that Sen. Johnson made such a statement for a US\$1.4 million is true.

Judge Roosevelt based his conclusion on a response said to be provided by Sen. Johnson's lawyer to a question if his client requested for

Johnson allegedly indicated that his sister Johnnetta and Cooper had dated for a number of years and she put some collateral, but they were not together again.

Pastor Kazor says while Cooper refused this demand because he was going to secure a loan which he would have to pay back, Sen. Sen. Johnson insisted that it was the only way Cooper could secure the loan.

On the issue of alleged threat against Sen. Johnson, Court "A" says there is no proof of this claim in the records.

Additionally the Judge says if Cooper were found guilty of the crime charge, the maximum prison term would have been four months instead of one year as pronounced by the Magistrate.

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

11 arrested following bloody party

By Winston W. Parley

Following Sunday's violence in Montserrado County District 10, police authorities in Monrovia say eleven persons have been arrested in addition to the arrest of Rep. Yekeh Kolubah's personal security aide, Abu Keita.

Violence erupted in the district when Rep. Kolubah's security and one Mohammed Bah who went in to videotape children at the event clashed, allegedly wounding Bah.

According to the police, Boima Jones, Richard Dolo, Alieu Jalloh, Samuel Kollie, Alvin Kennedy, Clarence E. Josiah, Lincoln Moses, and Lorenzo L. Johnson were among those arrested.

Others include John Williams, Moses Ross, Andrew Wonah, and Prince T. Waiwor.

The Liberia National Police (LNP) also clarifies that at no point in time did Rep. Kolubah call Police Inspector General



A wounded PSU officer calls for backup

Col. Patrick Sudue and no response was made.

The Police argue that call log available to them indicate that Col. Sudue called Rep. Kolubah more than four times

to check on him and ensure that the situation was brought under control.

Additionally the police say they have launched a full scale investigation into report of

shooting at the home of Rep. Kolubah, promising to make the findings public.

Police say as a result of the riot, three children were taken to the Catholic Hospital, but one of them has been discharged while the other two underwent treatment.

Police say parents reported that their kids were allegedly suffocating at the program due to overcrowdedness in the hall.

The police deny claims that Rep. Kolubah and Col. Sudue discussed that President George Manneh Weah had instructed the police not to respond to the incident.

On Sunday eyewitnesses said Rep. Kolubah had organized a program to entertain children from his district and provide

them book bags, copybooks

and other school materials when a guy identified as Mohammed Bah arrived on the scene and began videotaping.

According to eyewitnesses, Bah was prevented by Rep. Kolubah's security aide Keita, sparking a tussle.

Keita is said to have bitten a piece of Bah's ear off. But the incident was greeted by angry mob that demanded the living body of Keita.

Police whisked Keita away from the district for his safety.

Angry crowd suspected to be supporters of ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) retaliated by throwing stones

from every direction, wounding a riot officer from the Police Support Unit (PSU) of the LNP. Several others were injured, including children.

Brumskine moans

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Opposition Liberty Party (LP) former Standard Bearer Cllr. Charles Walker Brumskine has painted a gloomy picture of the country saying Liberia is moving too fast in the wrong path.

"But our country is moving too fast down the wrong path! Fortunately, it is not too late; we can arrest the situation and change the course of our country. But that would require the selfless commitment of all of us," Cllr. Brumskine said Monday, 21 January.

Speaking on Prime FM afternoon show Monday, the 2017 defeated presidential candidate says the shortcomings and missteps over the last 12 months by the current government have engulfed every aspect of the nation's life.

He says this is happening

while the constitutional check and balance, which characterize a democratic government are in an obvious state of disarray.

Cllr. Brumskine, a third-time defeated presidential candidate argues that the allegations of corruption, misuse of public funds, and outright stealing are just small parts of the problems that afflict the nation today.

He says further that the culture of impunity accentuates it all, adding that the executive, headed by the president, is just one of the three branches of government.

He enjoins the legislature and the judiciary to also be active players in the exercise of their respective constitutional mandates if the nation will ever stop the practices of the past and move into the 21st Century.

The former LP political leader intimates that All

Liberian People Party (ALP) political leader Mr. Benoni Urey has taken the initiative of speaking with former presidential candidates to ensure that they (opposition leaders) come together and collaborate.

He commends Mr. Urey for this step, saying "I confirmed to Ben, and I say to all Liberians, that I am in full support of working together with others in the interest of our country."

Cllr. Brumskine, a Charles Taylor era Pro Tempore of the Liberian Senate further states that to ensure that the collaboration is meaningful, opposition politicians must work on a plan, with defined goals and objectives for moving the country forward.

"Our collaboration must not be about jobs for ourselves, whether now or in the future; certainly, we must collaborate because we desire to change the status quo," he suggests.

"If not, we would be like others, who have criticized simply because they wanted to share in the spoils of government, but without an idea of what governance is all about," Cllr. Brumskine notes.

Commenting on electoral reform, Brumskine points out that a comprehensive electoral reform is probably one of the first and most important issue that should be tackled by opposition politicians for a better result in future elections.

"How can we engage President Weah, how can we convince members of the Legislature, how can we mobilize our supporters and the electorate at large to

Stop depriving gov't

Starts from back page

give government what belongs to it."

Dahu wants government to investigate recent report by the BBC which circulated in the public that Orange Liberia hacked rival company Lone Star Cell MTN network in order

to bring the French company to book thru due process.

Orange Liberia reportedly hired a British to hack Lonestar Cell MTN network, something that prompted the latter to go to court. -Editing by Jonathan Browne



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understand that the foundation of our democracy rests upon free, fair, and credible elections?" he asks.

"We must understand that unless there is a comprehensive electoral reform in Liberia, all of our ambitions, public utterances, or condemnation would be exercises in futility," Brumskine warns.

He states that if the opposition would like to have the will of the voters reflected in election results, they must insist on electoral reform before the 2023 Presidential and General Elections.

The senior corporate lawmaker names three things that should be done with the electoral reform including.

He wants political parties to recommend individuals who would serve as commissioners at the National Elections Commission (NEC); that Commissioners should choose a chairman from among themselves; and that electoral complaints against the NEC be filed before a court that would be authorized by law to hear and determine such complaints, and not before the NEC.

He argues that this does not

have to entail extra-budgetary expenditure to create a new court.

Brumskine explains that the jurisdiction of an already existing court may be expanded to include "the adjudication of such electoral matters."

The LP former political leader is recommending further that during a confidence building period between the NEC and opposition politicians, voter registration papers, machines, ballot papers and boxes and other sensitive electoral materials should be kept in a sealed place with several locks.

According to Brumskine, the keys to the place where these electoral materials will be stored should be assigned to the NEC and an agreed number of representatives of political parties, including the ruling party, respectively.

He concludes that it will ensure that NEC staff and government officials would not have access to those materials in the absence of representatives of political parties.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

Stop depriving gov't of taxes

-Angry protestors warn Orange Liberia



By Lewis S. Teh
A local group, Concerned Citizens of Liberia warns the mobile phone company Orange Liberia, to stop depriving the Government of Liberia of taxes by dubiously hacking operation of rival networks in the country.

In an interview with this paper Monday, 21 January CCL head Nathan G. Dahu notes that Orange Liberia's dubious activity deprives the government of taxes, stressing, "We the citizens will not sit and watch this company to continue this dubious act which puts additional burden

on the economy, because government finds it difficult to get it taxes from companies that are responsible to pay taxes."

He says citizens have a duty to tell the company to desist from such unscrupulous business practice, as the government needs those taxes to pay civil servants, which would have trickledown effects on the entire country people will send their children to school and meet other obligations in the home.

He says it is unfortunate that people would think the group is being paid to demonstrate before Orange Liberia office in Monrovia. "We cannot sit under our watchful eyes and watch government being duped of her taxes while the government is crying for money; this is our responsibility to take up the challenge so as to



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Solskjaer hails top class Rashford

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer believes Marcus Rashford can emulate Cristiano Ronaldo and Wayne Rooney, backing the Manchester United sensation to become "absolutely top class".

Rashford is in red-hot form with five goals in seven games since Solskjaer replaced Jose Mourinho on a caretaker basis at Old Trafford last month.

The 21-year-old forward

marked his 150th United appearance by scoring in Saturday's 2-1 Premier League win over Brighton and Hove Albion - taking his tally to 41 goals for the club.

And Solskjaer hailed the England international, placing him in the same bracket as United greats Ronaldo and Rooney. "He is only 21, but the maturity he is showing at times is more than 21 and his work rate," said Solskjaer.



"If you look at the stats, I was told that he is younger than Ronaldo and Rooney to reach 150 appearances for Manchester United."

When asked if Rashford could reach the level of Ronaldo and Rooney, Solskjaer added: "Definitely - he can be absolutely top class.

"The more you score the more chance you have of being confident, running into the same positions.

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