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# The New Dawn

**French Version Inside**

TRULY INDEPENDENT

**#Stop prioritizing foreign businesses over Liberian businesses!#**

VOL. 9 NO. 012

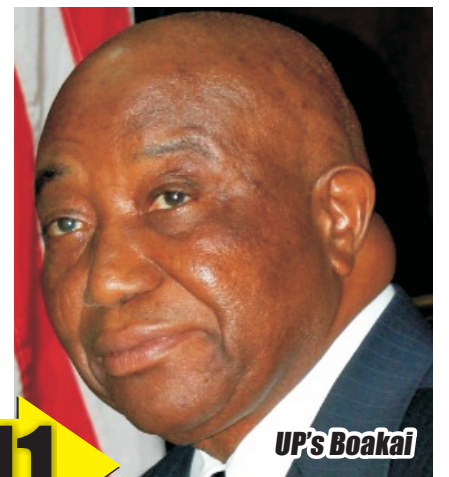
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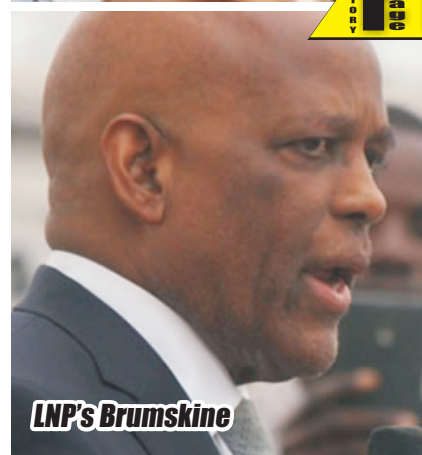
# Prophets of doom



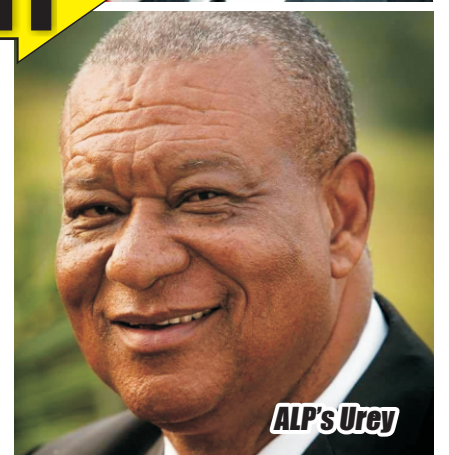
ANC's Cummings



UP's Boakai



LNP's Brumskine



ALP's Urey



## **-CDC brands opposition**



# LoneStar MTN announces 1,000 scholarships

## **-Launches new offer called "Here for You"**



# Continental News

## Miracle' Pastor freed on bail

**F**lamboyant self-styled prophet Shepherd Bushiri and his wife Mary, who have been charged with fraud and money-laundering, have been granted bail of 100,000 rand each (\$7,400; £5,000) by a court in South Africa's capital, Pretoria.

After the verdict was given, hundreds of their supporters raised their hands to the sky, and bowed to pray while others sang and danced in jubilation, South Africa's privately owned TimesLive news site reported.

"Daddy is out, yay," it quoted a Bushiri supporter as shouting.

The bail condition of the couple - who are Malawian nationals - stipulates that they cannot leave Gauteng province, the economic hub of South Africa.

They were arrested last week by South Africa's elite anti-corruption unit, the Hawks, for alleged offences

dating back to 2015.

The pastor and his wife have not yet been asked to plead to the charges.

The church leader - who is referred to by his supporters as "Major 1" - is known as much for his lavish lifestyle as

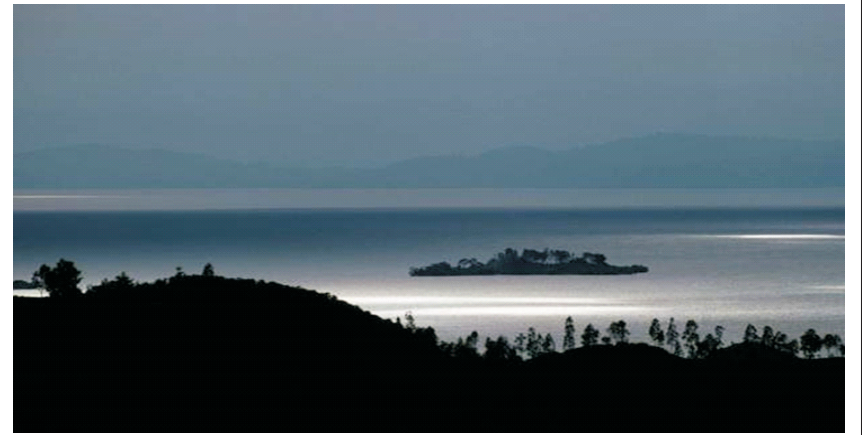
for his successful ministry, which stretches across Africa.

He claims to have cured people of HIV, appeared to walk on water in images posted on social media, and owns four private jets. -BBC



Shepherd Bushiri is known for his lavish lifestyle  
caption: Shepherd Bushiri is known for his lavish lifestyle

## Rwanda in deal to bottle gas from Lake Kivu



AFP Copyright: Lake Kivu is the eighth largest lake in Africa

**R**wanda has signed a deal to allow a company to bottle gas from a body of water known as one of Africa's killer lakes.

The project by Gasmeth Energy will involve sucking gas from the floor of Lake Kivu to use as fuel.

The lake emits such dense clouds of methane that it is known as a killer.

The \$400m operation by Gasmeth Energy - which is owned by business people from the US, Nigeria and Rwanda - would help to prevent toxic gas bubbling to the surface.

Rwanda hopes the increased availability of bottled methane would

reduce reliance on wood and charcoal, the fuels used by most households and tea factories in nation of 12 million people.

The country already has two companies that extract gas from Lake Kivu to power electricity plants.

The deep waters of Lake Kivu, in the volcanic region on Rwanda's border with the Democratic Republic of Congo, emit such dense clouds of methane that scientists fear they might erupt, killing people living along the shore.

Gasmeth Energy plans to build a gas extraction, processing and compression plant to sell methane in Rwanda and abroad. -BBC

## Grenade kills groom and best man

**A** groom and his best man have been killed in Ethiopia in an apparent accident involving a grenade belonging to the groom, local officials say.

The grenade exploded after a traditional 10-day honeymoon celebration, during which the best man is expected to entertain the newlyweds.

The bride was not present

when the grenade went off.

The incident took place in a remote village in the South Wollo Zone in Amhara region, north of Addis Ababa.

The grenade was illegally owned by the groom, the deputy commander of the police force in Borena district, Nigatu Tameme, told the BBC's Tigrinya service.

The groom has been

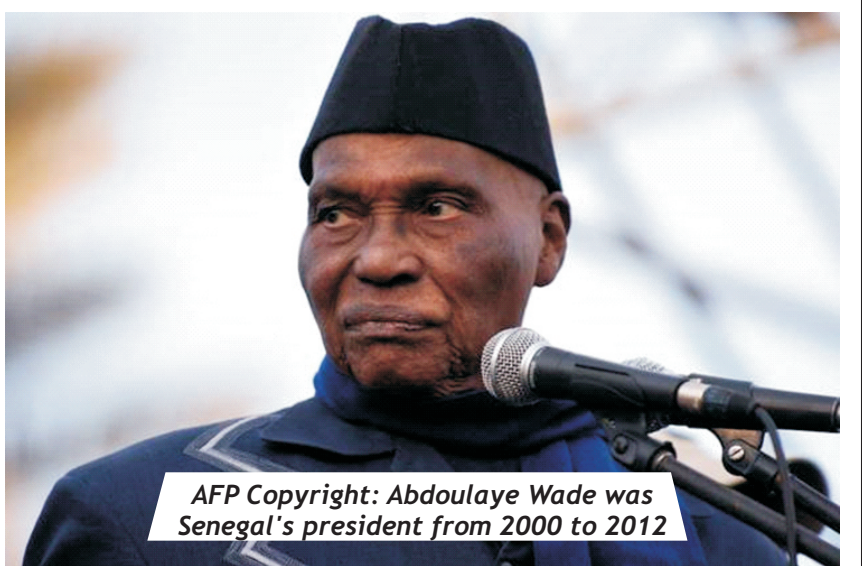
identified as 25-year-old Mohammed Hassan Mohammed. His best man has been named as Bogale Sebsibe Abera, 24.

Ethiopian authorities have come under pressure to take action against the owners of illegal weapons - particularly those who fire guns into the air to mark events such as weddings and funerals. -BBC



Image copyright AFP Grenades and other weapons have flooded east Africa over decades of conflict

## Wade calls for Senegal poll to be cancelled



AFP Copyright: Abdoulaye Wade was Senegal's president from 2000 to 2012

**S**enegal's former President Abdoulaye Wade has called for this month's elections to be cancelled over fears they could lead to instability.

Mr Wade lives in France but is due to return to Senegal this week and is calling for peaceful protests.

The 92-year-old is a fierce critic of President Macky Sall, who is seeking a second term.

Mr Wade's son, Karim, was barred from standing because of a previous corruption conviction.

The former mayor of Dakar, Khalifa Sall, who had also been viewed as a potentially strong contender in the election, was jailed for fraud last year.

The governing party denies that their trials were politically motivated. -BBC

# EDITORIAL

## We should work and stop talking agriculture

PRESIDENT GEORGE MANNEH WEAH hit the nail on the head on Monday, 4th February when he frankly told a roundtable with officials and partners that the country is not reaping dividends on its investments in agriculture.

PRESIDENT WEAH STRESSED that it is time Government and its partners derive new strategies to salvage the sector, emphasizing need to organize a technical team that would work in addressing issues and programs to achieve fruitful results.

BRIEFING REPORTERS FOLLOWING the forum, the President explained, "We talked about how we could leave from slash and burn farming methods to mechanized farming. You know there is a huge investment in agriculture, but the outcome is so little."

INDEED, THIS HAS been the main challenge from two former successive governments - the Taylor era and the Sirleaf administration. Time and time again, government has pronounced huge investments in this sector, sometimes characterized by elaborate agriculture fairs, but the national yields have made no impact on the nation's food basket, which still relies on imported rice.

PAST OFFICIALS AND even now have talked agriculture with grandeur programs and policy papers, but implementation has remained a serious challenge so much so that a nation with a population 4.5 million people rely on other countries for its staple, rice.

NOTWITHSTANDING, WE HAVE a very rich soil that is suitable for growing rice and other food. What a paradox! Something fundamentally is wronged here.

WE THINK IT is about time our policymakers and foreign partners return to the drawing board as President Weah has suggested in order to explore new approaches that would enable us to feed ourselves as a people.

PRESIDENT WEAH SHOULD lead this revolution just he is doing in the road sector, if positive results should be achieved or else, Monday's roundtable may just be another talking shop.

WE BELIEVE VERY strongly that Government should use agriculture as cornerstone for its Pro Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development or PAPD. With support from our international partners, the country's youthful population should immediately be put to work to grow what we eat.

ALL THAT IS required is political will from the authority, because previous administrations had talked agriculture, but they never produced anything substantive. So the nation continues to wallop in hunger, disease and misery.

THIS MUST CHANGE and there is no better time than now! With a youthful President, who is overwhelmingly loved by the population, we must seize the opportunity to make Liberia self-sufficient in food rather than importing yam, pepper, and oranges from neighboring Guinea and Sierra Leone.

**New Dawn**  
FULLY INDEPENDENT

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

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

# COMMENTARY

By Madeleine De Cock  
Buning & Miguel P. Maduro

## Regulating Speech in the New Public Square

*Despite the ominous headlines, the influence of fake news on political decision-making appears to be limited. But that does not make digital deception any less dangerous; fake news feeds - and is fed by - polarization, and, paradoxically, the more it is discussed, the more disruptive it becomes.*

**F**LORENCE - Today, debates about public issues play out on social media, people receive their news via digital platforms, and politicians pitch their policies using these same media. The Internet is our new public square.

In the public square of old, journalists and editors served as gatekeepers and acted as referees. Human news aggregators set the agenda and provided audiences with credible information and a diversity of views. We trusted them because of the professionalism and integrity of their editorial processes.

In the new public sphere, this model of journalism - and of journalism's role in sustaining democracy - has become obsolete. Traditional media no longer play a dominant gatekeeping and agenda-setting role. Fake news can reach multiple jurisdictions at once.

But so can public and private measures that censor speech. The challenge is to redefine the parameters of civil discourse in the new public sphere without restricting pluralism. Recent examples highlight the risk of throwing the baby out with the bathwater.

Despite the ominous headlines, the influence of fake news on political decision-making appears to be limited. According to the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism at the University of Oxford, the reach of such content is largely restricted to groups of believers seeking to reinforce their own views and prejudices. But that does not make digital deception any less dangerous. Fake news feeds - and is fed by - polarization, and, paradoxically, the more it is discussed, the more disruptive it becomes.

That is because fake news undermines trust in all forms of media and reinforces the view that it is impossible to discern fact from fiction. When people do not know what they can believe, journalists' ability to police the powerful is weakened. This trend will only worsen as "deep-fake news" - bogus images and videos that appear real - becomes more ubiquitous.

Clearly, the vulnerabilities of the digital public sphere must be addressed. Some argue that the solution is to block questionable websites or demote search results. Facebook, for example, censors duplicitous posts and has created an election "war room" to fight disinformation. Other global platforms, like Google and Twitter, have considered similar steps, and all three are being pressured to give authorities access to the private data of users who publish fake news or make defamatory statements. But we believe that these steps, while seemingly prudent, are deeply misguided.

At the heart of any strong democracy is a political consensus and arbitration that depends on the public's ability to debate and disagree. It is not up to private entities - or public institutions, for that matter - to censor this process. Rather, we should be working to ensure that citizens have access to a broad array of opinions and ideas and understand what they are reading, viewing, or hearing. Freedom of expression includes the right to receive and impart information without interference, which implies the corollary values

of media freedom and media pluralism as enshrined in the EU's Charter of Fundamental Rights. Studies show that most people prefer reliable and pluralistic news sources; policymakers' job is to enable them to realize this preference.

A March 2018 report to the European Commission by the High-Level Group on Fake News and Online Disinformation, which one of us (de Cock Buning) chaired, offered a roadmap, and the recent European Commission Action Plan provides a good starting point. But more needs to be done.

There is no silver bullet to combat disinformation. Only multi-stakeholder approaches that spread responsibility across the news ecosystem and take into account the fundamental rights involved, can provide adequate defenses against disinformation.

For example, professional media must do more to guarantee the veracity of their coverage. Fact-checking technology can help, as long as it is kept free of political and economic influence. Google, Facebook, and Twitter should stay out of the fact-checking business.

Big Tech is starting to take responsibility by committing to a Code of Practice based on the ten key principles from the High-Level Report. But "Big Tech" can contribute in other ways, such as by providing client-based interfaces for curating legitimate news, ensuring diversity in social-media timelines, and making a high priority of reposting fact-checked information. Platforms can also improve transparency in how they use data and code algorithms. Ideally, these algorithms should give consumers more control over editorial preferences and integrate editing and fact-checking applications developed by reliable media organizations.

Platforms must also clearly identify news sources, especially paid political or commercial content. Many of these more immediate measures can and should be implemented in advance of the European Parliament election in May 2019.

We also need new international collaboration and better jurisdictional rules to ensure that laws and regulations protect victims of fake and offensive news without restricting free speech or undermining the rights of whistleblowers. In particular, these conflicts should not be legally settled where only one of the parties has effective access to justice.

Finally, platform companies should cooperate with schools, civil-society groups, and news organizations to strengthen the public's media literacy. Data show that consumers in some markets still have difficulty distinguishing fake news from real.

Well-intentioned efforts to scrub the new public square of disinformation will certainly backfire; only consumers can marginalize fake news. We cannot allow private companies or governments to decide what people should know. The history of democracy is clear on this point: pluralism, not private or public censorship, is the best guarantor of truth.

## O-PED

By Daniel Gros

## The Mirage of a Global Euro

**B**RUSSELS - One of the great claims made for the euro was that it would rival the US dollar as a second global reserve currency. These hopes have failed to materialize. The euro's importance in global reserves and financial markets today is about the same as it was two decades ago, when the euro replaced the Deutsche Mark and ten other national currencies.

But hope dies last, and in this spirit the European Commission recently published a Communication entitled "Towards a stronger international role of the euro" (sic). The European Commission, like most European policymakers, takes it as given that the eurozone would benefit if the euro played a more global role. But that is not necessarily true.

One such benefit supposedly derives from the widespread use of euro banknotes outside the single-currency area. On this measure at least, the euro has been a big success. Currency in circulation has more than doubled over the last 20 years, both in absolute terms and as a percentage of eurozone GDP, and the total value of euro banknotes in circulation amounts now to €1.2 trillion (\$1.3 trillion). Furthermore, it is commonly estimated that a large fraction of euro cash is used outside the eurozone.

But the economics of banknote issuance have changed. Issuance was previously a profitable business for central banks, because they could invest the proceeds in government bonds with a decent yield. With interest rates at 5%, and €1.2 trillion of notes in circulation, the European Central Bank could have generated revenue of about €60 billion a year. Though small compared to the eurozone's overall GDP of €10 trillion, this sum is equivalent to almost one-half of the EU's budget.

At today's negative interest rates, however, currency issuance is no longer profitable. This might be another reason why the ECB decided to stop issuing the €500 note, which is also much more convenient than the \$100 bill for handling large amounts of black money. Providing a handy vehicle for underground transactions abroad should not be regarded as an advantage of the euro.

Another argument for having a global reserve currency is that foreign borrowing becomes cheaper. This is the "exorbitant privilege" that Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, when he was France's finance minister, famously said the United States enjoyed owing to the dollar's status as the world's main reserve currency. But while issuing dollar-denominated debt is an important advantage for the US (the world's largest debtor), the eurozone is a net creditor. And with real interest rates tending to be higher in dollar terms, it would be better for the eurozone's external assets to be denominated in dollars than in euro.

Furthermore, the consequences of being a major anchor currency would be particularly problematic for the euro. Fortunately, the countries that peg their currency to the euro have little economic weight. Imagine, for example, that China pegged its currency to the euro instead of to the dollar. The Chinese authorities would then determine the euro's exchange rate against the dollar - the currency of the EU's biggest trading partner and competitor. Being an anchor currency can actually entail a loss of control.

True, there are other reasons why it might be in Europe's interest for the euro to play a larger global role. For example, the extra-territorial application of sanctions by the US makes it extremely difficult for European companies to maintain trade ties with Iran, because most of Iran's international trade is invoiced and settled in dollars. But the ability of the US to apply sanctions so widely is essentially due to its diplomatic and military power. Even if the euro played a much larger role in global finance, the US would remain dominant in terms of hard power.

Having a global reserve currency makes sense for a large economy that is not too exposed to the rest of the world. The US fits the bill. It makes less sense for the somewhat smaller eurozone economy, where trade in goods and services accounts for more than one-quarter of overall GDP. Moreover, the eurozone's share of the global economy has declined from about 25% when the euro was born to 15% today, and will soon fall below 10%.

The relative weight of the US economy will of course also decrease as China and India continue to grow faster. But the dollar will retain its conventional role as the key currency for international trade transactions as long as China limits capital movements to keep control over its domestic economy. The euro, on the other hand, could increase its global role only by slowing the relative decline of the eurozone economy through rapid growth.

But, even assuming that the eurozone's relative decline continues, this would not necessarily mean a fall in living standards. The share of Japan's economy in global GDP has halved over the last 20 years, while living standards there have continued to improve, albeit slowly.

Either way, it is a good thing that early hopes for the euro to become a true global currency have not been realized. The eurozone currently is facing enough economic challenges without the additional burden of issuing a global reserve currency.

## OPINION

By Jim O'Neill

## Is Japan's Sun Rising?

**T**OKYO - When I participated in the Chatham House/Daiwa Research Institute conference on the post-Brexit Japan-UK relationship in Tokyo last month, it was my first visit back to Japan since my departure from Goldman Sachs almost six years ago. Prior to this trip, I had been visiting the country regularly since 1988, so it was helpful to see things from a slightly more detached perspective.

By and large, Japan in 2019 feels relatively stable when compared to other advanced economies. A decade from now, I would not be surprised if it continues to show the highest real (inflation-adjusted) per capita GDP growth rate in the G7.

True, Japan's annual GDP growth has averaged just 1.1% so far this decade; but its declining population and shrinking workforce is already translating into stronger per capita performance. In fact, given the country's demographic challenges, it might well be outperforming its long-term growth potential.

Moreover, the Japanese government has begun to publicize its efforts to attract certain foreign-born workers, having finally recognized that immigration will be necessary for future growth. That has been obvious for at least 20 years now. Yet, in hindsight, Japan's long refusal to adopt a pro-immigration strategy no longer seems as mistaken as it once did, given the recent backlash against globalization in Europe and the United States.

Later this year, Shinzo Abe will become the longest-serving prime minister in Japan's history. Having taken office after two decades of successive Japanese leaders playing musical chairs, he has delivered a remarkable period of stability. In particular, his signature economic strategy ("Abenomics") has produced a number of successes. In addition to experiencing strong real per capita GDP growth, Japan's persistent deflation seems to have come to an end, and there have been marked increases in women's labor-force participation.

Then again, Japan is also nearing the 20th anniversary of its foray into quantitative easing (QE). The remarkable duration of this unconventional policy may owe something to the fact no one can be sure what will happen if it stops. But it also continues simply because, despite massive liquidity injections and measures to cajole companies into raising wages, inflation remains persistently below the 2% target that Abe instructed the Bank of Japan (BOJ) to pursue.

Under these conditions, ending QE is simply not an option. Still, in principle, one can question the wisdom of continuing with it indefinitely. It is obvious that the BOJ cannot achieve 2% inflation without introducing significant monetary risks; and it is not at all clear that a 2% target is sensible to begin with. Even if it is, there are risks to pursuing such a narrow objective at the expense of other policy priorities. Many countries learned this the hard way back in the 1990s.

Nonetheless, the BOJ will maintain its current approach at least until Abe leaves office. The question is what happens after that. With the BOJ having become such a distortionary presence in bond and equity markets, its curtailment of QE could have far-reaching implications across the global economy. Unless the end of QE coincided with a dramatic improvement in the government's debt position, which is highly unlikely, bond prices finally would be in for a tough time.

That could also be true for equities, given that the BOJ has become one of the top-ten largest shareholders in many Japanese companies. On the other hand, if the BOJ ends its share purchases, equity markets will suffer less distortion, and there could be a more important role for individual stock analysis. No doubt, these variables - along with a planned increase in the Japan's consumption tax - will occupy financial analysts' minds for some time to come.

As for the broader topic of our recent conference, I have realized that there are more areas for cooperation between post-Brexit Britain and Japan than I had previously thought, owing to the oddities of each country's economic situation.

For example, with so much experience in managing the tricky relationship with China, Japan probably has some wisdom to offer other developed countries. For governments around the world, the challenge is to strike a balance between reaping the benefits of Chinese growth and avoiding the attendant security, cyber, and financial risks.

I suspect that policymakers in the United Kingdom will share Abe's enthusiasm for stronger cooperation on data protection and cyber security - an issue that will feature prominently at the G20 summit in Osaka this June. They would also welcome Japan's advocacy for a better rules-based system of global governance. And, of course, they might have something to learn from Japan's recent success in striking trade deals across Asia and with the European Union. If the UK is determined to go it alone on trade, strengthening its commercial ties with Japan will be absolutely necessary.

And who knows, if Abe's overtures to Russian President Vladimir Putin pay off, he might even be able to teach the rest of us something about Kremlinology. But on this issue, at least, we would do well to keep our hopes in check.

# LIBERIANS DEBATE



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

President George Manneh Weah has come under barrage of condemnations for appointing Ambassador George Patten and commissioning him to take up assignment in Washington, DC without conformation by the Liberian Senate as required by Article 54 of the Constitution of Liberia. But Senate Secretary Nanbolor Singbeh says the President is in no constitutional breach.

The New Dawn asks some residents of Monrovia whether they agree with Mr. Nanbolor Singbeh's argument that President Weah is not in the wrong though the Senate voted last week to invite Ambassador Patten, who had already president his Letter of Credence to U.S. President Donald Trump, for confirmation hearing.



“ Mr. President, this is a gross disrespect to Article 54 of our Constitution. Article 54 states: The President shall nominate, and with the consent of the Senate appoint and commission -

Cabinet ministers, deputy and assistant cabinet ministers ambassadors, ministers, consuls. So why is his case different?

Had the Liberian Senate consented to this nomination before commissioning? The word consent,

used in this Article, means Confirmation. Has Mr. Patten, Sr. been confirmed by the Senate? Mr. President, on January 22, 2018 you promised to uphold, defend and protect the Liberian constitution. Why are you not following the Constitution? Why rush with this position? Please respect our Constitution.”



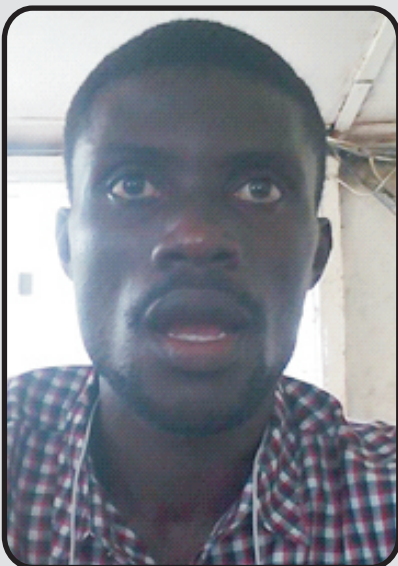
### Dennis Miller

“But Secretary Singbeh argues President Weah did not violate the law, maintaining that the President invoked ‘legislative recess appointment’ which is acceptable under their rule while the Senate is on annual break.

The Senate’s Standing Rule 55 authorizes the President to appoint officials of the executive while the legislature is on recess and to inform that body upon its return from recess, so no need for us to make this an issue because the President has the right to appoint when the senate is not around.”

### Anderson Keah

“Let's be asking our senators how can they allow decision like this to be made. As for our constitution, it was published to be disregarded. As a patriot, you know that this administration is not the only one that has disregarded this instrument and its people. Since the founding of this country, through the publication of the constitution to this date, it has been disregarded by [previous] presidents and their cabinets, citizens, foreigners, [and] you and I. Let's try to judge the well being of our country from the past. There can be no future when you have not dealt with the past. At times I think if the President has advisors to checkmate him when he's proceeding wrongly? Or he doesn't listen to them. [Was] it urgent that this ceremony be carried out without the Senate input? Mr. President, why are you violating our organic laws of the land you took oath to uphold? Are you not cognizant of the consequence? Desist from this bad governance Mr. President.”



### Joy Quaye

“We like to act like we are lovers of books, when reading is our problem. All the political oppositions we have can't tell us [What] the 1986 Constitution says about this, but all we hear on the radio is talk and talking about how the President breached constitution. Thanks to the Secretary of the Senate for explaining that the oversight authority of the 1986 Liberian Constitution did not give such power to the Liberian Legislature and for the media to have ascribed it to the plenary of the senate is wrong, false and misleading.”



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# Liberians reject God

**-says clergyman**  
By Lewis S. Teh

The Director of the Emmanuel Love Church in 110 Karphe Street, New Kru Town, Bushrod Island, Donatus S. Nayensuabo, says Liberians are suffering because they reject God.

Speaking Wednesday, 6 February in a thanksgiving service to mark the 199th anniversary of the church at the Holy Temple Church of God In Christ on Crown Hill, Broad Street, he says Jesus Christ redeemed the church and the entire world for a single purpose, to worship and proclaim Him.

He says when a group of people reject the Creator, it brings curse on the land, noting that for a country to observe 171th Independence without anything tangible to show for this long period of existence, means it is cursed for disrespecting and disobeying God.

According to Nayensuabo, the lack of development and economic achievement is the result of rejection of the name Christopolis [City of Christ] original name of the capital,

renaming it Monrovia.

"We can't be ungrateful to God, and expect his blessings; it is against this backdrop that the Emmanuel Love has thought it wise to commemorate this day for Jesus to have mercy on this land."

He laments that for hundred years the church that Jesus Christ brought on the land has refused to honor him, noting that people have

rejected Jesus Christ and evidence is that in 1822, the city called Christopolis, which means "City of Christ" or honoring Jesus Christ.

He says Liberia is the center of the gospel of Jesus Christ in the world, but the church has removed the name given by Jesus Christ, and prefers another name, which is something that puts the entire country outside of God, and is responsible for the economic



Donatus S. Nayensuabo

hardship citizens are facing.

"Today, we are gathered to commemorate, thanking Him for what He has done, and to pray for Him to have mercy on us and to forgive our sins, including government officials, citizens and foreigners to enable us keep the convenient and fulfill His mission"

He says his church teaches the true gospel of Jesus Christ to give citizens clear understanding about how Christopolis became Monrovia, as well as providing knowledge about the working of Emmanuel Love.

According to him, Redemption Day is the day Jesus Christ redeemed the Protestant Christian Church from America (Babylon, Satan, & Church) slavery to worship and serve God.

Meanwhile, Nayensuabo says he is not disappointed in top officials of government, who did not show up for the anniversary, saying "The Bible says many are called, but only few are choosing, and today, the few that came to attend are the few the Bible talks about." -Editing by Jonathan Browne

## US expresses confidence in Liberian Coast Guard

United States Ambassador to Liberia Christine Elder says with increased capability and capacity, the Liberian Coast Guard (LCG) can better respond to foreign poaching, conduct search and rescue, and lead in disaster response.

At the Dedication of Boathouse and Boat Ramp for the Liberian Coast Guard in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County Wednesday, 6 February, Madam Elder said this new Coast Guard Station will expand the Liberian Coast Guard's operational capability to protect Liberia's territorial waters in the port city of Buchanan, and beyond.

President George Manneh Weah cut ribbon to the facility.

The U.S. government is committed to continuing the process of developing a Liberian Coast Guard that is capable of patrolling and protecting all of Liberia's territorial waters," Madam Elder says.

In Buchanan, the United States government funded the construction of this Boathouse and Boat ramp at a cost of approximately \$1.7 million USD, according to Amb. Elder.

"I'm also proud to share that the permanent fixed pier being constructed at the Freeport is almost complete, and represents an additional grant of over \$1M USD," she discloses.

She notes that the United States government's efforts are fully aligned with Liberia's National Security Strategy, and

adds that the establishment of the Liberian Coast Guard Station Buchanan will advance the US goal of assisting Liberia in its efforts to enhance regional and maritime security that can combat transnational crime and improve food security by deterring illegal fishing.

To accomplish this goal, Amb. Elder indicates that Liberia will need to expand beyond the current Coast Guard Bases in the Freeport of Monrovia and Buchanan and eventually establish a presence in Greenville and Harper.

However, she notes that growing a strong Liberian Coast Guard will require a sustained commitment from the Liberian government to maintain the progress achieved and will require trained, experienced and dedicated crew and leaders with appropriate logistic support systems.

"The United States knows that President Weah takes no responsibility more seriously than ensuring the safety of his citizens, the security of Liberia's key economic and infrastructure installations, and the protection of Liberia's borders," she says.

She assures that the US will continue to support Liberia in this effort, and remain committed to the security and prosperity of Liberia.

She reveals that the U.S. government



## NPA's new cargo deal backfires

In an effort to curtail reports of impending goods shortage on the Liberian market, the plenary of the Liberian Senate mandates its committees on Commerce & Industry, Defense, Security, Intelligence and Veteran Affairs to investigate the latest cargo tracking regime initiated by the Management of the National Port of Authority (NPA) before the deal is formalized.

The Senate took the decision here Tuesday,

following a communication written to that august body by Grand Cape Mount County Senator, Cllr. Varney Sherman, who chairs the Judiciary Committee.

In his communication read in session, Senator Sherman drew his clues from local newspapers' publications and other sources. He said the papers quoted the Liberia Chamber of Commerce as alarming that the deal is bad.

"As you are probably aware, the Liberia Chamber of Commerce, which has alerted

the public to this New Cargo Tracking Regime is composed of Liberia Business Association, Fula Business Association, World Lebanese Cultural Union, Indian Association, Bankers Association, Custom Brokers Association and many other organizations involved in the commerce of Liberia," Sherman reminded his colleagues in the senate.

The letter further asserted that due to the seriousness of the matter, the House of Representatives' committee on Contracts, Concessions and Investments has taken seize of it and invited both the NPA and the Global Tracking & Maritime Solution Holdings, parties to the deal to submit to an investigation because of the economic implications of the Cargo Tracking Regime.

Sherman explained that limited research he had conducted on the New Cargo Tracking Regime revealed recently that Sierra Lone annulled its cargo tracking regime pursuant to an agreement with a private company.

"I therefore, urge the Liberian Senate to take the same initiative as the House of Representatives by having our Committee on Commerce & Industry investigate this new

Cargo Tracking Regime before it takes effect," he pleaded with overwhelming endorsement from his colleagues.

Sherman also recommended that the Management of the NPA, the Global Tracking & Maritime Solutions Holdings, and the

Liberia Chamber of Commerce be invited during the probe.

He urged the Senate to instruct the committee on Commerce and Industry to prohibit the agreement, pending full conclusion of the inquiry. -Editing by Jonathan Browne



**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

# US, EU unhappy with gov't

## -Over delay to pass Domestic Violence Law

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Several international partners including the United States Embassy, Embassy of Sweden and the European Union Delegation to Liberia have expressed serious anger over the prolonged delay by the government here to pass laws against gender-based violence and female genital mutilation.

The US Embassy, EU Delegation to Liberia and Plan International, International Commission on Human Rights (INCHR), International Rescue Committee (IRC) have been working with the Government of Liberia to end gender-based violence and female genital mutilation.

But they expressed their anger during a program marking the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) held at the Monrovia City Hall on 6 February on the Theme: "End Female Genital Mutilation".

Delivering the United Nations Secretary General's Message in observance of the day, UN Resident Coordinator to Liberia, Mr. Yacoub El-Hillo said that female genital mutilation is an abhorrent human rights violation.

He says this act affects

women and girls around the world and denies them their dignity, endangers their health and causes needless pain and

harmful practice, and that every year, almost 4 million girls are at risk.

According to Mr. El-Hillo,

initiative, launched in partnership with the European Union to end all forms of violence against women and girls.

He notes that with strong

advances will continue to be outpaced by rapid population growth where the practice is concentrated.

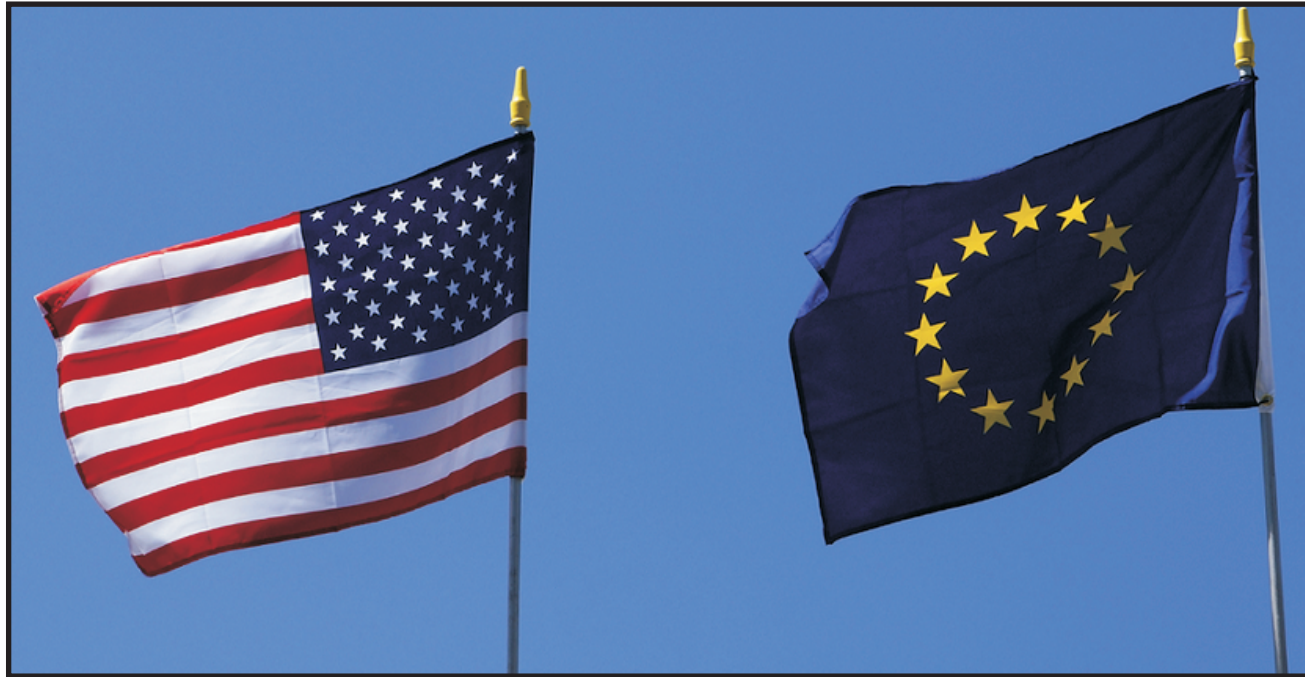
He calls for increased, concerted and global action to end FGM and fully uphold the human rights of all women and girls.

For their part, IRC Country Director Madam Faith Alcovi Cooper; Sweden Ambassador to Liberia Madam Ingrid Wetterqvist; Plan International Country Director Madam Evelyn Moorehead, and the President of the National Civil Society Madam Francis Greaves have also expressed similar views.

They demand government to act quickly in passing the Domestic Violence Laws to end the nightmare of women and girls in Liberia.

Meanwhile, the both Chairs on Gender at the Liberian Senate and the House of Representative were never represented during the celebration and no reason was announced or their absence.--

**Edited by Winston W. Parley**



suffering, even death.

The UN envoy discloses that FGM is rooted in gender inequalities and power imbalances, adding that it sustains them by limiting opportunities for girls and women to realize their rights and full potential.

Mr. El-Hillo indicates that an estimated 200 million women and girls alive today have been subject to this

the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) call for the elimination of female genital mutilation by 2030.

He notes that the UN joins hands with global, regional and national actors in supporting holistic and integrated initiatives to achieve this objective.

According to him, tackling FGM is also a central part of efforts in the spotlight

political commitment, they are seeing positive change in several countries.

However, Mr. El-Hillo says if current trends persist, these

# Citizens plan peaceful protest

By Ethel A. Tweh

A group of Liberians are gearing up for a peaceful protest in Monrovia, to call President George Manneh's attention to unfolding development here.

The Vice Chairman for Political Affairs of the opposition Liberty Party, Abraham Diarus Dillon, says a peaceful protest is being organized to draw the

President's attention to the current economic hardship, owing to bad governance.

Appearing on the Costa Show, a popular live broadcast in Monrovia, he says the pending protest does not intend to ask President Weah out of the Presidency, but to give him timeline to meeting specific demands.

According to him, the planned protest is being well

organized in order to meet its intended purpose, while promising that it would be massive.

Dillon claims President Weah misled the public by stating in his Annual Message the exchange rate between the Liberian Dollar and the United States Dollars was previously US\$1.00 to 180 Liberian Dollars.

Four collaborating opposition parties here responded to the President's address to the 54th Legislature immediately he left the podium at the Joint Chambers of the Capitol, describing it "a waste of time."

In a joint statement issued on Monday, 28 January 2019, the former ruling Unity Party, Liberty Party (LP), the Alternative National Congress (ANC) and the All Liberian Party (ALP) said, "The President and his officials have destroyed whatever was left of the economy after the Ebola crisis. Yet, while you waited to hear some meaningful policy prescriptions for resuscitating the bleeding economy, he said nothing substantive to rekindle our hopes, reassure

has provided a grant - not a loan - a gift, to the people of Liberia to fund the base refurbishment and station construction at the Freeport in Monrovia, and procured all the necessary vessels and equipment including the 6 patrol crafts, 16 Zodiac boats, 4 Ford trucks, spare boat engines and parts for the Liberian Coast Guard.

"We've also assisted in the recruiting and vetting of over 100 personnel, providing specialized maritime security and law enforcement training in the United States, other countries, and in Liberia," the US Envoy discloses.

She recalls that when approached by the Liberian government in 2010, the United States government gladly accepted the challenge

to help re-establish the Liberian Coast Guard as a specialized maritime law enforcement unit within the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL).

After 9 years of investing in the development of the new Liberian Coast Guard, she says the US is proud to celebrate with Liberia today its substantially improved capacity to protect the vital coast, ports, and citizens of this nation.

She notes that the United States has provided support to the Liberian Coast Guard by training and equipping Coast Guard personnel and by building new infrastructure, as seen recently at the Freeport in Monrovia and now in Buchanan.



# US expresses

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businesses, ensure investor's confidence, and once more regain the respect of Liberia's bilateral and multilateral partners. This is what a serious leader would do in difficult times."

Meanwhile, two lawmakers here, Bomi County Senator Sando D. Johnson, and Montserrado County District #10 Representative Yekeh

Koluba, say they will join the peace protest.

According to Representative Kolubah, President Weah should give attention to the current hardship faced by citizens, stressing that the President needs to do things in the interest of the citizens. -

**Editing by Jonathan Browne**

# Français

## La CPI remet Laurent Gbagbo aux autorités belges

**L**aurent Gbagbo a quitté les Pays-Bas en début de soirée, mardi 5 février. Acquitté de crimes contre l'humanité le 15 janvier, l'ex-président ivoirien avait été libéré le 1er février. Le procureur devrait faire appel de son acquittement.

C'est à 20h30 ce 5 février que Laurent Gbagbo a quitté son hôtel, escorté par des officiers de sécurité de la Cour pénale internationale (CPI) avant d'être remis aux autorités belges peu avant 22h, rapporte notre correspondante à La Haye, Stéphanie Maupas.

Acquitté depuis le 15 janvier, Laurent Gbagbo avait quitté la prison de la Cour pénale internationale vendredi 1er février au soir, avant d'être conduit dans un hôtel sur la route de Delft, en direction de Rotterdam.

L'ancien président ivoirien est resté là pendant quatre jours, le temps pour la Cour de conduire les dernières négociations avec les autorités belges sur sa nouvelle résidence. Il fallait



préparer ses documents de voyage, obtenir la signature des autorités et régler les questions relatives aux conditions imposées par la CPI, expliquait-on à La Haye.

Sa libération reste limitée aux conditions arrêtées par la chambre d'appel. Laurent Gbagbo ne sera pas autorisé à quitter sa municipalité de résidence - probablement

Bruxelles où se trouve sa troisième épouse et l'un de ses fils - sans obtenir l'autorisation préalable de la CPI et des autorités belges. Il ne sera pas non plus autorisé à s'exprimer publiquement sur son affaire.

**L o c a l i s a t i o n** confidentielle

La procureure de la CPI a indiqué qu'elle pourrait faire

appel de son acquittement, une fois qu'aura été remis le jugement d'acquittement par écrit. Mais sa rédaction pourrait prendre plusieurs mois.

Désormais installé en Belgique dans un lieu pour l'instant confidentiel, Laurent Gbagbo sera censé résider dans le « plat pays » tant que les procédures à son encontre seront en cours devant la Cour pénale internationale.

C'est d'ailleurs pour cela qu'il y a eu un délai de quatre

jours entre le feu vert de la CPI à sa libération vendredi et son arrivée en Belgique ce 5 février, note le correspondant de la RFI à Bruxelles, Pierre Bénazet. Il a fallu une négociation entre le greffe de la CPI et les autorités belges pour évaluer la manière dont les conditions de sa libération seraient mises en place en Belgique.

Laurent Gbagbo s'est vu délivrer un visa belge de type C qui donne un droit de séjour de 90 jours sur le territoire du royaume. Il doit mettre à profit ce délai pour aller s'inscrire auprès de l'administration de sa commune de résidence qu'il ne pourra pas la quitter selon les termes de sa libération conditionnelle. Il devra pointer au commissariat de police ou auprès des autorités administratives locales une fois par semaine.

Aucune information n'a par ailleurs été donnée pour l'instant sur le point de chute de Charles Blé Goudé, soumis aux mêmes conditions de libération que Laurent Gbagbo. L'ex-leader des Jeunes patriotes [Alliance des jeunes patriotes pour le sursaut national] se trouve donc toujours aux Pays-Bas.

## Une enquête parlementaire sur le régime de suivi des cargaisons de la NPA en préparation

**L**e Sénat libérien veut ouvrir une enquête sur le nouveau régime de suivi des cargaisons de la National Port Authority (NPA), craignant que cette mesure ne présente des complications économiques dans une économie déjà en plus mauvaise condition.

Suite à une demande formulée par le sénateur Varney Sherman du comté de Grand Cape Mount, le Sénat devrait inviter la NPA, la société Global Tracking and Maritime Solutions Holdings et la chambre du commerce du Libéria à se soumettre à l'enquête.

Le nouveau régime de surveillance à la porte d'entrée au Libéria a été mise en place par la NPA et la société Global Tracking and Maritime Solutions Holdings. Mais la chambre du commerce du Libéria condamne ce régime.

Dans sa communication, le sénateur Sherman demande au Sénat d'inviter la NPA, la société Global Tracking and Maritime Solutions Holding et la Chambre du commerce du Libéria à comparaître afin d'expliquer leurs positions sur la mise en place du régime de suivi. Le sénateur Sherman a attiré l'attention de ses collègues sur le fait que le régime de suivi des cargaisons de la NPA a suscité des préoccupations chez la Chambre du commerce, à en juger par les reportages de la presse locale sur ce sujet.

En sa qualité de président du comité sénatorial sur le pouvoir judiciaire et membre du comité sénatorial sur le commerce et l'industrie, le sénateur Sherman a rappelé aux membres du Sénat que la Chambre de Commerce qui



Articles traduits

Par Valéry G. Guhéna

E-mail: [valeryghn10@yahoo.com](mailto:valeryghn10@yahoo.com)

Tel: 076 589 44 0881483394

dénonce publiquement ce nouveau régime de suivi est une institution qui regroupe plusieurs associations d'entreprises commerciales, dont par exemple la Liberia Business Association, la Fula Business Association, l'Union culturelle mondiale libanaise, l'Association indienne, la Bankers Association et la Custom Brokers Association.

Au sénateur de Cape Mount d'ajouter que vu la gravité de la situation, le Comité parlementaire sur les contrats, les concessions et les investissements de la Chambre des représentants avait invité la NPA et Global Tracking et Maritime Solutions Holdings.

"J'exhorte donc le Sénat

libérien à prendre la même initiative que la Chambre des représentants en demandant à notre commission sur le commerce et l'industrie d'enquêter sur ce régime avant qu'il ne prenne effet", a indiqué Sherman.

Il a en outre informé ses collègues du Sénat de ce qu'en novembre 2018, l'Administration portuaire de Sierra Leone a annulé le régime de suivi du fret appliqué à une entreprise privée.

Cependant, le sénateur Henry Yallah du comté de Bong a proposé que la communication soit reçue en plénière et envoyée au comité pour produire un rapport dans deux semaines.



# Français

## Éditorial

### L'agriculture, on en a assez parlé, il est temps de se mettre au travail

Le président George Manneh Weah a mis le doigt sur la plaie ce lundi 4 février lorsqu'il a franchement déclaré au cours d'une table ronde que le pays n'a jusque-là reçu de retombées positives des nombreux et énormes investissements que les gouvernements successifs ont consacrés au secteur agricole.

Le Président Weah a souligné qu'il était ainsi temps que le gouvernement et ses partenaires élaborent de nouvelles stratégies pour sauver le secteur, soulignant la nécessité de constituer une équipe technique chargée de traiter les problèmes et les programmes afin d'obtenir les résultats escomptés.

Lors d'un entretien avec un groupe de journalistes au terme d'une rencontre avec des responsables du secteur de l'agriculture et des partenaires internationaux, le président a expliqué : « Nous avons expliqué comment nous pourrions passer des méthodes de culture sur brûlis à des méthodes mécanisées. Vous savez qu'il y a un investissement énorme dans l'agriculture, mais le résultat est si faible. »

En fait, cela a été le principal défi de deux gouvernements successifs - l'ère Taylor et l'administration Sirleaf. À maintes reprises, le gouvernement a annoncé d'énormes investissements dans ce secteur, parfois caractérisé par des foires agricoles élaborées, mais les rendements n'ont eu aucun impact positif sur le panier de la ménagère. Le pays continue d'importer la quasi-totalité du riz qu'il consomme.

Les responsables des régimes précédents et même du régime actuel n'ont cessé de parler de programmes et de documents stratégiques sur l'agriculture avec grandeur, mais la mise en œuvre reste un défi majeur, à tel point que le pays de 4,5 millions d'habitants compte toujours sur les pays étrangers pour espérer avoir accès au riz, son aliment de base.

Pourtant, notre sol est vachement riche et propice à la culture du riz et d'autres vivres. Quel paradoxe ! Il se passe fondamentalement quelque chose ici.

Nous pensons qu'il est grand temps que nos décideurs politiques et nos partenaires étrangers reviennent à la table de planification, comme l'a si bien suggéré le président Weah, afin d'explorer de nouvelles approches qui nous permettront de nous nourrir en tant que peuple.

Le président Weah devrait diriger cette révolution comme il le fait d'ailleurs actuellement dans le secteur routier pour que l'on obtienne des résultats positifs, à moins que la table ronde de lundi soit une autre occasion de parler en vain de l'agriculture comme à l'accoutumée.

Nous croyons fermement qu'il serait plus approprié si le gouvernement utilisait l'agriculture comme pierre angulaire de son programme en faveur des pauvres pour la prospérité et le développement (PAPD). Car, avec le soutien de nos partenaires internationaux, la population jeune du pays sera immédiatement mise au travail pour cultiver ce que nous mangeons.

Tout ce qu'il faut, c'est une volonté politique de la part des autorités, car les administrations précédentes avaient parlé d'agriculture, mais elles n'ont jamais rien produit de substantiel. La nation continue donc de sombrer dans la faim, la maladie et la misère.

Cela doit changer et il n'y a pas de meilleur moment que maintenant ! Avec un président jeune, très aimé par la population, nous devons saisir l'occasion pour rendre le Libéria autosuffisant en matières de nourriture, au lieu de continuer à importer toutes les vivres comme l'igname, le piment et les oranges de la Guinée et la Sierra Leone voisines.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Madeleine De Cock  
Buning & Miguel P. Maduro

### Comment combattre les fausses nouvelles

**F**LORENCE - Désormais le débat politique se tient sur les médias sociaux. Les gens s'informent sur des plateformes numériques et c'est là que les dirigeants politiques exposent leur programme et leurs idées. Internet est devenu la nouvelle place publique, la nouvelle Agora.

Dans le temps, les journalistes et les rédacteurs en chef avaient un rôle de contrôle et d'arbitrage de la diffusion de l'information. Les agrégateurs humains d'information sélectionnaient celles qui étaient crédibles et privilégiaient la diversité de points de vue. Nous leur faisons confiance en raison du professionnalisme et de l'intégrité du processus.

Dans l'Agora d'aujourd'hui, ce modèle de journalisme - et ce rôle du journalisme en tant que pilier de la démocratie - est devenu obsolète. Les médias traditionnels ont perdu pour l'essentiel leur fonction de filtre et de contrôle de l'information, aussi les fausses nouvelles peuvent-elles atteindre instantanément une énorme audience.

Il en est de même des mesures de contrôle ou de censure de l'expression, que le censeur soit un organisme public ou privé. Le défi consiste à redéfinir les paramètres du discours dans la nouvelle sphère publique sans porter atteinte au pluralisme. De récents exemples illustrent le risque de jeter le bébé avec l'eau du bain.

Malgré leur titres souvent terrifiants, l'influence des fausses nouvelles sur les décisions politiques semble limitée. Selon l'Institut Reuters pour l'étude du journalisme à l'université d'Oxford, l'audience des fausses nouvelles se limite essentiellement aux groupes qui cherchent à conforter leur point de vue et leurs préjugés. Pour autant, cela ne rend pas les fausses nouvelles moins dangereuses. Elles alimentent - et sont alimentées - par la polarisation et paradoxalement, en discuter peut renforcer leur impact.

Cela tient à ce que les fausses nouvelles ébranlent la confiance à l'égard de l'ensemble des médias et renforcent dans leur conviction ceux qui estiment qu'il est impossible de séparer le vrai du faux. Quand les gens ne savent plus à qui ou à quoi se fier, la capacité des journalistes à dénoncer les abus des puissants s'en trouve affaiblie. Cette tendance s'accroît d'autant plus que la sophistication du tramage des images ou des vidéos rend de plus en plus difficile l'identification de fausses informations présentées sous cette forme.

De toute évidence, il faut réagir face aux défauts de cuirasse de la sphère publique numérique. Selon certains, il faudrait bloquer les sites douteux ou les faire disparaître des moteurs de recherche. Ainsi Facebook censure les contenus douteux et a créé un centre de contrôle destiné à combattre la désinformation en période électorale, tandis que Google et Twitter envisagent des mesures analogues. De leur côté, les autorités font pression sur ces plateformes numériques pour accéder aux données privées de leurs utilisateurs qui publient de fausses nouvelles, diffament, insultent ou appellent à la haine. Nous pensons cependant que ces mesures, aussi bien intentionnées soient-elles, sont profondément mal inspirées.

Au cœur de toute véritable démocratie se trouve un consensus politique et un arbitrage qui reposent sur la capacité de la population à débattre et à exprimer des désaccords. Il n'appartient pas à des entités privées - ou à des institutions publiques en l'espèce - de censurer ce processus. Il vaudrait mieux veiller à ce que les citoyens aient accès à un large éventail d'opinions et d'idées et comprennent ce qu'ils lisent, ce qu'ils voient et ce qu'ils entendent. La liberté d'expression comporte le droit de recevoir et de

transmettre librement des informations. Cela passe par la liberté des médias et leur pluralisme, liberté inscrite dans la Charte des droits fondamentaux de l'Union européenne. Des études montrent que la plupart des citoyens sont favorables à l'existence de sources d'information diverses et fiables. Il est de la responsabilité des dirigeants politiques d'y veiller.

Un rapport de mars 2018 du groupe d'experts de haut niveau de la Commission européenne sur les fausses nouvelles et la désinformation en ligne (que l'un de nous, de Cock Buning, a présidé) propose une feuille de route pour cela, et le récent Plan d'action de la Commission européenne constitue un bon point de départ. Mais il faut faire davantage.

Il n'existe pas de stratégie miracle pour combattre la désinformation. Néanmoins, pour être efficace, elle doit étendre la responsabilité à travers l'ensemble des systèmes d'information et prendre en compte les droits fondamentaux qui s'y rapportent.

A titre d'exemple, les médias professionnels doivent faire davantage pour garantir la véracité de leurs informations. Les technologies de vérification des faits peuvent y contribuer dans la mesure où elles sont libres de toute interférence politique ou économique. Google, Facebook et Twitter ne doivent pas être partie prenante du processus.

Les grandes entreprises d'Internet, les "Big Tech", commencent à prendre des responsabilités en s'engageant à respecter un Code de bonne conduite basé sur les 10 grands principes du rapport du groupe d'experts de haut niveau. Mais elles peuvent aussi lutter contre les fausses nouvelles par d'autres moyens, par exemple en fournissant des interfaces client pour filtrer les nouvelles légitimes, tout en assurant leur diversité dans le temps dans les médias sociaux et en faisant une priorité de la rediffusion des informations vérifiées. Les plateformes peuvent aussi améliorer leur transparence quant à leurs algorithmes et à l'utilisation qu'elles font de leurs données. Dans l'idéal, ces algorithmes devraient donner davantage de contrôle sur les contenus qu'ils reçoivent aux utilisateurs des réseaux sociaux et intégrer des applications de vérification des faits développées par des médias fiables.

Les plateformes doivent aussi identifier clairement leurs sources d'information, notamment dans le champ commercial et politique. Il faudrait qu'un grand nombre de ces mesures applicables immédiatement entrent en vigueur avant les élections européennes de mai 2019.

Une nouvelle collaboration internationale et une meilleure législation sont aussi nécessaires pour veiller à ce que la loi et la réglementation protègent les victimes de diffamation, d'injures ou de menaces, sans porter atteinte à la liberté d'expression et aux droits des lanceurs d'alerte. Les conflits à ce sujet ne doivent pas avoir d'issue légale si seule l'une des parties a véritablement accès à une instance judiciaire.

Enfin, les entreprises qui gèrent ces plateformes numériques doivent coopérer avec les écoles, les associations et les organes d'information pour renforcer l'éducation aux médias. Les chiffres montrent que la plupart des gens ont de la difficulté à distinguer une fausse nouvelle d'une vraie.

Aussi bien intentionnées soient les mesures pour supprimer les fausses nouvelles de cette nouvelle place publique qu'est Internet, elles seront contre-productives. Nous ne devons pas abandonner à l'Etat ou à des sociétés privées le droit de décider des informations auxquelles nous pouvons accéder. L'Histoire de la démocratie est sans ambiguïté : c'est le pluralisme et non la censure, publique ou privée, qui est la meilleure protection contre les fausses nouvelles.

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Opposition to Koung's selection

A prominent citizen of Kparblee Administrative District, Nimba County, Mr. Jackson Paye opposes the selection of the county's District #1 Representative, Jeremiah Koung to address the opening program of a community radio station in Kparblee Town, slated for Friday, February 8th.

Kparblee Administrative District is in Electoral District#6, represented by Twain Gleekia.

Paye is President and Chief Executive Officer of JJP And Associates Design And Construction, Liberia, Inc. He is also former deputy minister at the Ministry of Public Works and former superintendent.

According to him, he does not have anything against Rep. Koung, recalling that during his public service, he had very limited interaction with Koung, so he does not hate or like him.

Similarly, Paye says he does oppose development initiatives undertaken by the people of Kparblee Town, Zodru Chiefdom, adding that to say otherwise, would be a diversionary tactics from the real issue.

However, he applauds Mr. Samson Cole Kraty, whom he met several times in the US when the radio station initiative was discussed.

He finds nothing wrong with favoring a political candidate against another, but points out that since the radio station is a religious, nonpolitical entity, it would have been better served by a media personality.

According to him, he has no political ambition nor is supporting any candidate at this moment in the 2020 midterm senatorial election.

"As an elderly statesman, and a major stakeholder from the area, I want to clearly disavow the move by just a handful of individuals including the President of Kparblee Development Association (KPADA), Mr. Peter Karngbaye, to invite Hon. Jeremiah Kpahn Koung, as a key note speaker for the dedication of a radio station in the Town of Kparblee this coming Friday, February 8, 2019," he says.

He cautions that if the situation is not handled appropriately, it could cause confusion and be misconstrued as an endorsement of a candidate in the pending Senatorial Election on which the District has not reached a consensus.

"I disagree with this decision because the program is under the auspices of Kparblee Development

Association," he argues, and notes that Koung is a sitting Representative for Electoral District 1 (Ganta Area) in Nimba County, who has expressed his intention to contest and already begun canvassing for the senatorial seat.

Ex-superintendent Madam Edith Gongloe-Ware, a one-time senatorial contestant, arrived at the Roberts International Airport in Margibi County Tuesday, 5th February from the United States, amid rousing welcome from supporters, as she prepares to vie for the second time.

Paye: "While it is anybody's right to contest for a political post, the financial implications of a sitting representative who has not completed his term, notwithstanding, I find it repugnant for the Honorable to be given such a platform without affording others similar opportunity."

He recalls few months back, the people of Kparblee District were subjected to all forms of denigration on national and local radio stations and thru other media outlets by incumbent Senator Prince Y. Johnson, to the extent of questioning the citizenship of Krahn-speaking people in Nimba County.

Ironically, Paye explains, it was the appointment of Mr. Peter Karngbaye as Development Superintendent of Nimba County by President George Manneh Weah, that provoked such a tirade.

"I stand to be corrected, except for one or two members of the Nimba Legislative Caucus (not including Hon. Koung) spoke out against Senator Johnson's utterances." Paye says he refused to get into any argument with the "very powerful" Senator and continues to work with him to

Kpou dismisses Paye's fear that they were endorsing or imposing Rep. Koung on the people of Kparblee District.

He says the choice was made after the program committee failed to get First Lady Clar Weah; and after Information Minister, Lenn Eugene Nagbe and Representative Twain Gleekia both said they do not have time to attend.

Kpou continues that even Superintendent Dorr Cooper was also invited, but attempt to get him via mobile phone failed. At this point, they were left with no other alternative but to select Rep. Koung who consented to attend the program. "We are not imposing any speaker and we

have not endorsed Rep. Koung. We selected Koung because the people we expected to address the occasion told us they have other engagements."

On the question of Mr. Kargbaye's nomination for the post of Assistant Superintendent for Development and subsequent withdrawal of the nomination, Kpou clarifies that the matter has been resolved and Senator Prince Johnson has apologized, citing "political pressure."

Kpou says Paye is aware of Senator Johnson's apology to Mr. Karngbaye and Kparblee District, and that the District leadership will shortly state its position on the matter. - *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



Mr. Jackson Paye

He notes that Koung does not hail from the district and has had no history of visiting or doing anything in the Kparblee area previously, saying "One may be tempted to ask why now? Why not the current County leadership and legislators from the area? Why not other prominent sons and daughters of the area? Why not someone from the national government who is not seeking elected political position? Why not a member of media institutions since it has to do with a radio station? In my opinion, given Koung such a platform would appear as a tacit endorsement of a candidate. Maybe the President of Kpada and a handful people may have done that, but it is not the will of Kparblee District. Endorsing any candidate as a group will encompass wider consultation, including citizens in the Diaspora."

find a common ground for the sake of unity in the County.

However, President Weah subsequently withdrew the nomination upon the insistence of Senator Johnson, he reveals, and admonishes that now another election is approaching, the people should be very mindful in making their choice, and not to be deceived by money or empty promises.

He says Nimba County is at a crossroads, and the pending senatorial race will be very crucial in keeping the County together or splintering it on tribal lines, stressing that divisive politics will take the citizens nowhere but set them further apart.

When contacted via mobile phone, Mr. Marcus Sarwi Kpou, Chairman of the program committee, terms Mr. Paye's statement as unfortunate, maintaining that the District leadership is informed.

## Supreme Court

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trial commences at the Liberian Senate.

However Associate Justice Wolokolie argues in her dissent that the four Senators sought clarity from the Supreme Court regarding precedence of impeachment as prescribed in Article 43 of the Constitution.

But she says "unfortunately," the majority decided to dismiss the four senators' petition on procedural grounds.

Article 43 of the Constitution requires the Legislature to prescribe procedure for impeachment, but the Senate amended Rule 63 of its standing rules while impeachment instruments from the House of Representatives were being presented to the Senate against Ja'neh.

"By the decision, the court has lost the opportunity to settle once and for all the case of issue of national concern surrounding the constitutionality or otherwise of the procedure being adopted by the Legislature in carrying out its impeachment proceeding against Associate Justice Kabineh M. Ja'neh," Wolokolie says.

Justice Wolokolie argues that because of the several constitutional issues raised in the petition, Justice Ja'neh prayed to Chamber Justice Sie-A-Nyeneh Yuoh for the alternative writ of prohibition to be issued.

She recalls that Justice Yuoh had issued the alternative writ and forwarded the matter to the full bench.

But the Supreme Court in December denied Justice Ja'neh's petition he filed to stop the impeachment processes initiated against him by the House of Representatives, accusing the body of proceeding by wrong rules.

It held in the majority opinion that the House did nothing wrong. Ja'neh's long-time workmate Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor, Sr., and new Associate Justice Joseph Nagbe, backed by ad-hoc justice Boima Kontoe had ruled that Ja'neh's petition was premature and therefore denied it.

Ja'neh's final legal hope to save him from being impeached may have been the intervention made by four Senators who were opposed to their majority colleagues' decision to amend Rule 63 of their internal rules to pave the way to try him.

The House of Representatives has already presented to the Liberian Senate, instruments intended to be used to impeach Justice Ja'neh, but challenges advanced by Ja'neh and some members of the Senate have over the time delayed his appearance before the Senate to face impeachment trial.

He stands accused of alleged proved misconduct, abuse of power and abuse of judicial description, and the engine behind these allegations are ruling party CDC Representatives Moses Acarus Gray and Thomas Fallah.

Read The NewDawn Online Daily

# LoneStar MTN announces 1,000 scholarships

By Winston W. Parley

Liberia's leading telecommunication giant LoneStar Cell MTN launched its new offer called "Here for You," on Wednesday, while announcing 1,000 free scholarships for students in public (government) schools that pay their registration fees through the company's Mobile Money service.

The "Here for You" promotion comes with lot of offers for customers, including ten minutes call to any other network in Liberia for one dollar three days package, free data and free SMS; free five minutes for international calls on every purchase of two dollars for "Cool For You" promotion and extension in the company's closing time from 5 to 8pm daily, among others.

Launching the promotion Wednesday, 6 February in Congo Town, the Company's Head of Mobile Money Atty. Massa Dennis explained that the company decided to look at the social economic impact of the promotion because the company values customers beyond the services it provides.

"We are giving away 1,000 free scholarships to students that are in government schools that are paying their registration fees through Mobile Money," Atty. Dennis said at LoneStar MTN's head



office in Congo Town.

She says students will enter a draw at the Ministry of Education in which 1,000 of them who paid their fees through Mobile Money will see the very fees that they have paid come right back into their accounts.

Atty. Dennis indicates that the promotion on the Mobile Money platform is intended to ease the stress of student's paying fees by cutting long distances and time that subscribers have to cover, especially in remote places to transact with banks.

According to her, the company partnered with the Ministry of Education to facilitate government school

registrations via Mobile Money.

Earlier speaking about the special offer, Abraham Daramy referenced the many systems that LoneStar MTN put in place and the million dollars invested to make sure that they have the right platform to support customers by addressing their needs and wants.

Before unveiling a long list of things that the company plans to give to customers, Mr. Daramy, announced that the company has about 100,000 subscribers between Tuesday and Wednesday, 5 to 6 February that are already enjoying some of the offers being launched.

He says as LoneStar MTN

launches the new campaign called "Here for You," the company is here for the customers to make their lives so much vital, provide them communication needs that they want and make sure to keep them connected.

"We are here to make sure we bring people onto the biggest family; we are here to make sure that we go into the community that we form part of," he explains.

He says the company has also created a one stop shop on one of its most populous offers in the market - the one dollar for three days call campaign.

On the LoneStar MTN network, Mr. Daramy notes that the one dollar for three days package includes ten minutes call to any other network in Liberia, free data and free SMS because the company is here for its customers.

Further, Mr. Daramy announces that for every purchase of two dollars "Cool For You," customers are given free five minutes for international calls as of now because it discovered that when some changes were made in the market prices few months ago, a lot of people stopped making international calls.

"If you buy two dollars for three days on any other

network now, no international..., it's only on LoneStar Cell MTN that you will get free five minutes when you buy the two dollars for three days offer to call your friends and families in the United States," Daramy continues.

He discloses that because LoneStar Cell MTN is here for its customers, it has changed its closing time from 5pm to 8pm; while closing time for its Point of Sales (POS) on Broad Street, Redlight and Duala have been adjusted to 7pm.

He says the company's decision is in consideration of the too many services it provides to customers including Mobile Money.

Mr. Daramy concludes that every single day, over 300,000 LoneStar MTN subscribers get free 500mb of data on the network as a way of helping customers that want to buy data to do assignments or other things but cannot afford.

For her part, LoneStar MTN Deputy Chief Executive Officer Laureine Guilao says the launch of the new product is a strong demonstration of the company's resolve to put customers at the center of their experience.

"So we just wanted to make sure that you understand what the campaign means, and how we're going to take it to the market," she says.

## Prophets of doom

The Chairman of the governing Coalition for Democratic Change, Mulbah K. Morlu is firing back, branding opposition politicians criticizing the Weah administration as prophets of doom.

He says recent criticism against the President's Annual Message, which he describes as successful, is one classic

example that the opposition's response to the message was prepared far ahead before President Weah delivered it.

In an official response from the governing CDC on Wednesday, February 6, Chairman Morlu further describes members of the opposition as provocateurs, who are praying for the political demise of the CDC-led government.

"If you listened to their analysis, you will get to know that they are prophets of doom. Our critics get more angry when President Weah speaks of road connections, infrastructure development, free tuition for University undergraduate students, WEAC fees, 14 Militant Hospital, etc," he bles.

He says members of the opposition are irritated because they expect Liberia to be a rogue State under President Weah, but it is on the contrary.

Morlu counters that development is on the increase, the fight against corruption is being recognized by reputable institutions, one step ahead of former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's government.

The CDC Chair maintains no matter the criticisms, the Weah government will not go after critics, saying "When they talked, we will talk. No more fighting. We will not revert to their days when Liberians fought. We will maintain the peace to ensure the George Weah's 12-year democratic presidency." - Editing by Jonathan Browne



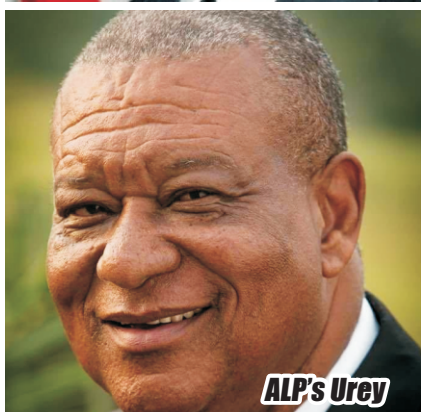
ANC's Cummings



UP's Boakai



LNP's Brumskine



ALP's Urey

## LFA under-15

Starts from back page

meet Soccer Academy at 1:30PM; Junior Marshall Academy will face GAC Football Academy at 2:50PM and Ambassador Football Academy will take on Project Football Academy.

Zone two consists of Street Soccer Academy, Junior Marshall Academy, GAC Football Academy and Hassan Football Academies.

The tournament will continue on 9-10 February with the second and third matches in the groups.

The winner of each zone will advance to the semi-finals, which will take place on 22 February while the grand final takes place on 24 February at the ATS, respectively.

The Heroes Cup is the LFA's desire to celebrate the contribution and recognition of former players, who served and uplifted Liberian football and the national teams.

The tournament is to also honor icons and players like President George Manneh Oppong Weah, James Salinsa Debbah, Wanibo Toe, John 'Monkey' Brown, Victor Seah, Patrick Doeplah, Benedict 'Mama Musa' Wesseh, Josiah Nagbe Johnson, Frank Jericho Nagbe, Sr., Washington Blay, Sakpa 'Myers' Nyenswah, Borbor Gaye, and Dominic Vava George.

It will remember several players like Murphy Nagbe, Patrick Jackson and Nathaniel Sherman, who got injured on national duty.

"The LFA believes it is important to honor those who have contributed to football whether they are dead or alive," said LFA President Mustapha Raji.

During the matches, some of these icons will be present to share their stories with the kids.

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

# Supreme Court snubs Ja'neh again

**-Pro Tempore says after Court's ruling**



Associate Justice Kabineh Ja'neh

**By Winston W. Parley**  
Senate Pro Tempore Albert Chie says the Liberian Senate will soon conduct impeachment trial against Associate Justice Kabineh M. Ja'neh, following the Supreme Court's majority decision Wednesday, 6 February that it cannot interfere in the Senate's internal rule making.

"We are going for the trial," he says, adding that it will begin "very soon."

He told reporters outside the court that in a country of separation of power, the Supreme Court ruled that it cannot interfere in the internal rulemaking of [the Senate].

In the majority's opinion, Associate Justice Joseph

Nagbe read that the Court cannot intervene in any matter in the form of hindering proceedings.

But Associate Justice Jamesetta Howard - Wolokolie has dissented that the Supreme Court has again lost the opportunity which is critical in ensuring that the Legislature follows the requirement of due process in impeaching a judicial officer.

This latest majority Supreme Court decision on Wednesday denying the four senators' petition means lawmakers are now armed with the support of the nation's highest court to go ahead to try Justice Ja'neh for charges levied against him by ruling party Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) lawmakers.

Chief Justice Korkpor will be invited by the Senate to pre side over the impeachment of Ja'neh when the



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# LFA under-15 Heroes Cup to kick off tomorrow

**By Sally Gaye**  
The Liberia Football Association (LFA) under-15 Heroes cup is expected to kick off on Friday, 8 February to feature 16 youth teams from Montserrado.

The draw for the 2019 LFA took place at the football house with four zones.

There will be eight matches on the opening day across three venues.

At the Antoinette Tubman Stadium (ATS), Hope Football Academy meets CYA Football Academy at 1:30PM; C. T. Football Academy takes on Keittrace Pro Academy at 2:50PM and Cece United.

In zone one are Hope

Football Academy, C. T. Football Academy, Keittrace Pro Academy and CYA Football Academy.

And at 4:00PM Football Academy will face Ambassador Football Liberia.

At the Blue Field on Lynch Street, Street Hassan Football Academy will



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