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The New Dawn

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TRULY INDEPENDENT

#Stop prioritizing foreign businesses over Liberian businesses!#

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Senate boils over tenure positions



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CDC's Chairman Morlu

Deputy Minister Fahngon

Call to probe Morlu, Fahngon



Continental News

Court to rule on Mugabe's potato wrangle

The dispute between former President Robert Mugabe's family business, Gushungo Holdings and Seed Potato Co-op (Pvt) Ltd, is set to be resolved today at the High Court where the two parties will appear before Justice Helena Charehwa.

The seed company last year obtained a default judgment against Mugabe's business on a case involving \$174 183, which Gushungo is challenging.

In another matter, Gushungo petitioned the court claiming \$712 530 compensation from Seed Potato, accusing the company of selling substandard seeds contrary to the parties' agreement.

According to court papers, the former Head of State's business was on July 2, 2018 slapped with a \$174 183 default judgement after failing to defend the litigation that was instituted by the seed company in May last year.

But through Gushungo Holdings' representative, one Farai Jemwa, Mugabe's

business claims it never received the summons save to read about the issue in the Press, adding it later turned out that the said court papers had been served on a person not employed by the former First Family's business. The default judgment was granted by Justice Joseph Musakwa.

In its own claim, the seed company said sometime between July and September 2015, it supplied Gushungo Holdings with 12 761 pockets of seed potato worth \$382 830 of which Mugabe's firm made part payment, leaving a balance of \$174 193.

In a different, but related

matter Gushungo Holdings, however, sued the seed firm claiming compensation on the basis that the company had sold them substandard seeds.

In its declaration, Gushungo Holdings said sometime in July 2015, it entered into an oral agreement with the Seed Potato whereby the latter allegedly agreed to supply quality imported seed from South Africa.

In terms of the agreement, the seed company was supposed to deliver potato seeds worth \$752 000 and the seed delivery was to be done between July 6, 2015 and August 22, 2015.

But contrary to the agreement, Seed Potato allegedly failed to abide by the parties' agreement culminating in the current litigation. AP



Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe attends the Harare Agriculture Show in Harare

BBC journalists arrested in Uganda

Ugandan police have detained a team of BBC journalists in the country's capital, Kampala.

The journalists were looking into the illegal sales of government drugs and were arrested on

said it had been in contact with the relevant authorities and is working to resolve the situation.

"I am yet to find out the logic why police arrested these journalists, who in my view were helping



Wednesday night.

The Ugandan government spokesman has demanded the immediate release of the team, according to Reuters news agency.

In a statement, the BBC

government to unearth the rot which is in the system," government spokesman Ofwono Opondo told Reuters. "They should be released unconditionally." BBC

South Africa Gloria coal mine explosion 'kills six'

Six people have been killed by a gas explosion in an abandoned coal mine in South Africa, the national broadcaster is reporting.

About 20 others are still trapped at the Gloria coal mine in Middelburg, east of

the capital, Pretoria.

A police spokesman said some people had gone into the mine to steal copper wires when a gas pipe exploded.

Local media said rescue efforts were being hampered by dangerously high levels of toxic gas. "We're still waiting

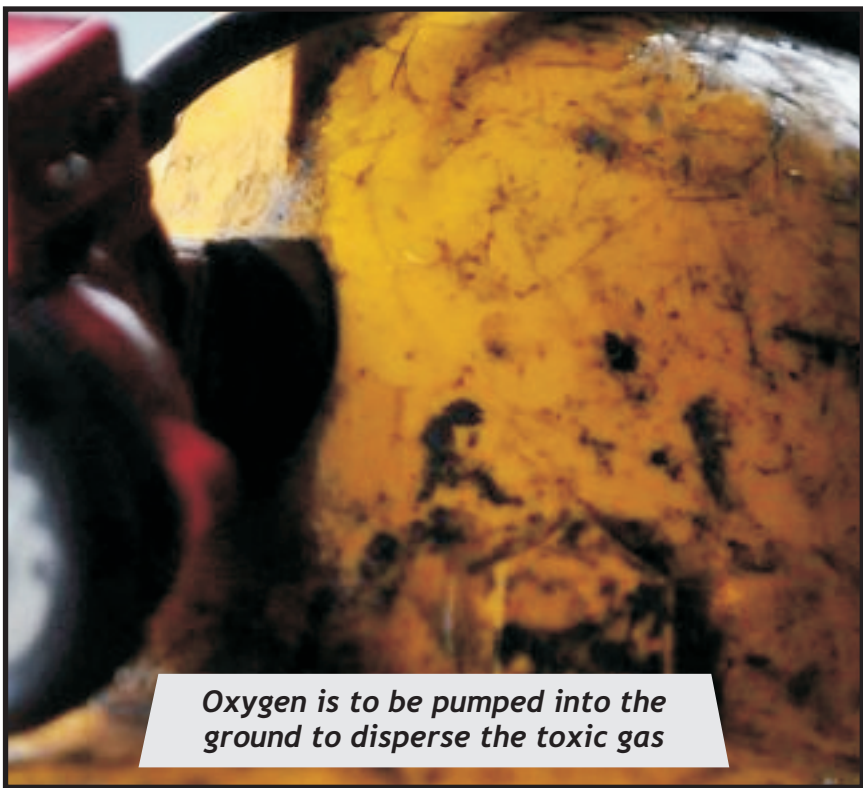
for engines and generators to arrive to start putting oxygen into the ground", local government official Speedy Mashilo told South Africa's national broadcaster SABC.

He said that engineers would join the rescue efforts by rigging up lighting in the mine shafts.

The mine was closed after its owners, the Gupta brothers, found it difficult to continue doing business in South Africa following corruption allegations against them.

South Africa's former President Jacob Zuma has become embroiled in the allegations. Both parties have denied any wrongdoing. Mining accidents are common in South Africa. More than 80 fatalities were recorded in mines across the country in 2017.

Last year, a power cut left 955 gold miners trapped underground for two days before they were eventually freed. BBC



Oxygen is to be pumped into the ground to disperse the toxic gas

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Welcome To The New World

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.

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COMMENTARY

Par Ian Buruma

The UK's Suicidal Tendencies

Most politicians on the left and the right - including Prime Minister Theresa May, who before the Brexit referendum was in favor of Britain remaining in the EU - know that leaving the European Union without an exit agreement would be a national calamity. So why have almost all refused to do anything to halt the slide toward a catastrophic no-deal Brexit?

NEW YORK - Watching a sophisticated democratic society knowingly walk into a predictable and avoidable national disaster is a rare and alarming experience. Most British politicians are well aware that leaving the European Union with no agreement on the post-Brexit relationship will cause enormous damage to their country. They are not sleepwalking into the abyss; their eyes are wide open.

A minority of deluded ideologues doesn't mind the prospect of Britain crashing out of the EU with no deal. A few chauvinist dreamers on the right, egged on by sections of the press, believe that the bulldog spirit of Dunkirk will overcome early setbacks and Great Britain will soon rule the waves again as a great quasi-imperial power, albeit without an empire. Neo-Trotskyists on the left, including Jeremy Corbyn, the leader of the main opposition Labour Party, seem to think that catastrophe will spur the British people to demand true socialism at last.

Most politicians on the left and the right - including Prime Minister Theresa May, who before the Brexit referendum was in favor of Britain remaining in the EU - know better. And yet almost all refuse to do anything to halt the slide toward a catastrophic no-deal exit. Proposals in Parliament to seek a delay or to consider alternatives to May's unpopular exit strategy were voted down. Party politics, jingoistic media, and a weird obliviousness to anything outside the British Isles have apparently paralyzed the collective will of British politicians. Instead of acting to avoid the worst, they delude themselves that more talks and more concessions from Brussels will somehow bail Britain out at the last minute.

This peculiar spectacle of national suicide, while unusual, is not entirely unprecedented. Japan's drift toward a calamitous war with the US in 1941 is one example. True, there are obvious differences: Britain is not threatening to go to war with anybody, despite all the nostalgic guff about Spitfires and Dunkirk, and Japanese democracy, such as it was, had been pretty much strangled by military factions and authoritarian state control. But the similarities are remarkable.

A relatively small number of militarist hotheads, spurred by quasi-fascist ideologues and mostly middle-ranking officers, actually wanted war with the West. Most politicians, including generals and admirals, knew that it would be madness to provoke a clash with a vastly superior military and industrial power. But they were somehow unable or unwilling to stop it. Some even parroted the extremist rhetoric of the hotheads without believing it - a bit like May pandering to the hard Brexiteers.

The main strategist of the Pearl Harbor attack, Admiral Yamamoto Isoroku, a highly intelligent man who had studied at Harvard and knew the US very well, had been a vocal opponent of the

war. Hoping against hope that negotiations would prevent an all-out war, he still did his duty and devised the plan. Prince Konoe Fumimaro, the prime minister, whose son was a Princeton undergraduate, wanted to avoid a war with the US. He kept asking the Americans for more meetings, while sending out confusing signals and hoping for impossible concessions demanded by Japanese hardliners whom he was too weak and indecisive to resist.

There was much talk of deadlines to be met or extended. As with the British Brexit negotiations with the EU, it was never quite clear to the Americans what the Japanese really wanted. Indeed, it wasn't clear to the Japanese themselves. The last hope of men who saw disaster looming but refused to act was that more talks with the Americans would save them. In the end, the Americans were tired of talking. As a result, millions of people died, and Japan was almost totally destroyed.

The immediate response among the Japanese people on learning of the Pearl Harbor attack was a kind of relief. At last there was some clarity. Anything was better than the endless shillyshallying. Now that Japan was truly on its own, the Japanese version of the bulldog spirit might somehow see them through. Like the British, Japanese, too, have a perverse yearning for splendid isolation. And fighting the Western imperialists was at least more honorable than trying to beat the Chinese into submission with massacres.

It is quite possible that a no-deal Brexit would have a similar effect on the British. One cannot blame people for growing heartily sick of the bickering in Parliament and the endless talks with the EU that never seem to go anywhere. There is only so much uncertainty people can take; it is better to know the worst.

Much of the British press, though unconstrained by the censorship that stifled Japanese opinion in the 1930s and 1940s, has been as jingoistic as the Japanese wartime media. Decades of anti-EU propaganda might have persuaded many Britons to put up with the privations that will follow a hard Brexit. Many would no doubt blame the lack of goods, the higher prices, the long lines at entry ports, and the loss of jobs on those bloody foreigners. (Japanese nationalists still blame US intransigence for Pearl Harbor.)

But even if all that comes to pass, disillusion will soon set in, just as it did in Japan once the euphoria over Pearl Harbor had faded. British cities won't be bombed. Britain won't be invaded and occupied. One hopes that nobody will be killed. But Britain's influence will be greatly reduced, its economy will shrink, and most people will be worse off. The main figures behind a hard Brexit - the likes of Boris Johnson, Nigel Farage, and Jacob Rees-Mogg - will probably be fine. But it will be no use blaming only them. It is the people who knew better, but didn't do enough to stop it, who should be most ashamed.



Lord, why I will never be surprised!

Dear Father:

You know, most times when someone come to you with an information, the person would often than not aspect you to react the same way he or she reacted when he or she first received that very information—that is a normal human tendency right? Especially so when the person feels that the information is breaking news or as we say in our village—“the latest geese”.

But when the person have completed throwing it all on you as we say here in our “fries” (gossip) terminology, and noticed that you did not react in a way that will indicate a surprise, like the geese is new to you—then it is obvious that you have just demonstrated that the very news has not come as a surprise—either you knew about it or you had figured out from the onset that, that would have been the end result of whatever had been told you.

Hmmm, my son today you na turn to a psychologist oo. Not that Father, am just trying to lay the basics for what am about to tell you so that you can understand from whence I come.

You know, there are too many noise in our village about how the Country Giant and his team of Kitchen staffers are handling the affairs of our village. There are noise about them stealing here and there more than the late Yule Blunder’s regime.

Some compared them to Yule Blunder because you see, Yule Blunder’s government was a pure rebel regime plain and simple. Most of the rebel generals knew that they had to knockout for the last time and they also knew very well that after those guns were taken from them, nobody was going to see one grain of hair on their heads again. If you think I lie, go and ask “Mr. More Mortal”, he will tell you how to get the first cash to catch a taxi ride has been so tough that he misses those days—my name ooh!

Anyway, so why am I not surprise with all the noise that are unfolding in our village from one town to another, from one clan to another down to the fiefdoms and all that. It is so simple Father, let us not forget that when you are sitting outside the fence, you think it’s all bread and butter feast going on inside the fence, not until you get there and see that the story is totally different from what you have thought.

Another thing is greed, especially for those of us who like to go on these spiritual journeys like 21 days fast and prayer or 40 days fast and prayer. Some brothers or sisters would plan in a way to challenge the food upon completion of the long fasting period until after eating they end up in the hospital.

This could be one of the two happening, and for that I am not surprise because Father I expected these people to make some mistakes from the beginning because they may have come with high expectations about things concerning the village and how it would have worked.

Unfortunately, many times we forget that there is a difference between fantasy and reality. Sometimes people go into shock mode and do things that they think it’s the right way to proceed until they get out of those modes.

Whether we like it or not, nobody come on a throne of a village the first time and get everything right. And trust me Father I know some people who will spy this your letter would think that I am trying to give some justification for why the people should “be stealing” our village money. So, I am not the least surprise that things went the way it did for the first year. Again I won’t be any surprise for the second year if things go the same. I will be surprised if they abuse the patience of the villagers and don’t improve. To be continued

OP-ED

By Peter J. Jacques

Civil Society Matters to the Sustainable Development Goals

Life and death for whole communities hang in the balance of achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that include eliminating poverty, conserving forests, and addressing climate change, passed by the United Nations unanimously in 2015. Take for example, the Indigenous Amazigh people who live in the mountains around Marrakech. They are representative of people who need to be served first by sustainable development.

The High Atlas Amazigh people experience hard lives in small villages. Most work as day laborers and agriculturalists with barely enough income to support their families and heat their homes. Education is a major concern, but is hard to attain for a number of reasons. Sometimes families cannot afford the subsequent costs of backpacks and books, even when the school is open and free. The challenge is especially difficult for girls, because, as one person explained, “How can fathers let their girls study if it is dark when they must travel?” The effect of incomplete education is profound, and when we asked one 62-year-old man what he thought the greatest threats to the future were for his community, he did not have confidence in his own experiences, noting, “What can I say? I am not read [educated].”

Through a partnership of the University of Central Florida (Orlando), The Hollings Center for International Dialogue (Washington D.C. and Istanbul), and the High Atlas Foundation (Marrakech), we recently conducted field work in the High Atlas Mountains, speaking with the people there who poured their hearts out to us.

The most consistent message we heard from the people of the High Atlas was that the future hinges on water. One group told us that when things are good, it is because the rain is abundant and on time; things are very hard otherwise. They are worried that climate change will affect if the rains come, or that the rain will not “come in its time.” They have good reason to worry because climate change is expected to decrease precipitation significantly, reducing streams, lakes, and groundwater.

Drought is a constant worry. The World Bank estimates that 37 percent of the population works in agriculture, meanwhile production of cereal crops varies wildly due to annual variation of precipitation— and 2018 was thankfully a bountiful year. Climate change will make the people of the High Atlas Mountains much more vulnerable while they are already living on the edge of survival. In one area, this change in precipitation timing and amount was already noticeable, resulting in a significant loss of fruit trees. In that same area, we were told that there is fear that there will be no water in twenty years, and that for these people who are deeply connected to the land, there will be “no alternatives.”

The High Atlas people are in an extremely vulnerable position. One group noted that they are so desperate for basic resources that they burn plastic trash to heat their water. Worse, they believe they have been left behind by society and that “the people of the mountains do not matter.” They feel that Moroccan society is deeply unfair—there is no help for the sick, little support for education, little defense against the cold, and that, for some, corruption is the greatest threat to a sustainable future.

Consequently, civil society has an important role in achieving the SDGs. The High Atlas Foundation has been working to help people in this region to organize themselves into collectives that decide both what the collective wants, and pathways to achieve those goals. Women have organized into co-ops that they own and they collect dividends from their products together. People in one coop lobbied the 2015 Conference of Parties climate meeting in Marrakech. Men’s associations have developed tree nurseries that not only produce income, but which protect whole watersheds - and therefore some water for the future. They are also participating in carbon sequestration markets. In this regard, the Marrakech Regional Department of Water and Forest provides them carob trees and the authorization to plant these trees on the mountains surrounding their villages.

However, perhaps the most important element of these collectives is that they give each person in them a voice. Leaders of these collectives have formal rights to approach the regional governments about their needs, and this voice would not be heard at all without the formal collective organization. These organizations cannot replace government services, but they do add capacity to the community.

Not only do these collectives lend people some influence over their current and their children’s lives, they love each other and they are not struggling alone. We witnessed profound solidarity. Repeatedly, the collectives told us “We love each other, we are one family,” “We are like one,” “We help each other,” and the conviction that “I will be with you.” The world is decidedly on an unsustainable path, so if we are going to meet SDGs, all the people like the people of the High Atlas Mountains must matter and their voice deserves to be heard.

Peter J. Jacques is a Professor of Political Science at the University of Central Florida in Orlando, USA.

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Rev. Kollie calls for war crimes tribunal here

The Executive of Prison Fellowship Liberia, Rev. Francis Kollie, joins the many calls for the establishment of a war crimes

program in Monrovia recently, he stresses that it is important all those who played key roles in the 14 years civil war in Liberia account of their

Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the United Nations.

A local group Smart Media, named Rev. Kollie as Humanitarian of the Year 2018 for his enormous contributions to inmates and prisons in Liberia.

The group notes that Rev. Kollie provides help and healing for prisoners throughout the country with the use of volunteers, education and restorative justice programs, mentoring, and legal assistance.

Rev. Kollie's efforts have left successful release of pre-trial detainees in the country through its mediation programmer run in partnership with East-West Management Institute, Smart Media says.

It adds that Rev. Kollie through Prison Fellowship Liberia's Legal Aid programme offers hope to pre-trial detainees, noting that between February and June 2009, he facilitated the release of 117 pre-trial detainees. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**



Rev. Francis Kollie

tribunal for Liberia.

He says such court is necessary, as it would allow people to give full account of their stewardship.

Speaking at an honoring

involvement.

The Liberian civil conflict caused the death of about 250,000 people and eventually led to the involvement of the regional body, Economic

Liberia reaffirms

Starts from backpage

Governor Patray also noted the improvement by the ECOWAS in 2018, as six member states achieved growth rates of more than 6-percent, while 11 countries remained in single digits inflation.

The CBL Executive Governor emphasized that the ECOWAS Commission in collaboration with the West African Monetary Agency (WAMA) with the active support of Member States central banks, is poised to implement the revised roadmap for a single currency for ECOWAS by 2020. The roadmap entails a series of activities and programs, the establishment of the common monetary policy framework and exchange rate mechanism, establishment of a common central bank, policy harmonization, etc.

In a welcome statement, the outgoing Chairman of the Committee of Governors, Mr. Godwin I. Emefiele of the Nigerian Central Bank, spoke of the strides the region has made towards monetary integration. He said despite the progress the region is still faced with enormous challenges which require the collective efforts of all member states to overcome. The Governor of the Bank of Ghana, Dr. Addison was elected the new Chairman of the Committee for the next term.

The Committee of Governors, among other agenda items, adopted the

Report of the 44th Meeting of the Technical Committee, the 15th Report on the activities of the College of Supervisors of the WAMAZ as well as the Report of the 39th Meeting of the Technical Committee of West African Institute of Economic and Financial Management (WAIFEM). The three reports covered issues and activities in the Zone for the past six months (January -June 2018) and recent developments in the Zone, including macroeconomic convergence, financial sector developments, trade and capacity building, etc.

Governor Patray is being accompanied to the Accra meetings by the Deputy Governor for Economic Policy, Dr. Mounir Siaplay; the Executive Director of Regulation and Supervision Department; Mr. Jefferson S.N.Kambo; the Executive Director of Research, Policy and Planning Department, Mr. Mussah A. Kamara; the Advisor to the CBL on Multilateral Affairs, Mr. Michael B. Ogun; the Sr. Director of Regulation and Policy, Mrs. Barue A. Morris, the Senior Director for Communications, Mr. Cyrus W. Badio; and Mr. Jay G. Brown, Senior Director for Insurance. Other members of the Liberian delegation include Hon. Kou Dorlieh, Deputy Minister of Justice for Economic Affairs and Mr. Ed Dillion, Special Assistant to the Minister of Justice

Save More Kids donates to Clar Foundation

A United States-based charity, Save More Kids, donates assorted food items worth more than US\$22,000 to the Clar Hope Foundation, owned by First Lady, Clar Marie Weah.

Items donation include several bags of American seasoned sardines and Perfection enriched rice.

The head of Save More Kids, Quanuquanei Karmue, lauds First Lady Clar Weah, for her humanitarian initiatives aimed at improving the lives of underprivileged Liberians, a move he says, is buttressing government's Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development.

Making the presentation recently in Monrovia, Mr. Karmue said his organization and donors were pleased to support First Lady Weah's effort for the benefit of Liberians who are in dire need of help.

He said the gesture is their way of giving back to the development of the country. The donation also marked the beginning of an official partnership between the Clar Hope Foundation and Save More Kids towards bolstering humanitarian outreach initiatives to most vulnerable Liberians.

Save More Kids, established in January 2013, focuses on



First Lady Clar M. Weah

changing lives of children trapped with bad choices due to devastating conditions.

Meanwhile, Mr. Karmue has also presented copy of his book entitled, |Witness to the First Lady."

According to him, the book is a memoir which explains his experience from the Liberian civil war and the dreadful impact the crises bear on citizens and the country.

Receiving the donation, First Lady Weah commended Save More Kids, a Liberian-owned international charity, for the gesture. Ms Weah described the

gesture as timely, noting that it would greatly assist the needy people of Liberia, not only vulnerable children such as orphans and street kids but also elderly indigents, who are regular beneficiaries of her Foundation's monthly elderly feeding program.

The First Lady provides food rations to nearly 2,000 elderly people on the last Thursday of each month under the Elderly Feeding Program and regularly provides food and non-food support to over ten orphanages monthly. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

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Work Bank introduces 5-year program

By Lewis S. Teh

The World Bank Group Liberia Country Office here introduces a five-year strategic program to help the government achieves its Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development or PAPP.

The World Bank Group stresses a need for Liberia to invest more in infrastructure that will put the country on the right trajectory of development to get on par with its neighbors in the region.

World Bank Country Director Mr. Henry G. R. Kerali, told reporters in a interactive discussion at the World Bank Country office in Oldest Congo Town Thursday, February 7, that in order for Liberia to achieve the more infrastructure that needed, the Bank has introduced the Country Partnership Framework or (CPF) a five-year strategic program.

He says the CPF covers the period from 2019-2024, and it describes the main elements of the World Bank's support to Liberia as it strives to achieve sustainable, resilient pro-poor economic growth.

"This CPF reflects Liberia's

strategic priorities as defined in its five years development plan, the pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development or (PAPP) which runs from July 2018-June 2023 that was formulated by President George Manneh Weah administration", Mr. Kerali explains.

He says the CPF was informed by the Systematic Country Diagnostics (SCD) and it supports Liberia's pro-poor

growth and transformation in line with Pillar Three of the PAPP, which includes strengthening institutions and creating an enabling environment for inclusive and sustainable growth; building human capital to seize new economic opportunities, and narrowing the infrastructure gap to foster equitable development nationwide.

He narrates that the CPF design was based on

selectivity filters that reflects those priorities identified in the Systematic Country Diagnostic, comparative advantages derive from the World Bank long-term engagement in Liberia, and complementarities with the program of other development partners.

The CPF aims to strengthen Socio-Economic Resilience and consolidate peace and reconciliation efforts, with a focus on women empowerment and youth development.

According to Kerali, the five-year program will help expand access to education, and skills training to close the gap in education, and create better employment opportunities.

The CPF program will also promote development of innovative solutions and disruptive technologies to reduce poverty, says the Country Director, noting that

given the magnitude of Liberia's development challenges, applying traditional approaches could take considerable time and may not deliver the short-term result expected by a society eager to retain the higher level of economic activity that was well experienced before the conflict.

Meanwhile, Mr. Kerali discloses that total finances over the five-year period is around \$US300- 500 Million dollars to buttress the government's pro-poor agenda plans.

He emphasizes that the main objective for his visit to Liberia was to meet with key government officials including President Weah, the Ministers of Finance, Public Works, and Justice, respectively, adding that they held series of talks surrounding challenges the government faces, and how to address.



House to probe nationwide drug shortage

By Bridgett Milton

The House of Representatives instructs its committee on Health to

look into the alarming shortage of essential medical drugs at various hospitals across the country and report in one week.

The mandate came after Representatives Ivar K. Jones of Margibi County electoral district#2 and Matthew Joe of Grand Bassa County district#3 wrote plenary, seeking the indulgence of the House to

and principal deputies to appear before full plenary to give the status of the public health sector in the country as it relates to the shortage of essential medical drugs and logistical supplies to public health facilities.

According to Rep. Jones, based on a communication he received from public health centers in his district and the C. H. Rennie Hospital in Kakata, coupled with his assessment that establishes lack of essential drugs and medical consumable,

laboratory consumable for testing and shortage of fuel for generators and ambulances.

He says it is no secret that this situation is not only unique to Margibi County, but rather in all 15 political subdivisions of Liberia.

In his communication, Rep. Joe brought to the attention of his colleagues an imminent shutdown of the government hospital in Buchanan city. He recalls that the hospital was established on December 15, 1946 with the sole intent of addressing the health needs of the people of Grand Bassa County.

He says currently, the hospital does not only cater to the health needs of the people of Grand Bassa but also citizens from adjacent counties, including Rivercess, River Gee and Sinoe counties, respectively.

The Grand Bassa lawmaker the hospital is the only referral hospital in Buchanan City. "Imagine the loss of lives it would cause, if this hospital was to shut down due to lack of essential medical drugs, food, and petroleum products to run both the generators and ambulances", he laments.

The lack of drugs in hospitals is reaching crisis proportion as nearly all major

Health centers practicing FGM

-Says Mama Torma

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Liberia's female traditional leader Mama Torma is claiming that there are health centers here still allegedly practicing Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), an allegation that shocks international guests and partners working with Liberia to end FGM.

She made the claim Wednesday, 6 February during the celebration of the International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM at the Monrovia City Hall, but did not name a single health center that is involved.

Mama Torma's comment came at a time Liberia's partners including the United States Embassy, Embassy of Sweden, the European Union Delegation to Liberia, Plan International, International Commission on Human Rights (INCHR) and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) are

expressing serious anger over the prolonged delay by government to pass laws against gender - based violence and FGM.

She frowns at some international partners who do not see the traditional people as the medium through which the act of female genital mutilation can be eradicated in Liberia.

In a very angry mood, Madam Torma says that the health centers involved in the practice of FGM are allegedly doing so openly in communities without any action taken against them.

She believes the lack of action against the unnamed health centers is simply because the traditional people who supposed to provide information on them to the government were sidelined by partners.

She explains that this made it difficult to fight FGM. The female traditional leader also



hospitals across the country are virtually empty and services there have been reduced to mere prescription, including the G.W. Harley Memorial Hospital in Sanniquellie, Nimba County, Phebe Hospital in Suakoko, Bong County and the Charles Henry Rennie Hospital in Kakata, Margibi County, among

others. In his Annual Message to the 54th Legislature recently, President George Manneh Weah presented no comprehensive agenda for the health sector, but dwelled his speech of 83 pages that lasted two hours on infrastructure. - Editing by Jonathan Browne

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Experts rap on Liberia Economy

By Winston W. Parley

The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), a UN agency is warning here that the Liberian economy is still undiversified and vulnerable to external shocks.

Addressing a policy dialogue Thursday, 7 February at Boulevard Palace in Monrovia, ECA Sub regional Office for West Africa Acting Director Mr. Bakary Dosso observed that most of Liberia's export revenue is mainly generated by iron ore and rubber which alone account for almost 75 per cent of total export revenue.

The ECA has a mandate among other things, to promote the economic and social development of its member States, foster intra-regional integration, and promote international cooperation for Africa's development.

On the social front, Mr. Dosso notes that the poverty incidence in Liberia is high and estimated at 54.1% in 2014, adding that mainly in rural

areas poverty incidence is 70% and 43.3% in urban areas.

"Poverty is also closely related to the level of education with 69.3% of the

of its network of economic journalists at the meeting in Monrovia to disseminate the 2017 Liberia Country Profile which is a part of the ECA's



un-educated individuals are affected by poverty," he notes.

The ECA used the presence

knowledge products that was launched during its Conference of Ministers in Addis Ababa in May 2018.

However, Mr. Dosso says the ECA salutes the commitment of the Government of Liberia to provide a sustainable response to this scourge through the effective implementation of its new development plan - the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development 2018-2021.

For the success of this plan, he says the ECA recommends the need for Liberia to develop an agro-industrial value chains for a sustained and inclusive development.

"We also call for integrated interventions to improve the business environment including infrastructures, financial sector, the governance and the human capital," says Dosso.

According to the ECA, Liberia's health system remains fragile as experienced with the past Ebola epidemic where nearly 4,000 people died.

The ECA concludes that maternal mortality ratio deteriorated over the years from 260 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1986 to 1,072 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2013.

In response, Liberia's Deputy Agriculture Minister for Planning Mr. Robert Fagans says government is giving priority to the agriculture sector, demonstrated by President George Manneh Weah's visit to the Ministry on Monday, meeting with partners.

But he brings to the attention of the ECA that Liberia has challenges, lamenting that for rice production, there is a national requirement of 565,000 metric tons on an annual basis, for instance.

According to him, Liberia is instead importing 350,000 metric tons of rice here, with a little over 200,000 domestic productions mainly done by smallholder farmers and some medium entrepreneurs who have just entered the sector.

Mr. Fagans indicates that government is targeting reduction in rice importation in 2019, explaining that a five-year master plan has been developed to move the agriculture sector forward.

"This government is going to place emphasis on the value chain ... like rice, cassava, cocoa, we're going to look at livestock...," he says.

He notes that government is giving support to the private sector to enable them meet their obligations and help government to reduce the large importation of rice.

Representing the Ministry of Commerce, Mr. Lowell Wesley says government looks forward to seeing Liberia process rubber into finished product, expressing hope that investors take advantage of this.

According to him, Liberia is looking into the 1.2bn market which is a continental market, noting that these are inspiring and wants investors to seize the opportunity to do business here.

Partners make donation to LDEA

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Liberia Drugs Enforcement Agency (LDEA) Director Marcus Soko Jr. has expressed gratitude to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) and INL for donating several equipment to the agency.

The donation made Wednesday, 6 February will enable the LDEA to effectively execute its mandate in combating drugs and crimes in Liberia.

The donated equipment include computer laptops, HP color LaserJet, Dell Desktop,

office chairs, desks, and air conditioners, among others.

The LDEA received the donations at Fiahman, Sinkor, suburb of Monrovia from the UNODC and INL representative Jose Manuel Lopez Alvarez.

Director Soko expressed appreciation to the donors who made it possible for his institution to receive essential materials in making sure that the LDEA fight illicit drugs and narcotic substances in Liberia.

He discloses that with the presence of the equipment, the LDEA is willing to work with international partners that are supporting the work of the

agency in making sure that the ties between the LDEA and partners are sustained.

Mr. Soko continues that with the numerous assistance rendered the agency by partners, the LDEA has become a vibrant institution with international standards.

Also speaking, LDEA Deputy Director for Administration Mr. Marcus Zehyoue commends the UNODC, INL, and other partners for their continued support and cooperation, adding that he also appreciates the ongoing E-Learning which has inspired security officers under the sponsorship of the UNODC.

In response to LDEA's acceptance of the materials donated, Mr. Ron Duane Fleming said they were delighted to donate the items in partnership with the UNODC because they see the need to capacitate the LDEA to reach utmost efficiency and capacity.

He also thanked the director of the LDEA, saying the donors are very pleased in making these donations.

He expresses hope that they will be there whenever needed, assuring that the donation will not be the last assistance which will help bring closer the relationship between the parties concerned.--Edited by Winston W. Parley



Health centers

Starts from backpage

disagrees with some partners who say that Gender - based Violence and FGM Law will not be passed unless the portion of the Law that calls for an end to female genital mutilation is removed from the Act.

Mama Torma says partners should leave traditional business with the traditional people who control culture, warning that that it will be difficult for partners to succeed in the fight against FGM when traditional people are left out of the process.

She gives precondition that traditional people are willing

to abolish FGM if only international partners realize that traditional people must be included in the fight.

She calls for more constructive engagement with traditional leaders here, and appeals to partners to see the Mama Torma Tradition Center as a medium through which the lives of females can be improved through the provision of education and skills training for their betterment.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

#Stop prioritizing foreign businesses over Liberian businesses!#

Français

Un groupe de libériens annonce une manifestation pacifique

Un groupe de Libériens se prépare pour organiser des manifestations pacifiques à Monrovia pour « attirer l'attention du président George Manneh sur la cherté de la vie ».

Abraham Diarus Dillon, vice-président pour les affaires politiques du parti de la liberté (LP, opposition), a déclaré qu'une manifestation pacifique serait organisée pour attirer l'attention du président sur les difficultés économiques actuelles dues à la mauvaise gouvernance.

S'exprimant sur une chaîne de la place, M. Dillon a déclaré que la manifestation prévue n'est pas destinée à demander la démission ou le départ du président Weah. Il s'agit plutôt de lui donner l'opportunité de répondre à des demandes spécifiques.

Selon lui, le mouvement de protestation prévu sera bien organisé afin qu'il atteigne le but recherché. M. Dillon accuse le président Weah d'avoir induit le public en erreur en déclarant dans son message annuel que le taux de change entre le dollar libérien et le dollar américain était



auparavant de 180 dollars libériens pour un dollar américain.

« Une perte de temps », c'était en ces termes que l'opposition avait qualifié le discours sur l'état de la nation prononcé par le président le lundi 28 janvier devant les membres de la 54^{ème} législature

Le discours à peine terminé,

quatre partis politiques de l'opposition avaient publié, comme promis, un communiqué de presse conjoint, qualifiant le message à la nation du président Weah d'une perte de temps.

L'opposition avait promis de répondre immédiatement et énergiquement au président après s'être acquitté de ce mandat constitutionnel. Le

discours était le deuxième depuis la prise de fonction du président Weah le 22 janvier 2018.

Le président national de l'ancien parti au pouvoir, Wilmot Paye, a déclaré depuis le siège du parti de la Liberté à Monrovia, immédiatement après le discours, que le président a décrit le Liberia, un pays dont l'économie est déjà en chute libre, comme un pays où tout va bien. « De toute évidence, le président se fiche de combien de personnes dorment affamées, de combien de Libériens

survivent à peine. Et il se voile la face sur les sombres perspectives en ce qui concerne le rétablissement de cette économie dans un avenir proche. »

Les quatre partis politiques sont les suivants : le parti de l'unité (UP, ancien parti au pouvoir), le Parti de la liberté (LP), le Congrès national alternatif (ANC) et le parti de tous les Libériens (ALP).

« Le président et ses fonctionnaires ont détruit tout ce qui restait de l'économie après la crise Ebola. Cependant, alors que vous attendiez d'entendre des recommandations et des mesures significatives pour ressusciter l'économie en crise, il n'a rien dit de substantiel pour raviver nos espoirs, rassurer les entreprises, rassurer les investisseurs et rétablir une nouvelle fois le respect des partenaires bilatéraux et multilatéraux du Libéria. C'est ce que ferait un dirigeant sérieux dans les moments difficiles », avait poursuivi le président Paye.

Entre-temps, des membres du parlement ont décidé de rejoindre la manifestation. Ils appellent le président Weah à prêter attention aux difficultés auxquelles les citoyens sont actuellement confrontés.

Le juge Ja'neh de la Cour suprême à nouveau trahi par ses collègues

Le président temporaire du Sénat, Albert Chie, a déclaré que le Sénat libérien tiendrait bientôt un procès en destitution contre le juge associé Kabineh Ja'neh, à la suite de la décision de la Cour suprême rendue à la majorité le mercredi 6 février. La cour suprême estime qu'elle n'a pas le droit de s'immiscer dans l'établissement de règles internes du Sénat.

"Nous allons au procès", a

dit M. Albert Chie, avant d'ajouter « il commencera très bientôt ».

Il a déclaré aux journalistes devant le tribunal que la Cour suprême a décidé qu'elle ne pouvait s'immiscer dans la réglementation interne du [Sénat] eu égard à la doctrine de la séparation des pouvoirs.

Le juge associé Joseph Nagbe, qui a lu la décision de la majorité, a indiqué que la cour suprême ne pouvait se rendre

coupable d'entrave aux procédures en intervenant dans cette affaire sous quelque forme que ce soit.

Mais dans son opinion dissidente, la juge associée Jamesetta Howard - Wolokolie a déclaré que la Cour suprême a encore une fois manqué une occasion essentielle pour obliger le parlement à respecter la procédure légale pour la destitution d'un cadre du pouvoir judiciaire.

La récente décision de la Cour suprême à la majorité, qui rejette la requête des quatre sénateurs, donne carte blanche aux législateurs pour enclencher le procès en destitution du juge Ja'neh pour des accusations d'abus de pouvoir portées contre lui par la Coalition pour un changement démocratique (CDC).

Le juge en chef Korkpor sera invité par le Sénat pour présider le procès en question.

A noter que quatre sénateurs avaient demandé à la Cour suprême de clarifier la question de la préséance d'une procédure de destitution au sens de l'article 43 de la

Constitution. Mais, la majorité a décidé de rejeter la pétition des quatre sénateurs pour des raisons de procédure.

L'article 43 de la Constitution impose au législateur de définir la procédure de destitution, mais le Sénat a modifié l'article 63 de son règlement, après que la chambre des représentants a présenté les instruments de destitution du juge Ja'neh.

Le dernier espoir juridique de Ja'neh est peut-être l'intervention des quatre sénateurs opposés à la décision de leurs collègues majoritaires de modifier l'article 63 de leur

règlement intérieur afin de lui permettre de le juger.

La Chambre des représentants a déjà présenté au Sénat libérien des instruments destinés à destituer le juge Ja'neh, mais les difficultés soulevées par Ja'neh et certains membres du Sénat ont retardé sa comparution devant le Sénat pour son procès en destitution.

Il est accusé d'inconduite avérée et d'abus de pouvoir. Ce sont des représentants du parti au pouvoir, à savoir notamment les représentants Moses Acarus Grey et Thomas Fallah qui sont à l'origine de ces allégations.



Articles traduits

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Français

MGF : L'Etat du Libéria sous pression

Plusieurs partenaires internationaux du Libéria, les États-Unis, la Suède et l'Union européenne, ont exprimé leur mécontentement face au retard qu'a accusé l'Etat du Libéria dans l'adoption d'une loi qui devrait mettre fin à la violence sexiste et aux mutilations génitales féminines (MGF).

L'ambassade des États-Unis, la délégation de l'UE au Libéria, Plan International, la Commission internationale des droits de l'homme (INCHR) et le Comité international de la Croix Rouge (IRC) collaborent avec le gouvernement du Libéria pour mettre un terme à la violence sexiste et aux mutilations génitales féminines.

Mais ils ont exprimé leur colère lors d'un programme organisé dans le cadre de la Journée internationale de la tolérance zéro pour les mutilations génitales féminines (MGF) à l'hôtel de ville de Monrovia le 6 février sur le thème « Mettre fin aux mutilations génitales féminines ».

Transmettant le message du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies, M. Yacoub El-Hillo, Coordonnateur résident des Nations Unies au Libéria, a déclaré que les mutilations génitales féminines constituaient une violation abominable des droits de l'homme.

Selon lui, c'est un mal qui affecte les femmes et les filles du monde entier et les prive de leur dignité, met leur santé en danger et provoque des douleurs et des souffrances inutiles, voire la mort.

A l'émissaire des Nations Unies d'ajouter que les MGF mettent en exergue les inégalités de sexe et le déséquilibre des pouvoirs. Elles limitent les possibilités pour les filles et les femmes de garantir leurs droits et de réaliser leur plein potentiel.

M. El-Hillo a révélé qu'environ 200 millions de femmes et de filles en vie aujourd'hui ont été victimes de cette pratique néfaste et

que, chaque année, près de 4 millions de filles sont en danger.

Selon M. El-Hillo, les objectifs de développement durable (ODD) appellent à l'élimination de la mutilation génitale féminine d'ici 2030.

Il note que l'ONU s'associe aux acteurs mondiaux, régionaux et nationaux pour soutenir des initiatives globales et intégrées visant à atteindre cet objectif.

Selon lui, la lutte contre les mutilations génitales féminines est également un élément central de l'initiative Spot in the Spotlight lancée en partenariat avec l'Union européenne pour mettre fin à toutes les formes de violence à l'égard des femmes et des filles.

Bien que des changements positifs aient été enregistrés dans plusieurs pays grâce aux efforts concertés de tous les acteurs, l'émissaire onusien craint que ces progrès ne soient dépassés par la croissance rapide des populations des pays où la pratique est concentrée, si la tendance actuelle est maintenue.

Il appelle donc à une action accrue, concertée et globale pour mettre fin aux MGF et défendre pleinement les droits fondamentaux de toutes les femmes et de toutes les filles.

Mme Faith Alcovi Cooper, Représentante de l'IRC au Libéria, l'ambassadrice de Suède au Libéria, Mme Ingrid Wetterqvist, Mme Evelyn Moorehead, représentante de Plan International, et Mme Francis Greaves, présidente de la société civile nationale, ont également exprimé des points de vue similaires.

Ils demandent au gouvernement d'agir rapidement en adoptant les lois sur la violence domestique pour mettre fin au cauchemar des femmes et des filles au Libéria.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Ian Buruma

Les tendances suicidaires du Royaume-Uni

NEW YORK - Voir une société démocratique sophistiquée se diriger en connaissance de cause vers une catastrophe nationale prévisible et évitable est une expérience à la fois rare et effrayante. La plupart des responsables politiques britanniques sont bien conscients du fait qu'une sortie de l'Union européenne, sans accord sur les relations entre les deux parties après le Brexit, sera extrêmement préjudiciable pour leur pays. Ils n'avancent pas vers l'abîme en somnambules, mais bien éveillés.

Une minorité d'idéologues qui se bercent d'illusions ne semblent pas dérangés par la perspective d'une sortie fracassante et sans accord de l'UE. Quelques rêveurs chauvins de droite, encouragés par divers organes de presse, pensent que l'endurance britannique incarnée par la bataille de Dunkerque permettra de surmonter les difficultés initiales et que la Grande-Bretagne règnera à nouveau sur les flots comme une puissance quasi impériale, quoique sans empire. Les néo-trotskyistes de la gauche, dont Jeremy Corbyn, le dirigeant du Parti travailliste, le principal parti d'opposition, semblent penser que le désastre incitera les Britanniques à finalement exiger l'instauration d'un socialisme véritable.

La plupart des responsables politiques, qu'ils soient de gauche ou de droite - dont la Première ministre Theresa May, favorable au maintien du Royaume-Uni dans l'UE avant le référendum sur le Brexit - ne sont toutefois pas aussi crédules. Et pourtant, dans leur grande majorité, tous se refusent à faire quoique ce soit pour ralentir cette dégringolade vers une sortie sans accord. Les propositions soumises à la Chambre des communes en vue d'une extension de la date de retrait, qui permettrait d'envisager une alternative à la stratégie de sortie impopulaire de May, ont été rejetées. Les politiques partisans, des médias chauvins et un étrange désintérêt pour tout ce qui ne concerne pas les îles britanniques semblent avoir paralysé la volonté collective des politiciens britanniques. Au lieu d'agir pour éviter le pire, ils s'imaginent que de nouvelles discussions et plus de concessions de la part de Bruxelles sauveront le Royaume-Uni à la dernière minute.

Ce déconcertant processus de suicide national, certes inhabituel, n'est pas totalement sans précédent. La dérive du Japon vers une guerre calamiteuse avec les États-Unis en 1941 en est un exemple. Il y a bien sûr des différences évidentes : la Grande-Bretagne n'envisage pas d'entrer en guerre avec quiconque, en dépit de niaiseries nostalgiques au sujet de la Seconde guerre mondiale, et la démocratie japonaise, encore balbutiante, avait été étranglée par les factions militaires et un contrôle autoritaire de l'État sur les institutions civiles. Les similitudes sont toutefois frappantes.

Un nombre relativement réduit de têtes brûlées militaristes, aiguillonnées par des idéologues totalitaristes et soutenus principalement par des officiers de rang intermédiaire, souhaitait entrer en guerre avec les États-Unis. La plupart des politiciens et des hauts-gradés japonais savaient de leur côté que ce serait une folie de provoquer un affrontement avec une puissance dotée de moyens industriels et militaires très largement supérieurs. Mais ils furent pour une raison ou une autre réticents ou incapables d'enrayer cette confrontation. Certains se firent même l'écho de la rhétorique extrémiste des exaltés sans y croire - un peu comme lorsque May se plie aux exigences des partisans d'un Brexit sans concessions.

Le principal stratège de l'attaque de Pearl Harbor, l'amiral Yamamoto Isoroku, un homme d'une intelligence remarquable qui avait étudié à Harvard et qui connaissait très bien les États-Unis, était un opposant déclaré à la guerre. Espérant malgré tout

que les négociations préviendraient une guerre totale, il fit son devoir et élabora le plan d'attaque. Le prince Konoe Fumimaro, le Premier ministre de l'époque, qui avait un fils étudiant à Princeton, était également réticent à l'idée d'engager une guerre avec les États-Unis. Il demanda la tenue d'une réunion après l'autre avec les Américains, tout en leur faisant parvenir des messages contradictoires, espérant qu'ils accepteraient les concessions impossibles exigées par les faucons japonais auxquels il ne sut résister, par faiblesse ou indécision.

Les délais à tenir ou leur extension firent l'objet de discussions sans fin. Comme dans le cas des négociations entre les Britanniques et l'Union européenne sur le Brexit, les Américains eurent toujours du mal à comprendre ce que voulaient vraiment les Japonais. A vrai dire, les Japonais ne le savaient pas eux-mêmes. Le dernier espoir d'hommes confrontés à un désastre imminent, mais qui se refusaient à agir, était que de nouvelles négociations avec les États-Unis les sauveraient. Mais en finale, les Américains furent las de discuter et en conséquence, des millions de personnes furent tuées et le Japon fut pratiquement détruit.

Apprenant la nouvelle de l'attaque de Pearl Harbor, la réaction initiale du peuple japonais fut une sorte de soulagement. Enfin, une certitude. Tout était préférable aux interminables tergiversations. Maintenant que le Japon ne pouvait plus compter que sur lui-même, la version japonaise de l'endurance britannique leur permettrait peut-être de surmonter les épreuves. Les Japonais, comme les Britanniques, aspirent de manière perverse à un « splendide isolement ». Et livrer bataille aux impérialistes occidentaux était au moins aussi honorable que de soumettre les Chinois à force de massacres.

Il est tout à fait possible qu'un Brexit sans accord ait un effet similaire sur les Britanniques. On ne peut les blâmer d'être complètement dégoûtés par les chamailleries au Parlement et les discussions sans fin avec l'UE qui semblent ne jamais déboucher sur rien. L'incertitude ne peut être tolérée que jusqu'à un certain point et considérer le pire est finalement préférable.

Bien qu'ils ne soient pas entravés par la censure qui étouffait l'opinion publique japonaise dans les années 1930 et 1940, les médias britanniques se sont majoritairement révélés aussi chauvins que la presse japonaise durant la guerre. Des décennies de propagande euroseptique pourraient avoir persuadés de nombreux Britanniques d'accepter les privations qu'ils devront endurer à la suite d'un Brexit dur. Il est également probable qu'ils rendront les maudits étrangers responsables du manque aigu de biens, des hausses massives des prix, des embouteillages monstrueux aux points d'entrée et de l'explosion du taux de chômage. (Les nationalistes japonais accusent encore aujourd'hui l'intransigence des États-Unis pour l'attaque de Pearl Harbor).

Mais même en pareil cas, la désillusion suivra rapidement, comme au Japon après la dissipation de l'euphorie liée à Pearl Harbor. Les villes britanniques ne seront pas bombardées, et le pays ne sera pas envahi et occupé. Espérons que personne ne sera tué. Mais l'influence du Royaume-Uni sera considérablement réduite, son économie entrera en récession et pour la majorité de la population, la situation sera pire qu'avant. Les principales personnalités favorables à un Brexit sans accord - comme Boris Johnson, Nigel Farage et Jacob Rees-Mogg - se tireront probablement de ce mauvais pas. Il ne sert toutefois à rien d'en faire les seuls boucs émissaires. Ce sont ceux qui ont fait preuve de plus de discernement, mais qui n'ont pas agi suffisamment pour empêcher un Brexit sans accord, qui devraient avoir le plus honte.

CULTURE & ENTERTAINMENT



With Ben Polee Weese

Musician Union defeated candidates finally accept poll result

VOTE

TEAM SAMMY

- PROTECTION
- QUALITY CONTROL
- PRIORITISATION
- MONETIZATION
- ARTISTS WELFARE

BREDA B. SIMS
SECRETARY GENERAL

QUEEN DOLO
ORGANIZER

FLORENCE BALLAD KOBORI
WELFARE

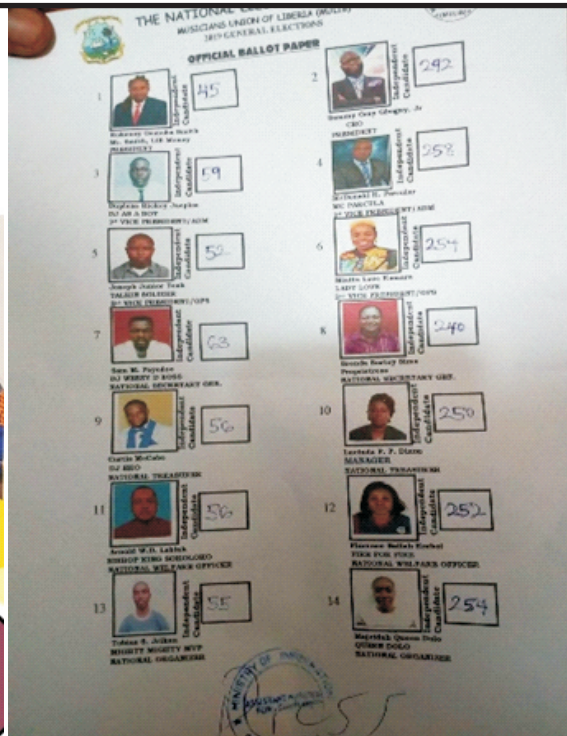
MC PARCULAR
VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMINISTRATION

MIATTA LADY LOVE KAMARA
VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATION

LUCINDA DICKSON
TREASURER

MUSICIANS UNION OF LIBERIA

"NOW OR NEVER"



all and if we can individually share how our platforms can be implemented by the new leadership, Liberia Music Industry will be a better place for all of us. Let me make it very clear that the biggest picture is the Music Industry that has suffered for too long not Weezy."

Dj Weezy narrated that his communication to the court was intended to bring the Ministry Of Information Cultural Affairs and Tourism to book for conducting a fraudulent election.

He however noted that the greatest responsibility is now on the new leadership to execute a new sense of dynamism by reuniting Musicians after a disputed election.

He further cautions the new leadership that decentralization and participatory leadership should be the hallmark of their leadership.

Also Joseph Teah defeated candidate for the position of second vice president extend his congratulatory message to the President-elect Mr. Sammy Gray Gboguy Jr. and to the rest of the winners.

"The journey begins, Liberia first thanks to all who participated in the process and to the voters for making this happen, we are all winners."

Some defeated candidates of the just ended Music Union election, have abandoned taking court action against election commissionaires and the election result, which they said was marked with fraud and irregularities.

They said they have accepted the result for the sake of peace and the betterment of the music industry here.

According to defeated presidential candidate Mr. Smith, "It is sad that the election for President and other positions for the Musicians Union of Liberia were marred by fraud and in total violation of the Constitution. We are headed to the court for a thorough rerun of the caricature dubbed as election for the following reasons and more."

Mr Smith continues that the Constitution of the union was indefinitely suspended to allow his competitor who has since left the union for a decade or more to contest in total disregard of the organic law that a contender must be due paying member and must have been with the union not more than a year before the election but unfortunately, his competitor has since been a resident of the U.S.

"Over 85% of voters were not musicians or artists as there was no verification done to ascertain whether voters were actually who they portrayed themselves to be. Anyone from anywhere voted whether musicians or not, totally unfair and unfortunate."

He narrated that Independent candidates, who had nothing to do with #Team Smith were all placed beneath him on the ballot paper, pointing that the ballot papers were not separated from position to position thus, making many to suffer

from guilt by association. "There should been a ballot paper for each position and not the other way around."

"The Ministry of Information violated the Constitution by presiding over the election when the Constitution talks about musicians themselves running their affairs void of interference. Once the Ministry or government had a candidate as Minister Eugene Fahngon boastfully told me, there was no reason to have the election at the Ministry, worst of all, presided over by the Ministry. They were player and referee at the same time."

Mr. Smith disclosed that his team members were coerced to sign a fraudulent election result coming out of a reported ballot box switch, noting that there were actually two ballot boxes on the scene for absolutely no reason for an approximately 400 voters.

"Our competitor trucked hundreds of non-musicians in the full glare of the public with Ministry officials looking on and majestically walked them to the polling center in clear violation of the laws."

"Our competitor on every talk show he appeared stated clearly that the President of the Republic was a key supporter of his bid and besides financier of his activities and the Ministry of Information that regulates activities of the Musicians Union refused to caution him or stop this campaign given that the President should not canvass for a candidate when the government through MOI regulates our activities."

For his part, defeated national secretary candidate Dj Weezy noted that there is no time for protest, State Order or any other form of

court proceedings.

He noted that the Music Union is above individual interests and in so doing they should embrace the new leadership despite what happened.

"The world is watching and we shouldn't be nightmares in rebranding our sincere Music Industry, the union needs us

Entertainment update



Moses Swaray set to leave for Thailand on February 27th to minister at a worship concert scheduled for March 2nd.

Jaredo set to drop his first single next week Friday. Title? "Smile".

C Jay's new song, "Rising Sun" featuring J Slught set to drop this week on iTunes with a video directed by Lorenzo Loveland Albert YG's song, "Apologize", set to drop on the 5th of February.

Young Zee set to drop his new single, "Leh It Here" this Friday and the video next week.

Mic Killer set to drop a new song next week. Title? "Inside".

D'Ameko, who still remains a founding member of Floyd Nation, recently signed a new management contract with popular promoter, Jamaal Sonpon

Reggae and Dancehall artist, Beenieking BS2, set to drop a new song featuring PCK on his birthday, February 7th. Title? "Your Love"

SOG's newest sensation, L Drez, set to drop a new song in February.

Shining Man of Soulfresh set to drop a new song next week followed by a video for the song.

-Credit- the Liberia influence

Read The NewDawn Online Daily

Senate boils over tenure positions

By Ethel A. Tweh

The Liberian Senate in its 8th day sitting of the 2nd session heatedly debates plan by President George Manneh Weah to scrape tenure positions with many senators publicly expressing their opposition to the decision.

The Senate Chair on Judiciary, Senator Varney G. Sherman, explains that in President Weah's draft law before the senate, the following institutions are exempted from section (1) of the Act and their tenure remain enforced as per statute namely; the General Auditing Commission, National Elections Commission and the Executive and Deputy Governors and members of the Board of the Central Bank of Liberia.

He says a proposal for tenures in Government positions should have a limitation of three years based on good conduct and performance.

But the Senator warns that if the Senate doesn't give credence to President's proposal, and if the President took it to the Supreme Court, he will have his way because the court will interpret based on the Constitution that says all members of the Executive serve at the will and pleasure of the President.

"In fact, the Supreme Court went as far as saying that the



Executive is composed of one person and that person is the President and all other persons serve at the will of the President." Senator Sherman notes.

Grand Gedeh County Senator G. Alphonso Gaye says he understood from the report that the President, in keeping with law has authority to appoint people in the Executive as those people should serve at the will of the President besides those three agencies, noting all other public institutions with tenure service violate the Constitution.

"If that is the case, then making recommendation whether those institutions are

integrity institutions or not it will still be the same violation if we give them tenure, so let's cancel all tenure positions."

However, Senator Jonathan L. Kaipay of Grand Bassa County argues that the title of the report should be changed from Act to Bill, reminding that Acts are not debatable. He stresses that the Legislature has authority to create agencies if there is a need.

For his part, Senator J. Milton Teahjay of Sinoe County observes the purpose and intent of tenures is to protect the Public's interest in particular entities of government against Executive power and political tension.

"If we eliminate tenures in

areas where pressure will be fiercest from the Executive, we are undermining the efficacy and subjecting ourselves to Public disrepute", Senator Teahjay argues.

He notes that the presentation by the Chairman on the report is void, saying that there cannot be only three institutions that are to have tenures. Therefore, he argues, if it were the case, all tenure positions should be eliminated.

Senator Henry Yallah of Bong County agrees. He argues that institution such as Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission cannot be at the will and pleasure of the President, warning that the LACC that is supposed to indict people for alleged corruption is at the will of the President, the President can fire its head at anytime or at will, and the commission will lose its independence.

The debate continues at the senate next in what many fear, is an attempt by President

Weah wield absolute power over state parastatals, particularly integrity institutions.

President George Weah submitted the bill to the Legislature last October, calling for the cancellation of tenure positions within the Executive Branch.

He took the decision after losing some legal challenges at the Supreme Court for appointing people to tenured positions that were still being occupied by officials appointed by his predecessor Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

The House of Representatives subsequently passed legislation, scraping tenure positions within the Executive Branch of government, except the General Auditing Commission (GAC), Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) and the National Elections Commission (NEC).

- **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Ivory Coast gives

Starts from backpage

that our national team is doing well for the players and the team too," he says.

"This shows that we are making progress in the game. So it is going to be a very good game for our players," Mr. Kojo explains.

He notes that the local African championship is coming-up very soon and some of the local players will be on the team.

Meanwhile, Kojo says Liberia does not have winning record over Ivory Coast in 15 meetings since June 30, 1965.

Their most recent meetings came in the 2018 World Cup qualifiers with Liberia losing 1-0 on 13 November 2015 in

Monrovia and 3-0 in Abidjan on 17 November 2015.

Liberia has been to the 1996 and 2002 Afcon finals and Kojo believes securing qualification to a third finals will add more value to the match.

According to him, Liberia has not qualified since 2002, so travelling from Kinshasa to Abidjan is going to be like a whole party and people are going to be celebrating.

Talking about the game with DR Congo, Kojo says it will be a big occasion.

"It is still in the right direction of football because if we don't qualify it doesn't mean the national team is over or will be dissolved," he says.

Call to probe Morlu, Fahngon

By Roosevelt G. Jabah

Ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) chair Mulbah Morlu's claim that critics and opposition are calling for President George Manneh Weah's assassination, and Deputy Information Minister Eugene Fahngon's alleged support to a call to kill critics have prompted opposition's call to investigate both

officials.

Morlu claimed here Wednesday, 6 February that supporters of opposition leaders Alexander Cummings, Joseph Boakai and Charles Brumskine are on social media, calling for the assignation of President Weah.

His claim come after Deputy Information Minister Fahngon was reported to have endorsed a social media post under the

name William W. Slim - King Broh, which threatened that "any attempt from those evil guys to bring civil unrest on our people, even the chicken in their generation will not live to tell the story. We will execute all of them..."

In response to these threats, former National Investment Commission (NIC) Chair Mr. George Wisner, on Thursday, 7 February called on state securities to investigate these comments by Morlu and Fahngon due to the serious security implications they bear.

He argues that President Weah has under his control all national security agencies and diehard loyalists, warning that to accuse his critics of seeking his assassination would put members of the opposition in danger.

On the basis of these comments, Wisner fears that some elements may react through different means to get at perceived Weah's critics or opposition politicians, even if such actions were not authorized.

Mr. Wisner, a staunch member of the former ruling Unity Party (UP) wants the

international partners to take Morlu's statement serious," Wisner stresses.

He discloses that it is now time for the religious community to intervene, adding that they should not wait for the situation to go out of hand. Meanwhile, Mr. Wisner has criticized the pending licensing of 300 Senegalese by National Fishing and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA) to fish in Liberia.

Wisner, who brags of having lot of experience in the sector, says that such agreement is not in the interest of Liberia.

"You can grant an individual license but that doesn't mean that you will stop them from bringing as many people in to work for them", he concludes.

- **Edited by Winston W. Parley**



CDC's Chairman Morlu



Deputy Minister Fahngon

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State securities, including the National Security Agency (NSA) and the Justice Ministry to invite and investigate these officials for their "reckless statements."

"The statements made by two CDC officials should be investigated or they should be made to publicly retract them," Mr. Wisner asserted OK FM on Thursday.

He argues that the CDC chair's statement has the propensity of undermining the hard earned peace and stability of the state.

According to him, such statements have set the stage to send CDC partisans and state securities against the opposition.

"I want to use this medium to call on stakeholders and our

Liberia reaffirms commitment



Executive Governor Patray flanked by DG Siaplay

The Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) Executive Governor Nathaniel R. Patray, III, Thursday, February 6, 2018, told a gathering of West African Monetary Zone (WAMZ) Central Bank Governors in Accra, Ghana, that Liberia remains committed to the effective implementation of the Road Map geared towards

regional monetary and economic integration.

He said country's commitment is in line with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Monetary Cooperation Programme (EMCP), which Liberia is a signatory.

Governor Patray expressed hope that the Technical

Committee's discussions and deliberations of the WAMZ would bring the region closer toward the goals of establishing a credible monetary union within the sub-region.

The WAMZ founded on April 20, 2000 to establish the second monetary zone (the first being the West African Monetary Union comprising eight Francophone West countries) in ECOWAS to fast track the EMCP. The Member States of WAMZ are The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone.

Speaking at the 38th meeting of the Committee of Governors of Central Banks of the West African Monetary Zone (WAMZ), Executive Governor Patray said ECOWAS continues to make significant progress in sustaining economic growth and macroeconomic convergence in spite of the economic, political and social challenges faced by Member States.



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Ivory Coast gives Liberia green light

By Sally Gaye

Ivory Coast Football Federation Vice President Sory Diabate has confirmed an international friendly with Liberia due on 26 Match.

The match will take place at the Felix Houphouet-Boigny Stadium in Abidjan on March 26.

Liberia is due to meet DR Congo in Kinshasa in their final 2019 Africa Cup of Nations (Afcon), and so it needs a draw to make it to the African cup of nations.

Liberia's national team head coach Thomas Kojo says it is a very good friendly international match.

But he says he believes that

it would have been much better if [the friendly] was scheduled before the game with DR Congo.

"Notwithstanding Ivory Coast is one of the big football nations in Africa. But the invitation to play Liberia in a friendly international speaks volumes



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