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The New Dawn

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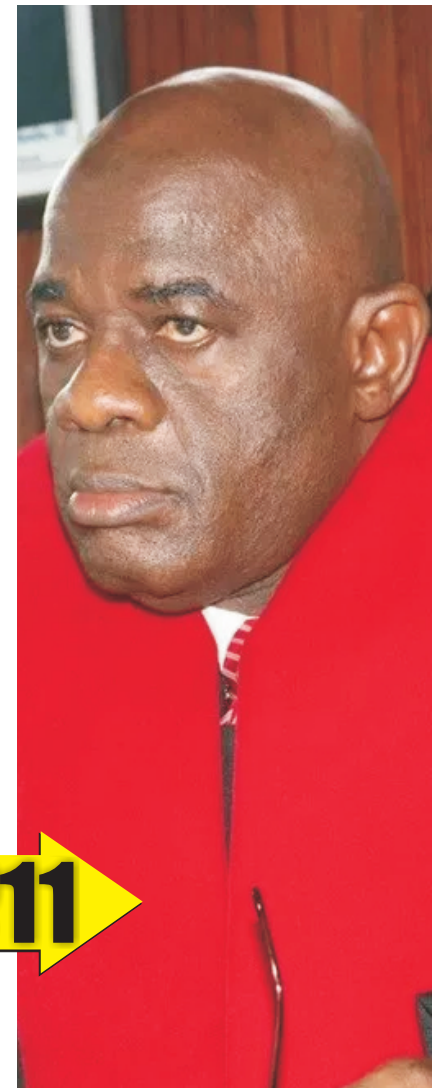
#Stop prioritizing foreign businesses over Liberian businesses!#

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2019

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Ja'neh wants CJ Korkpor out



Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor

Associate Justice Kabineh Ja'neh

P11



P11

LTA licensed new GSM company



Continental News

Kenyan policeman sentenced to death in rare officer conviction

Kenya's High Court has sentenced a senior policeman to death for the murder of a detainee - one of two cases resulting in rare officer convictions.

In a separate case, five senior police officers were found responsible for the death of a six-month-old baby hit over the head by riot police.

Kenya's police have previously faced accusations of impunity over killings.

Nahashon Mutua received a death sentence for fatally beating detainee Martin Koome with a metal bar in 2013.

Mutua was the officer in charge at a police station in the capital, Nairobi, when Koome was brought in following a domestic fight.

The officer had tried to frame an inmate for the murder but he was convicted in December and sentenced to death on Thursday.

What is the reaction in

Kenya?

Ferdinand Omondi, BBC News, Nairobi

Nahashon Mutua's death sentence trended on Kenyan social media within minutes of his sentencing. Not many

Kenyans would have expected the outcome. Policemen in Kenya have got away with it before: brutal beatings, torture and even broad daylight killings, some caught on camera.

The state stubbornly refuses to acknowledge it as a widespread problem; dismissing the cases as individual bad apples. But all the hard work of human rights groups, public pressure and the six-year-old Independent Police Oversight Authority (Ipoa) is beginning to bear fruit.

More officers are getting charged and prosecutors are beginning to win cases. The civilian-led Ipoa is getting plaudits for holding police officers accountable, and many Kenyans hope this new trend will be a deterrent.

Amnesty International says justice has prevailed against extrajudicial killings, but maintains it does not support the death penalty, which is still part of Kenyan law.

Why was Martin Koome arrested and what happened?

Chief Inspector Mutua was the officer in charge of Ruaraka police station when a suspect, Martin Koome Manyara, was brought in following a domestic brawl, back in December 2013.

Neighbours who heard the incident reported the matter to the police.

During the case, the court heard how Mutua had tried covering up the murder several times, including faking a report, freeing suspects present during the night of the incident and even charging one cellmate, Kelvin Odhiambo, with the murder of Koome.

It was Mr Odhiambo who sought the help of the oversight authority who eventually uncovered Mutua's behaviour. Charges against Mr Odhiambo were dropped and he turned state witness. -BBC



REUTERS Image: Nahashon Mutua had previously tried to pin the death on an inmate

Last day of campaigning in Nigeria before polling

Nigeria's presidential candidates wrapped up their election campaigns on Thursday, making a final pitch to voters before Africa's most populous country heads into the polls.

Two days before election day, President Muhammadu Buhari headed to his home state of Katsina in the northwest, while his main challenger, Atiku Abubakar, returned to his base in

Adamawa, in the northeast.

Both were due to address supporters at their final rallies before voting in their villages on Saturday.

Buhari, 76, is seeking a second, four-year term of office but is facing a strong challenge from Abubakar, 72, who has campaigned largely against the president's record in office.

There has been little or no reliable opinion polling but

observers expect a close race. In 2015, results were announced some 48 hours after polls closed.

In what he called a "state-of-the-nation address", Abubakar said Buhari had failed to address insecurity, led a one-sided anti-corruption campaign and weakened the economy.

"Nigeria cannot survive another four years of this misdirection and maladministration," he said, declaring that Buhari's re-election would spell "disaster" for Nigeria.

Despite his age, Abubakar, a former vice-president representing the Peoples Democratic Party, has portrayed himself as a pro-business, modern and tech-savvy candidate.

In particular he has appealed to the 18-35 age group that make up just over half of the 84 million registered voters, including by publishing a manifesto entirely in emojis.

Buhari is "better left to take a long rest (to) attend properly to his health", he added, referring to the president's illness that saw him spend

Zimbabwe gold miners feared dead in Kadoma flood

Dozens of gold panners in Zimbabwe are feared to have drowned after heavy rains flooded two mines.

Police said rescue teams were trying to pump out the water and search for bodies and any survivors at the mines near the town of Kadoma.

Anxious family members

Rio Zimbabwe owns Cricket Mine. Company spokesperson Wilson Gwatiringa told the BBC that miners had illegally gained access to sealed shafts at the mine which was not in operation.

It is the third deadly mine disaster to hit the continent in recent days.

A gold mine collapsed in



have come to the site in the hopes of finding their loved ones alive.

Reports say 38 people went underground late on Tuesday into two mines - Silver Moon Mine and Cricket Mine.

Heavy rain later destroyed a dam wall, causing the floods. Police fear there may be no survivors.

months abroad.

The former military ruler, from the All Progressives Congress (APC), conceded his time in office "has not been an easy journey".

But he maintained the government had made "great

progress".

"Some of these achievements are visible for everyone to see. Some are still in the works," he said in a video message, asking for support "to consolidate" the progress so far. BBC



Political passion: Nigerians vote in presidential and parliamentary elections on Saturday (AFP Photo/CRISTINA ALDEHUELA)

EDITORIAL

Avert further death in Nimba

THE CURRENT DEATH toll from the Kartee Gold Mines in Gboanipea, Lower Nimba County is not only unfortunate, but very scaring. In total, some 60 poverty-stricken persons, including foreign nationals have reportedly died in desperation, scavenging for gold in caves beneath the earth.

THE CHILLING TALES came to public fold last week when about 45 illicit miners were trapped under the earth where they have been digging for gold at the Kartee Gold Mines in Gboanipea, about 10 kilometers from Tappita District in Nimba.

AT LEAST FIVE bodies were recovered on Tuesday, 12 February and one survivor rescued. But 35 others are still entrapped with no serious rescue team on the ground to save lives, nearly one week running into the aftermath of the incident.

THE GOVERNMENT IS yet to organize a disaster team to the mines to rescue the remaining trapped illicit miners and put in place mechanism to avert a reoccurrence of the ugly situation.

THE NATIONAL DISASTER Commission is quoted as saying it is not aware of the landslide at the Kartee Gold Mines in Gboanipea that has affected nearly 60 of our fellow compatriots. News from the county says 15 persons had suffered similar fate earlier at the same mine.

NIMBA COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT Dorr Cooper is quoted by the BBC as saying about 100,000 illicit miners have intruded the mines, some of them armed. Why hasn't he called in the police to condone the area?

HE NOTES THAT there is lawlessness around the site. But local authorities on the ground have failed to ensure law and order, leaving illicit miners to have their way at the expense of lives. Chiefs and elders are left with no alternative but to call in country devils to halt further intrusion.

HOWEVER, WE THINK it's about time the Government of Liberia thru the Ministries of Internal Affairs and Mines and Energy along with other state apparatus act to avert loss of more lives.

WE CALL FOR immediate deployment of the police Emergency Response Unity (ERU) and other riot units to contain the lawlessness at the Kartee Gold Mines. We believe the government is not supportive of illicit miners trying to create a state within a state.

THE TIME IS now. Government should not wait for more lives to be lost in Nimba before moving in, as they would be a miscarriage of key responsibilities under the Constitution - to protect lives and property, and maintain law and order.

The New Dawn
FULLY INDEPENDENT

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COMMENTARY

By George Soros

Europe, Please Wake Up

The first step to defending Europe from its enemies, both internal and external, is to recognize the magnitude of the threat they present. The second is to awaken the sleeping pro-European majority and mobilize it to defend the values on which the EU was founded.

MUNICH - Europe is sleepwalking into oblivion, and the people of Europe need to wake up before it is too late. If they don't, the European Union will go the way of the Soviet Union in 1991. Neither our leaders nor ordinary citizens seem to understand that we are experiencing a revolutionary moment, that the range of possibilities is very broad, and that the eventual outcome is thus highly uncertain.

Most of us assume that the future will more or less resemble the present, but this is not necessarily so. In a long and eventful life, I have witnessed many periods of what I call radical disequilibrium. We are living in such a period today.

The next inflection point will be the elections for the European Parliament in May 2019. Unfortunately, anti-European forces will enjoy a competitive advantage in the balloting. There are several reasons for this, including the outdated party system that prevails in most European countries, the practical impossibility of treaty change, and the lack of legal tools for disciplining member states that violate the principles on which the European Union was founded. The EU can impose the *acquis communautaire* (the body of European Union law) on applicant countries, but lacks sufficient capacity to enforce member states' compliance.

The antiquated party system hampers those who want to preserve the values on which the EU was founded, but helps those who want to replace those values with something radically different. This is true in individual countries and even more so in trans-European alliances.

The party system of individual states reflects the divisions that mattered in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, such as the conflict between capital and labor. But the cleavage that matters most today is between pro- and anti-European forces.⁴

The EU's dominant country is Germany, and the dominant political alliance in Germany - between the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and the Bavaria-based Christian Social Union (CSU) - has become unsustainable. The alliance worked as long as there was no significant party in Bavaria to the right of the CSU. That changed with the rise of the extremist Alternative für Deutschland (AfD). In last September's *länder* elections, the CSU's result was its worst in over six decades, and the AfD entered the Bavarian Parliament for the first time.

The AfD's rise removed the *raison d'être* of the CDU-CSU alliance. But that alliance cannot be broken up without triggering new elections that neither Germany nor Europe can afford. As it is, the current ruling coalition cannot be as robustly pro-European as it would be without the AfD threatening its right flank.

The situation is far from hopeless. The German Greens have emerged as the only consistently pro-European party in the country, and they continue rising in opinion polls, whereas the AfD seems to have reached its highpoint (except in the former East Germany). But now CDU/CSU voters are represented by a party whose commitment to European values is ambivalent.²

In the United Kingdom, too, an antiquated party structure prevents the popular will from finding

proper expression. Both Labour and the Conservatives are internally divided, but their leaders, Jeremy Corbyn and Theresa May, respectively, are so determined to deliver Brexit that they have agreed to cooperate to attain it. The situation is so complicated that most Britons just want to get it over with, although it will be the defining event for the country for decades to come.

But the collusion between Corbyn and May has aroused opposition in both parties, which in the case of Labour is bordering on rebellion. The day after Corbyn and May met, May announced a program to aid impoverished pro-Brexit Labour constituencies in the north of England. Corbyn is now accused of betraying the pledge he made at Labour's September 2018 party conference to back a second Brexit referendum if holding an election is not possible.

The public is also becoming aware of the dire consequences of Brexit. The chances that May's deal will be rejected on February 14 are growing by the day. That could set in motion a groundswell of support for a referendum or, even better, for revoking Britain's Article 50 notification.

Italy finds itself in a similar predicament. The EU made a fatal mistake in 2017 by strictly enforcing the Dublin Agreement, which unfairly burdens countries like Italy where migrants first enter the EU. This drove Italy's predominantly pro-European and pro-immigration electorate into the arms of the anti-European League party and Five Star Movement in 2018. The previously dominant Democratic Party is in disarray. As a result, the significant portion of the electorate that remains pro-European has no party to vote for. There is, however, an attempt underway to organize a united pro-European list. A similar reordering of party systems is happening in France, Poland, Sweden, and probably elsewhere.¹

When it comes to trans-European alliances, the situation is even worse. National parties at least have some roots in the past, but the trans-European alliances are entirely dictated by party leaders' self-interest. The European People's Party (EPP) is the worst offender. The EPP is almost entirely devoid of principles, as demonstrated by its willingness to permit the continued membership of Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's Fidesz in order to preserve its majority and control the allocation of top jobs in the EU. Anti-European forces may look good in comparison: at least they have some principles, even if they are odious.

It is difficult to see how the pro-European parties can emerge victorious from the election in May unless they put Europe's interests ahead of their own. One can still make a case for preserving the EU in order radically to reinvent it. But that would require a change of heart in the EU. The current leadership is reminiscent of the politburo when the Soviet Union collapsed - continuing to issue ukazes as if they were still relevant.

The first step to defending Europe from its enemies, both internal and external, is to recognize the magnitude of the threat they present. The second is to awaken the sleeping pro-European majority and mobilize it to defend the values on which the EU was founded. Otherwise, the dream of a united Europe could become the nightmare of the twenty-first century.



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

OPINION

By Diane Coyle

What Will Succeed GDP?

CAMBRIDGE - Is the world becoming increasingly prosperous? It would be hard to answer “yes” right now, at least so far as the leading high-income economies are concerned. Yet the longstanding bellwether of economic progress - inflation-adjusted GDP - has been growing across most of the OECD since 2010, suggesting that everything is fine.

Some 80 years after GDP was introduced, nearly everyone (apart from the indicator’s stewards) has concluded that it is no longer a useful measure of economic progress. But there is no consensus yet on a possible replacement. Reaching agreement on an alternative will require a new concept of prosperity and a new way to measure whether living standards are improving.

There are several potential alternatives. One influential approach, pioneered by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s Erik Brynjolfsson and his co-authors, is to ask people how much they value free digital goods such as online search and social media, and then add the result to the conventional measurement of GDP. Their research indicates that the average person in the United States would need \$17,530 per year to compensate for lack of access to online search, \$8,414 for email, and so on.

These are large numbers relative to the US median per capita income of just over \$31,000, indicating that the economic-welfare benefits of zero-money-price digital goods are high. This approach therefore captures some meaningful improvements in people’s lives that are currently excluded from GDP. But to generate a meaningful economic-welfare metric, the same technique should be applied to other important components of wellbeing not captured by GDP, such as the natural environment, leisure, and unpaid work in the home.

Another alternative, supported by a large and growing body of research in economics and psychology, is direct measurement of wellbeing or happiness. Surveys of reported levels of wellbeing are now available for many countries, and the idea of cutting to the chase by using this as the prosperity metric has strong advocates. But this option has several drawbacks, including the fact that indicators of wellbeing change little over time. Happiness surveys in rich countries, for example, typically show a score of six or seven on a 0-10 scale.

One way to make such indicators more directly relevant to policy would be to track the ways people use their time and attach wellbeing measures to each. For example, people like leisure and especially digital media, may or may not enjoy their work, and hate commuting. This approach holds an obvious attraction in a largely services-based economy where the major input is time to produce and time to consume, and where digital technology is clearly changing the way many people allocate their time. After all, who wakes up thinking about what to spend rather than what to do?

These two options are rooted in the utilitarian philosophy that the goal of policy is the greatest happiness for the greatest number of people at any moment. This accounts for the focus on income or expenditure in the existing GDP framework, and the resulting paradoxes such as the way a natural disaster can increase GDP. It also underlies the emphasis on directly tracking wellbeing in the moment.

A third possibility for a new prosperity metric is to return to the origins of statistics, from the Domesday Book to William Petty, and measure wealth rather than income. Embracing such a balance-sheet approach would immediately bring sustainability into the calculation of economic progress by revealing when future prosperity is being compromised for that of today.

Measuring people’s access to assets also draws on an ethical tradition, associated with the Nobel laureate economist Amartya Sen, which emphasizes people’s agency and ability to lead the kind of life they value. What matters here is access to human capital (health and skills), social capital (human relationships and networks), and infrastructure. The World Bank has emphasized the measurement of wealth, and the calculation of these “missing capitals” is moving up the research and statistical agenda.

It is both revealing and encouraging that the issue of economic measurement has prompted such vigorous and exciting research. But, in addition to devising a new indicator of prosperity, there is the question of how to implement the shift. Official statistics are similar to a technical standard. It’s hard for anyone to move from one framework to another without a lot of other people doing so at the same time.

Dissatisfaction with the prevailing GDP approach is therefore insufficient; a sufficiently large coalition has to agree to an alternative framework. Any successor to GDP also must be easily implementable, because statisticians will have to set out detailed definitions and methods, and collect the data.

Finally, and perhaps most important, there needs to be a public conversation about what is happening. Although very few people have the faintest idea about what GDP is or even what the acronym stands for, it is a single number that has gained the entrenched status that comes from long and frequent use. Its successor will need to be compelling and tell a persuasive story, consistent with experience, of what is happening in our economies. GDP may be toppling from its throne, but there is a long way to go before another composite indicator is crowned in its place.

February 13, 2019

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA)
Menetamba Road, Cooper's Beach Community
Paynesville, Liberia

Supply of Assorted Office Equipment

Contract Identification No: **IFB No: LTA/NCB/007/18/19**

The Government of Liberia through the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA) has apportioned funds from its core budget towards the cost of procuring assorted Office Equipment (IFB No: LTA/NCB/007/18/19).

The Liberia Telecommunications Authority now invites your firm to submit sealed bids for the supply of the below mentioned office equipment (IT). Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) Procedures as specified in the Amended and Restated Public Procurement and Concessions Act (PPC Act) of September 2010.

The supply of assorted office equipment (IT) as per LTA's needs, quantities and requirements included in Bid document:

REF NO:	DESCRIPTION	ITEM	QTY	BID SECURITY USD
IFB NO. LTA/NCB/007/18/19	SUPPLY OF IT EQUIPMENT	PRINTER, UPS, LAPTOP AND DESKTOP COMPUTERS	ASSORTED	300.00

A complete set of bidding documents (soft copy) can be obtained free of charge at the below address. Bid security must be submitted together with bid document, and **must be per the amount stated above in Manager's Check or Bank Guarantee.**

Qualification requirements include the following:

- *Current Business Registration Certificate (Liberia Business Registry);*
- *Current Tax Clearance Certificate (Liberia Revenue Authority);*
- *Article of Incorporation/Partnership Agreement (Ministry of Foreign Affairs);*
- *Must provide two (2) references of previous or current clients over the last two (2) years;*
- *Must provide proof of being registered with the Public Procurement & Concessions Commission (PPCC);*
- *Availability of supply(ies) upon the issuance of an approved Local Purchase Order (LPO) or within a minimum period of 10 days.*

You may obtain bidding documents and further information from the Procurement & Logistics Section, Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA), 3rd Floor Room 29, from Monday- Friday (9:00 A.M- 5:00 P.M).

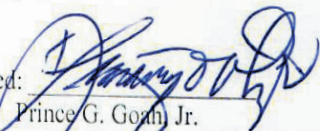
Submission must be clearly marked, signed and sealed in an envelope, including other requested information as follows: **(IFB No: LTA/NCB/007/18/19) CONFIDENTIAL BID- for the Supply of Assorted Office Equipment to the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA) for Fiscal Year 2017/2018** and addressed to:

Procurement & Logistics Section
3rd Floor, Room 29
Liberia Telecommunications Authority
Menetamba Road, Cooper's Beach Community
Paynesville, Liberia
Mobile number: +231-886591857/+231-886589047/+231-777564210
Web address: www.lta.gov.lr

A pre-bid opening meeting will be held at the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA) 3rd Floor P&L Conference Room # 28 on Monday, March 11, 2019 at 1:00 PM to answer questions relevant to the bidding process. Seven (7) days after which, all clarification requests would remain unanswered to.

Bids must be submitted at the Procurement & Logistics Section, Room # 29, 3rd Floor, on Monday, March 18, 2017 on or before 2:00 PM. Bid Opening will be done promptly after closing at 2:00 PM, in Conference Room # 28 on the 3rd Floor, in the presence of bidders' representatives or those who choose to attend.

The Liberia Telecommunications Authority reserves the right to reject or accept any bid submitted including the annulment of the entire process through notifying bidders without incurring any liability thereof.

Signed: 
Prince G. Gosh Jr.
Procurement & Logistics Manager

Approved: 
S. Blidi Elliott
Director of Administration



**REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE ACCOUNT**

2nd & 3rd Floors, F & F Building
63 United Nations Drive, Coconut Plantation, Mamba Point
Monrovia, Liberia
Tel: +231 7701 44444 / 0888 828 988; Email: info@mca.gov.lr

GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA
"Millennium Challenge Account Liberia" (MCA-Liberia)



The Government of Liberia has received grant funding of US\$256,726,000.00 (Two Hundred Fifty-Six Million Seven Hundred Twenty-Six Thousand US Dollars) from the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) of the United States Government to enable the Government of Liberia to implement this program and achieve the objectives of the MCC Grant (Compact), and it intends to apply parts of the proceeds of the funds to payments for Contracts for Goods, Works and Services.

This General Procurement Notice is made based on MCA-Liberia's:
Procurement Plan Amendment 2 for the period July 2018 to June 2019
Estimated Value: US \$17,294,558

PROCUREMENT OF GOODS:

- Program Management and Administration**
 - Office Equipment, Supplies and Furniture
 - Office Furniture
- Energy Project**
 - IT Equipment
 - LERC Computers, accessories, server, copier, etc
 - Office Equipment, Supplies and Furniture
 - LERC Office Furniture
 - Transport Equipment
 - Specialized Vehicles for LEC
 - Insulated Bucket Truck for LEC
 - LERC Vehicles

PROCUREMENT OF SERVICES (Field Activities, Designs, Feasibility and Environmental Studies, and Consultants):

CONSULTING FIRMS:

- Energy Project**
 - COSS/WTP/Demand Study (Energy)
 - Development of Regulatory Information Management System (Energy)
 - Design-Review & Supervision Consultant for LEC Training & Customer Service Centers & BWI Constructions
 - Utility Training Consultant
- Roads Project**
 - Design-Review & Construction Supervision Consultants

- Program Management and Administration**
 - Independent Auditor
- Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)**
 - GIS Mapping of Compact Energy & Roads Projects
 - Data Quality Review Contract
 - Consultancy for IT Training for LEC ITT Data Collectors

- Energy Project**
 - LERC Website Design

INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS:

- Program Management and Administration**
 - Close-Out Consultant
 - Needs Assessment Consultant for EPA (EP)
 - Writer Consultant
- Energy Project**
 - Annual Review and Update of the SGIP Consultant
 - Quantity Surveyor/LEC Customer Service Center
 - Technical Assistance for Ministry of Gender, Children & Social Protection (MGCSPP) and Implementing Entities (IEs)
 - LEC Communications Outreach Campaign

PROCUREMENT OF WORKS/ CONSTRUCTION:

- Energy Project**
 - Design-Build Contractor for LEC training Center Construction including BWI Wiring Work Room
- Roads Project**
 - Design - Build Contractors Marching Road Maintenance Fund (MRMF)

PROCUREMENT OF NON-CONSULTANT SERVICES:

- Program Management and Administration**
 - Technical Evaluation Panels (TEP's)
 - Training and Workshops
 - Media & Public Engagement including radio spots, SMS blasts, promotional video production, etc
 - Brochures, Printing, Billboards
 - Implementation of MCA-L Strategic Communication Plan
- Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)**
 - Production and Printing of Training Materials (M&E)
 - Data Collectors' Uniform & PPEs (M&E)
 - Hand-Held Tablets with Project's App Installed (M&E)
 - Promotional Materials (Banners, stickers & Fliers) M&E
 - Pole Tagging (Asset Tags)

- Energy Project**
 - Trainings, Events and Outreach
 - LEC Communications Outreach Campaign - IEC Materials

Contracts for Goods, Works and Services financed under the Program will be implemented according to the principles, rules and procedures set out in the MCC PPG which can be found on the MCC website at <https://www.mcc.gov/resources/doc/program-procurement-guidelines>.

The procurement is open to all bidders/consultants from eligible source countries as defined in the MCC PPG.

Specific Procurement Notices (SPN) for contracts to be tendered under the competitive bidding procedures and for consultant contracts will be announced, as they become available, on the MCA website at <http://mca.gov.lr>, United Nations Development Business (UNDB) Online website at <http://www.devbusiness.com/>, Development Gateway Market (dgMarket) website at <http://mcc.dgmarket.com/>, in local newspapers, and other media outlets as appropriate.

Interested eligible suppliers, contractors and consultants who wish to be included on the mailing list to receive a copy of advertisements, or those requiring additional information, should contact:

Millennium Challenge Account Liberia
Attention: Procurement Agent
2nd Floor, F & F Building
63 United Nations Drive
Mamba Point, Coconut Plantation
Monrovia, Liberia
Email: MCALiberiaPA@cardno.com with a copy to: slewionj@mca.gov.lr

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Rangers arrest protestors with knives

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Forest Rangers here have arrested two protestors carrying knives during a protest at the Forestry Development Authority in Paynesville outside Monrovia.

The two protestors, both males, were among a group of aggrieved citizens from Grand Bassa County who had converged on the FDA Head Office in Paynesville outside Monrovia to demand the resignation of the head for

community forest in Grand Bassa, Madam Getrude Karvayan.

They were apprehended with the harp objects, while attempting to enter the conference hall of the FDA, where the leadership of the protesting Bassa citizens had been invited by the Management to dialogue on their grievances.

Rangers immediately handcuffed the men and turned them over along with the knives to the Managing

Director of the FDA, C. Mike Doryen and his officials, including the leadership of the protestors.

One of the individual is about 40, while the other is about 20. According to them, they decided traveling with the knives because of the time they left their residences to join their colleagues at the FDA compound for the protest demonstration.

According to them, they had gone with no negative intention of harming anyone, describing their arrest as very unfortunate.

However, while standing in the crowd, one the guys broke down in tears, begging the FDA authorities, who were already seated in the conference hall with the protestors, for mercy.

Managing Director C. Mike Doryen pardoned them, but strongly warned them not to ever repeat such behavior, as a reoccurrence could warrant prosecution.

The knives were subsequently confiscated by the forest rangers, who took them out of the conference hall where discussion between the FDA Management and the protestors had been scheduled. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*



Photo showing an FDA forest ranger releasing handcuff from the hand of one of the arrested protestors

Trash

-Lawmaker terms House's agenda

By Bridgett Milton

Montserrado County District #15 Rep. Adolph Lawrence has termed as trash, an agenda adopted by members of the House of Representatives in expressing his frustration over Speaker Bhofal Chambers' persistent refusal to recognize his (Lawrence's) motion.

In venting his anger, Rep. Lawrence says he and Montserrado District #10 Rep. Yekeh Kolubah have separately written the House of Representatives to invite ruling party Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) chair Mulbah Morlu to explain how opposition allegedly want to assassinate President George Manneh Weah and to query Monrovia City Mayor Jefferson Koijee over heap of garbage around the city.

Tension erupted when Nimba County District #5 Rep.

have constantly been ignored by Speaker Chambers for petty issues raised by other lawmakers that are believed to be controlled by the wishes of the leadership of the House.

Reps. Lawrence and Yekeh Kolubah's motions were denied by Speaker Chambers, prompting Lawrence to argue that they had so many important communications that have been sent to Speaker Chambers' office for weeks but they are yet to appear on the agenda.

Also speaking, Montserrado County District #10 Rep. Yakeh Kolubah said he was unready to proceed with the agenda because he saw heavy security deployment at the Capitol Thursday.

Rep. Kolubah complains that there are people who are accusing some opposition members of wanting to assassinate the president of



Rep. Adolph Lawrence

Samuel Korga's motion to adopt a controversial agenda as the working tool for the day's session of the House was adopted in spite of many other lawmakers' expressing their un-readiness.

Speaker Chambers was bombarded with questions from independent lawmakers across the floor Thursday over who's in the executive that he wants to protect for which he always refuses to hear issues raised by his colleagues.

But he ordered Rep. Lawrence out of session in the wake of the protesting lawmaker's pronouncement that he was unready to proceed with the hearing of a trash adopted by the House as an agenda for the day's hearing. Rep. Lawrence observed that communications from independent lawmakers

Liberia. According to Kolubah, Speaker Chambers thinks that the House of Representatives is his private house, in reference to the way the speaker allegedly suppresses independent voices at the House.

Kolubah recalls that on Sunday, 10 February, President George Manneh Weah told a congregation at the United Methodist Conference in Gbarnga, Bong County that he needed prayer because there are people who are planning to kill him. Rep. Kolubah says President Weah needs to say who wants to kill him.

Meanwhile, Reps. Kolubah and Lawrence walked out of session in demonstration of their dissatisfaction over how things went Thursday. *-Edited by Winston W. Parley*

Tenure bill debate ends in deadlock

By Ethel A. Tweh

The Chambers of the Liberian Senate became tensed and breathtaking as members of that august body went into a heated and uncontrollable debate over a report from the Senate Judiciary Committee on the Tenure and Autonomous Agencies Bill.

It all started Thursday, 14 February when Presiding Officer, Senate Pro-tempore Albert Chie called for the reading of the Tenure and Autonomous Agencies Bill report for its possible passage.

But senators Conmany Wesseh of River Gee, Oscar Cooper of Margibi, J. Milton Teahjay of Sinoe, Daniel Naatehn of Gbarpolu and Matthew Jay of River Gee Counties could not allow the members of the Judiciary Committee to sail through with their presentation.

Opening the argument, Sinoe County Sen. Milton Teahjay said the report failed to provide the necessary information to inform the Senate.

Teahjay maintains that the committee failed to follow the corridor of open mind of handling the bill and the report did not speak to the

unanswered questions.

Also adding his voice to debate, Maryland County Senator Gble-bo Brown says the report is 'fake' and that the crafters' sole intent is to please President George Manneh Weah and [not] for the country's sake.

Referencing Article 89 of the 1986 Constitution and the Comprehensive Peace Accord signed in Accra, Ghana, Senator Brown says the establishment of these agencies were called for.

He argues that the call to establish these tenured positions was not former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf, as being insinuated by the committee.

Article 89 of the Liberian Constitution mandates the

establishment of autonomous public commissions including the the Civil Service Commission; Elections Commission; and General Auditing Commission.

Further Article 89 states that the Legislature shall enact laws for the governance of these Commissions and create other agencies as may be necessary for the effective operation of Government.

Due to the continuous building of tensions among senators, presiding officer, Senator Peter Coleman who had taken over from the Pro - Tempore Chie, cut the debate and granted a motion that the debate be continued next Tuesday, 19 February. *--Edited by Winston W. Parley*

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

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Mansion press corps regrets accident

Journalists accredited to the Executive Mansion under the banner Executive Mansion Press Corps have expressed deep regrets over a recent tragic accident when an intruding vehicle hit President George Manneh Weah's motorcade, killing two persons.

The fatalities on Sunday, 10

from private and state media houses, and the Ministry of State's driver who operates the press jeep were badly injured, while an employee of the Ministry of State Gabriel Wilson and a lady in the intruding vehicle Victoria Wlue were killed.

In their statement released under the park of the University of Liberia Thursday,

Gabriel Nyanti Wilson, commonly called Executive Horn, and an occupant of the intruding vehicle, Madam Victoria Wlue.

The Executive Mansion Press Corps adds that the incident also left several others severely injured.

Reading the statement, the Chairman of the Executive Mansion Press Corps. Mr. Samukai Dukuly of privately run Power FM and TV says the Press Corps regrets this tragic incident and expresses deep sympathies to the bereaved families and prays for speedy recovery for the injured.

At the same time, Mr. Dukuly says the Executive Mansion Press Corps wishes to extend its heartfelt thanks and appreciation to President Weah for this timely intervention and his initial financial, moral and psychological support for the injured journalists.

In the wake of the tragic accident, the Executive Mansion Press Corps is calling on the Traffic Section of the Liberia National Police (LNP) to reinforce its road safety measures to avoid a repeat of this sad incident, especially around the presidential motorcade.

The leadership and members of the Executive Mansion Press Corps have assured that in spite of the sad incident, they reaffirm their commitment to the effective coverage of the Presidency.

Injured Liberian journalists under Ivorian doctors' care

Executive Mansion Videographer Gabriel W. Mills and Prime FM's Jerry Gaye have arrived at the Polyclinique Internationale Sainte Anne-Marie (PISAM) in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, for intensive medical care, the Executive Mansion says.

Mills, Gaye and other members of the Executive Mansion Press Corps got injured on Sunday, 10 February

Victoria Wlue, died as a result of the crash.

In response to the critical condition of Mills and Gaye, President George Manneh Weah ordered that they be flown to neighboring Cote d'Ivoire for further treatment.

A number of other injured journalists involved in the accident have been discharged from the John F. Kennedy Medical Center, but some still remain under treatment.



February included the Ministry of State's presidential Traditional Horn Blower Gabriel Nyanti Wilson, commonly called Executive Horn who was riding in the press car, and an occupant of the intruding vehicle, Madam Victoria Wlue.

Several journalists accredited to the Mansion

14 February, the Press Corps recalled how on Sunday, 10 February, a black jeep belonging to former Solicitor General Cllr. Wilkins Wright allegedly intruded into President Weah's motorcade.

According to the release, the intruding jeep ran into the Executive Mansion Press jeep, killing two persons including



when a car transporting former Associate Justice Cllr. Michael Wright intruded into the presidential motorcade at Gbonkorneima near Gbarnga, Bong County.

Two persons including the Ministry of State staff Gabriel Nyanti Wilson who had been bowling traditional horn for Liberia's presidents and a lady in the intruding vehicle,

The driver from the intruding vehicle is being investigated, and there are reports that he might face prosecution.

The Executive Mansion says he violated the rules governing the presidential convoy.--*Press release*

LWSC needs \$100m to replace faulty pipe

By Roosevelt G. Jabah

The Managing Director of the Liberia Water & Sewer Corporation (LWSC) Duannah Kamara is calling on development partners to come to the aid of the entity in replacing a faulty pipe.

Speaking Thursday, 14 February, Mr. Kamara said LWSC needs US\$100 million to replace the faulty pipe.

During a regular press briefing at the Ministry of Information on Capitol Hill, Mr. Kamara recalls that the faulty pipe was built in 1966 and commissioned in 1968 to provide service to 400,000 people.

Due to growing population here, he the LWSC boss asserts that the pipe is now supplying an estimated 1.6 million people.

He also complains that the pipe is very old and has more pressure on it due to the increased number of people that are currently benefiting from the LWSC service.



Meanwhile, Mr. Kamara blames the recent shortage of water in Monrovia and its environs on the damaged pipe.

He says the water shortage is not as a result of government bureaucracy as being speculated in the public

domain.

Additionally, Mr. Kamara mentions that the LWSC technical team in the shortest possible time had the pipe repaired and the corporation is still carrying on other maintenance work.

#Stop prioritizing foreign businesses over Liberian businesses!#

"As I'm speaking to you at the moment, the LWSC is now being involved into active operation. This implies that people are now pumping water," he says.

According to him, considering the situation the pipe is facing, it can't effectively provide service to the people of Montserrado County without experiencing further problem.

He laments that his entity losses 77% of its annual revenue generation to leakages and water theft.

"People who are connected to our line illegally took advantage of the water supply shortage by packaging and selling our water to us expensive," Kamara laments.

He notes that when those who are stealing water are being requested to pay taxes, they cry and blow the issue out of proportion.

He says the issue of fighting water theft is a serious challenge, concluding that the LWSC has dispatched a team in the field to carry on inspection.-
-*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

Français

« Mortalité maternelle trop élevée au Libéria », s'inquiète la banque mondiale

La représentante de la Banque mondiale au Libéria, Mme Larisa Leshchenko, se dit alarmée par les taux de la mortalité maternelle et des grossesses précoces chez les adolescentes au Libéria. Selon elle, trop de mères meurent et trop de jeunes filles n'ont pas la chance de passer leur enfance comme il le faut.

S'exprimant lors d'un atelier réunissant plusieurs parties prenantes le mercredi 13 février à Paynesville, Mme Leshchenko a déclaré que le taux de mortalité maternelle et le taux de grossesse chez les adolescentes au Libéria sont parmi les plus élevés en Afrique de l'Ouest et dans le monde.

L'atelier a été organisé à l'hôtel Golden Gate par le ministère de la Santé en partenariat avec la Banque mondiale. Il avait pour objectif de remédier aux contraintes institutionnelles pour obtenir les résultats escomptés en matière de santé au Libéria.

Mme Leshchenko a noté



qu'il ressort des résultats obtenus en matière de santé au Libéria qu'il reste beaucoup à faire. Pour rappel, l'indice du capital humain publié en septembre 2018 classait le Libéria au rang 153e sur 157 pays.

Le Libéria a enregistré plusieurs défis majeurs dont la gestion des ressources

humaines, l'approvisionnement en médicaments et le système de gestion des médicaments, la prise en compte de la voix des citoyens dans la gouvernance de la santé et l'amélioration de la transparence à différents niveaux du système.

« Quoique que plusieurs solutions techniques

continuent d'être mises en œuvre, notre expérience suggère que celles-ci devront être soutenues par les réformes des institutions et des organisations de gouvernance », a déclaré l'émissaire de la banque mondiale. Elle a réitéré l'engagement de la Banque mondiale de poursuivre son partenariat avec le gouvernement libérien pour renforcer les capacités de prestation de service de santé pour la gestion durable des ressources disponibles.

Pour sa part, la ministre de la Santé, la docteure Wilhelmina Jallah s'est réjouie de l'organisation de cet atelier qui, selon elle, constitue un jalon pour le secteur de la santé du pays.

Elle estime que l'atelier est très important d'autant plus qu'il donnera aux participants l'occasion d'explorer des moyens d'améliorer et de résoudre les nombreux problèmes de santé auxquels sont confrontées les populations.

Toujours selon Dr Jallah, le Libéria a connu des hauts et des bas pendant un bon bout de temps. Elle a indiqué que « bien de choses se passent, mais les citoyens ont du mal à voir les changements qui se produisent dans le secteur de la santé ». Faisant le point sur certains des progrès réalisés dans le secteur de la santé, la ministre Jallah a déclaré que la surveillance exercée par l'Institut national de la santé publique (NPHIL) est la preuve que le Libéria a considérablement progressé, rassurant les libériens que grâce à cette surveillance, le Libéria ne pourrait plus faire face à une autre menace en matière de santé publique comme le virus mortel Ebola.

Côte d'Ivoire-Libération d'Alain Lobognon : un cadeau pour plaire à Macron ?

Condamné en première instance pour « divulgation de fausses nouvelles et incitation à la haine », le député pro-Soro Alain Lobognon a été condamné mercredi à six mois de prison avec sursis. Il a aussitôt été libéré. Une décision qui semble en lien avec les retrouvailles à Paris dans deux jours entre les présidents français et ivoirien.

Mis sous mandat de dépôt le 15 janvier dernier, le député

Alain Lobognon, proche de l'ancien président de l'Assemblée nationale et chef rebelle, Guillaume Soro avait été incarcéré à la Maison d'arrêt et de correction d'Abidjan (MACA) le 29 janvier.

Ce, suite à son procès en première instance qui lui a valu un an d'emprisonnement ferme assorti d'une amende de 300.000 FCFA d'amende (450 euros). Principal chef d'accusation : « divulgation de

fausses nouvelles et incitation à la haine », selon l'expression de Richard Christophe Adou, procureur de la République près le tribunal de première instance du Plateau.

Une accusation imputable à un tweet dans lequel le parlementaire accusait le gouvernement ivoirien de vouloir arrêter un de ses collègues.

Mais, « à la surprise générale, un procès a été organisé en urgence » ce mercredi. Le ministère public a requis la libération immédiate du prévenu et sa condamnation à six mois de prison avec sursis. Réquisitions suivies par le ministère public présidé par le magistrat Ali Yéo. Le député a ainsi été immédiatement libéré.

Le gouvernement sévèrement critiqué

Si le gouvernement ivoirien s'en était défendu par le biais de son porte-parole Sidi Touré qui se félicitait récemment de ce que les droits de l'homme et la liberté d'expression étaient « une réalité » en Côte d'Ivoire, ce procès n'a pas été du goût de certains acteurs politiques ivoiriens.

En témoigne l'appel à

l'abandon des poursuites formulé par le bureau de l'Assemblée nationale, à l'époque présidée par Guillaume Soro.

À l'étranger, le procès a été largement vu comme « un procès politique » par des défenseurs des droits de l'homme dont Amnesty International qui déclarait lundi redouter l'explosion de l'arbitraire et de l'impunité.

Si le camp de Lobognon se dit satisfait de cette décision de justice, des observateurs eux, la lient à l'agenda politique de l'homme fort d'Abidjan. Vendredi prochain, Alassane Dramane Ouattara devrait rencontrer son homologue français Emmanuel Macron. Peut-être une

manière pour la justice ivoirienne de montrer patte blanche face à un président dont le pays dit souvent faire des droits de l'homme, un des principes sacro-saints de sa gouvernance.

Né en 1968 à Fresco, Alain Lobognon est depuis 2011 député de cette ville du sud-est de Côte d'Ivoire. En 2011, il entre au gouvernement et occupe le poste de ministre de la promotion de la jeunesse, des sports et des loisirs.

Pointé du doigt dans le détournement des primes de la CAN 2015, le licencié en Relations internationales est évincé de son poste par le Premier ministre Daniel Kablan Duncan sur ordre du chef de l'État.



Articles traduits

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Français

L'UA encourage les Libériens qualifiés à postuler à des postes de l'institution

L'Union africaine encourage les Libériens qualifiés à poser leur candidature à des postes à la Commission de l'UA ainsi qu'à d'autres organes de l'organe continental.

L'appel fait suite au constat de la sous-représentation du Libéria au sein de la Commission de l'Union africaine et des autres organes de l'organisation.

Au cours de sa vingtième session extraordinaire tenue à Addis-Abeba (Éthiopie) du 14 novembre au 15 juillet 2018, l'UA avait souligné dans sa décision du Conseil exécutif la nécessité pour les Libériens qualifiés de postuler à des postes au sein de l'UA.

Selon un communiqué du ministère des Affaires étrangères, l'UA a constaté la sous-représentation du Libéria à la Commission de l'UA et à ses organes apparentés.

Le communiqué cite une communication de l'UA au gouvernement libérien, selon laquelle il n'y a que trois (3) ressortissants libériens dans la configuration actuelle du personnel de l'UA et qu'ils

appartiennent à la catégorie des professionnels uniquement en Éthiopie.

Dans sa communication, l'UA a ajouté que tout indique que les Libériens doivent être encouragés à poser leur candidature à des postes au sein de la Commission de l'UA et d'autres organes de l'UA; surtout maintenant avec la mise en place de nouvelles mesures pour donner la priorité aux pays sous-représentés dans le processus de recrutement

L'UA a annoncé la mise en place d'un mécanisme de travail par la voie diplomatique afin d'attirer les candidats qualifiés du Libéria afin d'assurer la pleine représentation du pays à l'Organisation.

Entre-temps, l'UA a demandé à la directrice générale de l'Agence de la fonction publique du Libéria, Laurine Wada Johnson, de coordonner le processus en temps voulu.

Le ministère des Affaires étrangères appelle par conséquent les Libériens qualifiés à tirer parti de cette opportunité en postulant à divers postes vacants à l'Union africaine.

Le président George Weah appelle ses compatriotes à prier pour l'économie

Le président George Weah a appelé ses compatriotes à consacrer deux heures, chaque jour, à des prières afin de restaurer l'économie du pays.

Cette requête a été faite à travers un communiqué signé par le conseiller spirituelle de George Weah, le révérend Emmanuel Nimely.

Ce dernier demande également aux croyants d'organiser une veillée de prière chaque dernier vendredi du mois en faveur du gouvernement et du peuple.

Plus d'un an après son arrivée au pouvoir, George Weah est confronté à une crise économique qui le met dans une mauvaise posture face à ses opposants et à certains Libériens.

Cependant, pour les auditeurs qui ont participé à une émission de radio au Liberia, « The Costa Show », la prière n'est pas la solution

à ce problème.

« Nous pouvons aller dans les églises, les mosquées et prier, nous pouvons prendre les 100 prochaines années pour prier, cela ne marchera pas », a déclaré un auditeur, Ousman Bility.

Le présentateur de l'émission, Henry P Costa, partage le même avis qu'Ousman Bility. Il a rappelé que des pays comme les Etats-Unis ou la Chine n'ont pas eu besoin de prières pour se développer.

L'arrivée au pouvoir de George Weah le 22 janvier 2018, a suscité un immense espoir au Liberia. Classée parmi les pays les plus pauvres du monde, la nation ouest-africaine espère se remettre de plusieurs années de guerre civile et d'une épidémie dévastatrice d'Ebola. Mais l'obtention d'un financement demeure à ce jour l'un des plus grands défis du chef de l'Etat.

COMMENTAIRE

Par George Soros

L'Europe doit absolument se réveiller

MUNICH - Avançant à l'aveugle, l'Europe est en passe de tomber dans l'oubli. Les Européens doivent se réveiller avant qu'il ne soit trop tard. À défaut, l'Union européenne connaîtra le sort de l'Union soviétique. Ni nos dirigeants, ni les citoyens ordinaires ne semblent réaliser combien nous vivons une période révolutionnaire, aux retombées potentielles multiples, et combien l'issue finale est par conséquent hautement incertaine.

La plupart d'entre nous présumons que l'avenir ressemblera plus ou moins au présent. Or, ce ne sera pas nécessairement le cas. Au cours d'une existence longue et riche en événements, j'ai été le témoin de nombreuses périodes marquées par ce que j'appelle le déséquilibre majeur.

Le prochain point d'inflexion résidera dans les élections au Parlement européen de mai 2019. Il faut malheureusement s'attendre à ce que les forces anti-européennes bénéficient d'un avantage comparatif dans les urnes. Parmi les raisons qui l'expliquent, interviennent l'obsolescence du système des partis qui prévaut dans la plupart des pays européens, l'impossibilité pratique d'un changement de traité, ainsi que le manque d'outils juridiques permettant de discipliner ceux des États membres qui enfreignent les principes sur lesquelles l'Union européenne a été fondée. L'UE peut certes imposer l'acquis communautaire (le corpus des lois de l'Union européenne) aux pays candidats, mais elle n'est pas suffisamment en capacité de contraindre les États membres à respecter les règles.

Dépassé, le système des partis entrave ceux qui souhaitent préserver les valeurs fondatrices de l'UE, tandis qu'il favorise ceux qui souhaitent remplacer ces valeurs par quelque chose de radicalement différent. Ceci se vérifie au niveau des États dans leur individualité, et encore davantage dans les alliances transeuropéennes.

Le système des partis appliqué dans les États individuels reflète des divisions qui valaient principalement aux XIXe et XXe siècles, telles que l'opposition entre le capital et le travail. C'est aujourd'hui le clivage entre pro-européens et anti-européens qui importe le plus.

Le pays dominant de l'UE n'est autre que l'Allemagne, gouvernée par une coalition politique - réunissant Union chrétienne-démocrate (CDU) et Union chrétienne-sociale en Bavière (CSU) - qui n'est désormais plus viable. Cette alliance fonctionnait tant qu'il n'existait aucun parti important en Bavière situé à droite de la CSU. Ceci a changé avec la montée en puissance du parti extrémiste Alternative für Deutschland (AfD). À l'issue des dernières élections de septembre dans les Länder, la CSU a enregistré son pire score en plus de soixante ans, tandis que l'AfD est entré pour la première fois au Parlement de Bavière.

L'ascension de l'AfD a supprimé toute raison d'être de l'alliance CDU-CSU. Or, cette coalition ne peut être rompue sans le déclenchement de nouvelles élections, que ne peuvent se permettre ni l'Allemagne, ni l'Europe. Ainsi, l'actuelle coalition au pouvoir ne peut se montrer aussi ouvertement pro-européenne qu'elle le ferait si l'AfD ne menaçait pas son flanc droit.

La situation est toutefois loin d'être désespérée. Les Écologistes allemands se démarquent comme le seul parti constamment pro-européen du pays, et ils continuent de progresser dans les sondages d'opinion, tandis que l'AfD semble avoir atteint son pic (excepté dans l'ancienne Allemagne de l'Est). Les électeurs de la coalition CDU/CSU sont néanmoins représentés aujourd'hui par un parti à l'engagement ambivalent autour des valeurs européennes.

Au Royaume-Uni également, un système des partis

obsolète empêche la volonté populaire de s'exprimer pleinement. Travailleurs et Conservateurs sont divisés en interne, mais leurs dirigeants respectifs, Jeremy Corbyn et Theresa May, se montrent si déterminés à faire aboutir le Brexit qu'ils ont consenti à coopérer pour y parvenir. La situation est si complexe que la plupart des Britanniques souhaitent tout simplement en finir, alors même que l'issue sera déterminante pour leur pays, et pour plusieurs décennies.

Le rapprochement entre Corbyn et May suscite néanmoins une opposition au sein des deux partis, qui dans le cas des Travailleurs frôle l'insurrection. Le lendemain de la rencontre entre Corbyn et May, la Première ministre a annoncé un programme d'aide aux circonscriptions travaillistes pro-Brexit appauvries du nord de l'Angleterre. Corbyn est désormais accusé d'avoir trahi la promesse qu'il avait formulée lors de la conférence du Parti travailliste de septembre 2018, consistant à soutenir un second référendum sur le Brexit en cas d'impossibilité d'organiser une élection.

L'opinion publique prend par ailleurs conscience des conséquences très défavorables du Brexit. La probabilité d'un rejet de l'accord proposé par May le 14 février augmente de jour en jour. Ceci pourrait amorcer une lame de fond en soutien d'un référendum, voire, mieux encore, pour la révocation de la notification de l'Article 50 par la Grande-Bretagne.

L'Italie connaît une difficile situation comparable. L'UE a commis une erreur fatale en 2017, en exécutant strictement l'Accord de Dublin, qui pèse d'un poids injuste sur des pays comme l'Italie, où pénètrent dans un premier temps les migrants pour entrer dans l'UE. Ceci a poussé en 2018 un électoralat à dominante pro-européenne et pro-immigration dans les bras de la Ligue du Nord et du Mouvement 5 étoiles, partis opposés à l'Europe. Auparavant dominant, le Parti démocrate se retrouve dans le désarroi. Résultat, une part significative de l'électorat, qui demeure favorable à l'Europe, ne dispose d'aucun parti pour lequel voter. Une tentative est néanmoins en cours pour l'organisation d'une liste pro-européenne unie. Une réorganisation similaire du système des partis s'opère actuellement en France, en Pologne, en Suède, et probablement ailleurs.

S'agissant des coalitions transeuropéennes, la situation est encore plus difficile. Tandis que les partis nationaux possèdent au moins certaines racines du passé, les alliances transeuropéennes sont entièrement dictées par les intérêts personnels des dirigeants de parti. Le Parti populaire européen (PPE) se révèle à cet égard le plus critiquable. Le PPE est pour l'essentiel dépourvu de principes, comme l'illustre sa volonté d'autoriser qu'en demeure membre le parti Fidesz du Premier ministre hongrois Viktor Orbán, afin de préserver sa majorité et son contrôle sur la répartition des meilleurs postes dans l'UE. Les forces anti-européennes apparaîtraient presque louables en comparaison : elles au moins ont certains principes, malgré des conceptions odieuses.

Difficile d'imaginer comment les partis pro-européens pourraient sortir victorieux des élections du mois de mai, à moins qu'ils fassent primer les intérêts de l'Europe sur les leurs. Il demeure possible d'appeler à la préservation de l'UE, pour mieux la réinventer en profondeur. Ceci exigerait toutefois un changement de mentalité dans l'UE. Le leadership actuel rappelle en effet le politburo au moment de l'effondrement de l'Union soviétique - continuant d'émettre des oukases, comme s'ils avaient encore une signification.

La première étape dans la défense de l'Europe face à ses ennemis, intérieurs et extérieurs, exige de reconnaître l'ampleur de la menace qu'ils représentent. La seconde consiste à réveiller la majorité pro-européenne dormante, ainsi qu'à la mobiliser pour défendre les valeurs fondatrices de l'UE. Sans quoi le rêve d'une Europe unie pourrait devenir le cauchemar du XXIe siècle.

CULTURE & ENTERTAINMENT



With Ben Polee Wesee

Liberians urged to cherish their cultural heritage

The Director of Culture at the Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism (MICAT) Darius D. Gweh, challenges Liberians to cherish and love their God's giving cultural heritage by sustaining it.

He gave the challenge on Monday, 11 February during celebration of Armed Forces Day when he served as keynote speaker at festivity marking Reggae Largent Bob Marley Earth Day held at Sunrise Beach in Mamba Point, Monrovia.

Director Gweh notes that many of Liberia's important historical and culture reserves have been forgotten simply because past administrations failed to develop and preserve them.

He said as part of his administration's strategies, the

Museum on Broad Street where vital historical information like the military boots of former rebel leader now Nimba County Senator Prince Y. Johnson is kept, among other relics.

The Culture Director vows to promote and support Liberians engaged in production of Liberian artifacts and African customs by wearing and displaying them daily wherever they are as a means of solidifying and keeping the country's culture alive.

Reading the biographic of Reggae Legendary Bob Marley, the President of Imperial Castle, Mr. Joseph P. Gardea notes that Liberia is unique amongst countries in Africa because it was founded by freed slaves from the American South, bringing with them their own culture and displacing



Ministry will consolidate ties with artists particularly, the Imperial Castle, a group made of Liberian reggae artists and a charitable volunteer mission organization ALAD, which focus is to put Liberia first in its activities.

Gweh explains that some of the major Liberian dialects such as Gbandi, Deh, and Mendi risk being completely forgotten if nothing were urgently done by Liberians to sustain them by frequently speaking and highlighting them no matter where they are, even to their children.

He stresses that Liberians should read more about their country's history in order to be adequately informed about its cultural heritage.

He says this is achievable through regular visitation at the National

ancient tribes who dwelled in the land and traded with European enclaves in West Africa for centuries.

He recalls that one of the things that made the Black Muslims movement grew was its emphasis on African things, adding this was the secret to the growth of the black Muslims movement such as the African blood, origin, culture, and African lives.

Gardea points out that Africans have discovered that deep within the subconscious of the black man, who is still African than American, noting that it is the aim of everybody in Jamaica to talk English, act English and look English and the lost specification is where the greatest difficulties rise, which is not so difficult.

Personality of the Week



Cultural Ambassador Queen Julie Endee was born to Liberian parents in Firestone, Margibi County. She is a native of Nimba County, but owes gratitude to Bong, the home county of her mother, for her cultural and traditional orientation.

Ambassador Endee became Liberia's Culture Ambassador in 1995, a title conferred on her by the Government of Liberia, having played a pivotal role in galvanizing support for Liberian artistes in the Diaspora and back home to use their skills to promote peace in the country.

She was also crowned and named Traditional Queen of Liberia by the Elders, Chiefs and Zoes of Liberia in 2000, for playing a key role in the peace process amongst leaders of the Mano River Basin when the Republic of Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea were at odds with one another.

Through her innovation and commitment, while serving as the Chairman of the social mobilization committee on Polio Immunization

efforts in Liberia in early 1998, Ambassador Endee led a successful campaign to support the Government's against the crippling virus, a process which eventually led to Liberia being declared Polio-free.

In the aftermath of this tremendous strive; Ambassador Endee was named UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador for her outstanding contributions to the wellbeing of children in sub-Saharan Africa.

Indeed, Ambassador Juli Endee is one of the few illustrious daughters of Liberia. She is a luminary example of an outstanding public personality with cultural and traditional background, a typical Liberian virtue she has sacrificed to promote both locally and internationally.

Ambassador Endee is well-known as the cultural icon of Liberia. Her passion for Liberian culture dates back when she was in elementary school. She had since followed her passion up to date and dedicated her entire life to the rich culture of her native land.

Entertainment update

Jungle Empire's front man, Feouls, up next with a new single. Title: "You On Play" featuring Hipco guru, Christoph the Change, dropping on the 20th of February.

Beevone Record's key vocalist, J Slught, is set to drop a new song called "Drunk in Love" featuring SOG Records' hitmaker, Jaredo.

Australian based Liberian artist, Con C Coins, set to return to Liberia in December with a lot of surprises for his fans, including a concert.

Newest sensation, Calvin, is set to drop a single with Hip-Hop artist, CoZ Kamikazee. Title? "The Time is now".

DJ Jus Ville of Big FM set to release a new song on the 9th of February

called, "Control", featuring Pascal, Andyzy and Monali.

Revelation will be dropping another song off his mixtape "Rapture" soon. Title? "No Space" featuring the hit making producer, Afo4doe.

Newest sensation, NDream, is set to drop a single this month. Title? "Ganger (Big Butt)" Produced by Mr. Valemo.

Faith Vonic is set to drop the video to her newly released single "Abstinence" this month.

Pascal's new freestyles called, "Icon", produced by Tom Beatz will drop end of February.

Andyzy, set to drop a new single on the 18th of February. Title? "Talk and Do"

Ja'neh wants CJ Korkpor out

By Ethel A. Tweh

The Liberian Senate failed to commence impeachment trial against Associate Justice Kabineh M. Ja'neh as planned on Thursday, 14 February due to a motion filed by Justice Ja'neh demanding the recusal of the presiding, Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor, Sr. from the trial.

Article 43 of the Liberian Constitution gives the Chief Justice the power to preside whenever the President, Vice President or an Associate Justice is to be tried.

But Justice Ja'neh's contention is that Chief Justice Korkpor and three other justices signed a ruling which gives a green light for his (Ja'neh's) impeachment.

The Senate opened the impeachment trial Thursday after majority justices of the Supreme Court inclusive of Chief Justice Korkpor denied two separate petitions filed by Justice Ja'neh and four senators to prohibit his impeachment trial due to alleged violation of the Constitution.

Justice Ja'neh was involved in a property case with one Madam Annie Yancy Constance and the Supreme Court ruled in his favor.

But lawmakers claimed that



Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpo

Associate Justice Kabineh Ja'neh

Associate Justice Ja'neh allegedly manipulated the Supreme Court, headed by Chief Justice Korkpor and ensured that no exception was made for the active negligence of Cllr. Lawrence Yeakula ... and Constance's appeal was dismissed.

The lawmakers alleged that on the basis of Justice Ja'neh's manipulation of the Supreme Court, he was allowed to keep such a valuable property for which he had paid such small amount.

The lawmakers alleged that

the injustice in the Constance case constitutes another gross breach of duty committed by Justice Ja'neh.

But Ja'neh says Chief Justice Korkpor signed the very ruling and herefore he cannot preside over an impeachment that is drawn on the basis of a ruling that he (the Chief Justice) signed.

Justice Ja'neh says Chief Justice Korkpor ruled on 30 November 2018 that a Justice is required to recuse himself/herself ... where the Justice is on record to have

taken a position with respect to a particular case brought to the Supreme Court.

These issues raised by Ja'neh have to be addressed before the impeachment proceedings at the Senate can continue.

Speaking at the Senate Thursday, Chief Justice Korkpor says no impeachment proceeding has taken place in Liberia in the form of a full blown trial before the Senate, noting that maybe this one [the case with Justice Ja'neh] will.

He says Article 43 of the Constitution provides in part that the power to prepare a bill of impeachment is vested solely in the House of Representatives while the power to try all impeachments is vested in the Senate.

According to him, when the President, Vice President or an Associate Justice is to be tried,

the Chief Justice shall preside.

He recalls that on November 15, 2018, the House of Representatives presented to the House of Senate a Bill of Impeachment for the impeachment of Justice Ja'neh.

Chief Justice Korkpor notes that the trial will be guided by the Constitution and by the statutory laws, and the urge to be fair and to do justice to all at all times.

He says though the Senate is not a courtroom, he will ensure that the calm and serenity that prevail in courtrooms during trials prevail at the Senate, insisting on order and timeliness.

But Senate President Pro Tempore Albert Chie differs, saying impeachment trials all over the world are political matters and not judicial, saying that is why they are conducted in political areas like the Senate and not the court.

Chie warns that the judicial officers shouldn't turn the Senate into a courthouse with legal battles.

Pro Tempore Chie adds that the Constitution guarantees the right of any accused to the Principle of Due Process, saying the impeachment trial is in the hands of the Senate and the Senate alone.

"This Senate reviewed legislative rules of procedures on impeachment and made important amendment ensuring that two thirds of the entire membership of the Senate convicts or acquits instead of a simple majority in the existing rule," he says.--

Edited by Winston W. Parley

LTA licensed new GSM Company

The Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA) has issued an Individual /Universal License to a new telecommunication company called JamCell to operate a Public Telecommunications Network in Liberia.

representatives signed the license on February 8, 2019.

According to the release, the network is partnering with Ericsson, a world leader in communications networking and technology.

The LTA says JamCell's connectivity model will

approximately US\$100 million during the license tenure which will include infrastructural development, licensing and spectrum fees, the LTA has revealed.

It adds that JamCell will train and employ Liberians, and operations will begin in



By the issuance of the license, LTA is authorizing JamCell to provide voice, video and data services throughout the nation, according to a press statement dated 13 February.

The press release indicates that the LTA's Board of Commissioners and JamCell

employ the Narrow Band Technology, an alternative to Long Term Evolution, LTE, to meet the growing demand of device connectivity.

The LTA adds that JamCell's connectivity will serve as a pre 5G platform for cellular services and anticipated smart city applications.

JamCell will invest

2021.

JamCell's entry into the telecom market brings to three the number of cellular mobile Network Providers in the country. --Press release

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Welcome To The New World

Man Utd pay Mourinho and his staff £19.6m



Manchester United paid Jose Mourinho and his staff £19.6m in compensation following his sacking in December.

United revealed the figures in their second quarter financial results.

Mourinho was sacked after a run of poor results, culminating in a 3-1 defeat by

Liverpool, that left them 11 points off fourth place in the Premier League.

Caretaker manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer won 10 of his first 11 games before Tuesday's 2-0 Champions League last-16 first-leg defeat by Paris St-Germain.

Within the financial results, which were released to the

New York Stock Exchange, it said: "Exceptional items for the quarter were £19.6m, relating to compensation to the former manager and certain members of the coaching staff for loss of office."

Mourinho, 55, took over in May 2016 and led United to League Cup and Europa League titles. In January 2018 he signed a contract extension until 2020 with the option of an extra year.

United executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward says Solskjaer's appointment, along with that of Sir Alex Ferguson's former coach Mike Phelan as his assistant has "had a positive impact throughout the club".

"Ole has made a fantastic start reviving performance of team," Woodward said.

Woodward says he thinks United, who have reached the fifth round of the FA Cup and are now fourth in the Premier League, above Chelsea and Arsenal, will now have "a strong finish to the season".

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Barkley and Giroud give Chelsea narrow victory in Sweden

Chelsea claimed a narrow victory over Malmo in the Europa League after they were greeted with a rousing atmosphere in Sweden for the first leg of their last 32 tie.

Ross Barkley poked in a curling cross from Pedro to score in the first half.

Olivier Giroud flicked in the

second after Willian cut the ball back having beaten his opponent in the box.

Malmo ensured it was a nervy ending for Chelsea as Anders Christiansen slotted home in the 80th minute.

Victory eases the pressure slightly on manager Maurizio Sarri who said his "job was at risk" after Chelsea were

thrashed 6-0 by Manchester City in the Premier League on Sunday.

Chelsea remain unbeaten in the Europa League this season before the second leg at Stamford Bridge on 21 February.

Sarri looked dejected on the sidelines as he watched Chelsea suffer their worst defeat in 28 years at Etihad Stadium.



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