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# The New Dawn

**French Version Inside**

TRULY INDEPENDENT

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

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# CJ Korkpor issues writ for Ja'neh



Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpo

Associate Justice Kabineh Ja'neh



# Continental News

## Kenyan billionaire in deep trouble (Humphrey Kariuki's)

**B**illionaire Humphrey Kariuki's troubles seemed to deepen Tuesday when the Kenya Revenue Authority and police said a liquor firm associated with him could have dodged taxes amounting to Sh6 billion.

The money was calculated based on the number of stamps that African Spirits Ltd officially picked up from the KRA over the years but it has yet to remit the taxes from the products sold.

### DUAL CITIZENSHIP

Mr Kariuki's London-based lawyers describe him as a "venture investor" and say he neither holds directorship nor managerial positions at the company.

On Tuesday, Mr Kariuki drove once again to the Directorate of Criminal Investigations on Kiambu Road for interrogation – spending several hours with sleuths who want to unpack his life and shed light on a company he has invested hundreds of millions of shillings in.

The detectives are not only concerned with his Cypriot

passport – number K0627485, which was issued on May 19, 2016 and which he has not handed in, according to DCI head George Kinoti – but also on four Kenyan passports the billionaire has held.

"We want to have a history of

his movements and check when they expired – if they have," Mr Kinoti said. "We have given him up to Wednesday to bring them." Last week, Mr Kinoti told the Nation that records from the Immigration Department indicate that the Blue Moon

vodka billionaire did not inform the government about his dual citizenship as required by the Kenya Citizenship and Immigration Act.

According to the law, one is to declare and record his or her acquired citizenship in the prescribed manner within three months of becoming a dual citizen. The law further says that anyone who fails to disclose the dual citizenship "commits an offence and shall be liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding Sh5 million or imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years or both". The tycoon's troubles started after the discovery of smuggled ethanol, some 312,000 litres of illicit liquor and 21 million fake KRA stamps at the Thika-based African Spirits Ltd on January 31. In a statement published on the company's website, African Spirits admitted that KRA is investigating a "tax dispute". And in a statement to stakeholders, the firm said KRA sealed Africa Spirits after

launching an investigation "into an alleged tax dispute". "We are shocked to hear of these allegations and we have contacted and are closely cooperating with relevant authorities to ensure we get to the bottom of this matter," the statement said.

"In the meantime, we are doing everything in our power to ensure that we can return to business as soon as possible." Detectives handling the case say the closure of the factory could "take some time" and that the investigations could also focus on the printers of the stamps. DOCUMENTS

"Apart from the KRA barcode which is missing, everything else – quality and texture – looks similar to the official stamps. We have sent them to forensic experts," Mr Kinoti said.

On Tuesday, several senior African Spirits managers, who disappeared after the police raid, reported to the DCI headquarters. AFP



## Zinara rules out tollgate fees hike

**T**HE Zimbabwe National Road Administration (Zinara) says it will not increase road user fees despite resurgent inflationary pressures.

Responding to questions from Matabeleland North road authorities representatives in Bulawayo last week, Zinara board chairman Michael Madanha said the roads agency was looking at

increasing revenues without increasing road user fees.

"Also, I want to emphasise that as Zinara in essence, we will not increase our road user fees because we know hardships that the general public are facing in terms of raising cash," Madanha said.

"What we will want to do is to enhance the collection, that's being done now, to seal all leakages and to improve our operations. The secret is

we should as Zinara increase our revenue collection but maybe without increasing the road user fees."

Madhanha said they were going to close all leakages within the system so they could collect as much money as possible to fund road rehabilitation activities. "So that would be our first step. If we can't increase with what we have now, then that's when we can now decide to see whether there will be an increase of those fees, but as of now, we will stick to what is there," he said. Speaking at the same event, Transport and Infrastructural Development minister Joel Biggie Matiza said going forward government would not tolerate poor workmanship on road projects, adding that there would be strict adherence to quality standards on infrastructural development. "Quality management is the issue that we need to do. There is no point of rushing a project and then just after two weeks of it being completed, the infrastructure collapses or starts becoming an eyesore or

## Museveni gets nod for sixth term run



**U**ganda's ruling party has endorsed President Yoweri Museveni as its candidate for the 2021 elections.

This means the 74-year-old leader, who came to power in 1986, will be running for a sixth term.

The National Resistance Movement (NRM) agreed, in a meeting chaired by Mr Museveni on Wednesday, that he should "continue leading the movement and the state in 2021 and beyond to eliminate bottlenecks to transformation".

white elephant," he said.

"It's not about just to see things happening, it's about having projects done properly, which means we need to get

Mr Museveni once said leaders who "overstayed" in office were the root of Africa's problems.

However, he said, while running for a fifth term in 2016, that it was not the right time for him to leave as he still had work to do.

His candidacy for Uganda's next election comes after he signed a 2017 bill that scrapped the presidential age limit of 75.

Uganda's Supreme Court began hearing a petition last month to challenge this decision. BBC

ready to employ experts, people who are qualified to be able to do the administration and be able to supervise." AFP



Photo-Police patrol in Harare, Zimbabwe

# EDITORIAL

## NaFAA should negotiate a fair deal

THE NATIONAL FISHERIES and Aquaculture Authority or NaFAA, has an opportunity to take Liberia's fisheries and aquaculture to a better level that would protect our country's marine life and improve operation of local fishermen or move the entire industry down the drain.

THE HOUSE OF Representatives has mandated NaFAA to negotiate the protocol on the implementation of the Agreement on Fisheries and Aquaculture Cooperation between the Government of Liberia and the Government of Senegal that would allow 300 vessels from Senegal, including 200 semi-industrial and 100 artisan canoes to fish our waters in exchange for training for Liberian fisher men.

LIBERIANS ARE GENERALLY apprehensive about the deal, and are not biting their tongues in expressing so for an agreement that is geared at having foreigners exploit our waters with exclusive right to fish just about anything deep in our ocean.

THEIR CONCERNS ARE genuine especially so when Senegal had depleted its own waters of marine life, and is now turning to a vulnerable and less sophisticated country such as Liberia for a vital nature endowment.

FISHES ARE AMONG the healthiest foods on the planet. They are loaded with important nutrients, such as [protein](#) and vitamin D, and are also the world's best source of omega-3 fatty acids, which are incredibly important for the development of the human body and brain.

SENEGAL IS SAID to have demersal trawlers, fishing vessels that have huge funnel-shaped nets that are dragged along the ocean floor in order to maximize catch, including plants and animals that make up the habitat in which fish live and reproduce.

LOCAL FISHERMEN, WHO have regularly complained about foreign fishing vessels illegally casting their nets in Liberian waters, are now asking how effectively NaFAA would monitor 300 additional foreign vessels coming into our waters.

THESE ARE CONCERNS the agency should consider as it goes to formally negotiate with the Senegalese. It should prioritize the interest of local fishermen and not just focus on the taxes or revenue expected.

WHAT GUARANTEE IS there that our ocean would not be depleted by a country that had depleted its marine deposits? Would local fishermen be allowed to continue their normal catch or they would now face restrictions from the Senegalese?

THEY NEED ASSURANCE and NaFAA should be able to provide such confidence that they would not be relegated to give way to foreign fishermen who have their focus on market back home, instead of Liberia.

THESE ARE AMONG some of the germane concerns that should be considered as NaFAA goes to negotiate the protocol. We demand a win-win deal that would benefit not just us today, but posterity.

# COMMENTARY

By Shlomo Ben-Ami

## The Ideology Trap

*The American psychologist Abraham Maslow famously said that "it is tempting, if the only tool you have is a hammer, to treat everything as if it were a nail." But when the hammer is wielded by a political leader, entire countries may end up walling themselves off.*

LOS ANGELES - President Donald Trump has declared a national emergency at the southern border of the United States - where there is no emergency at all - in order to access funding to build the wall that he promised his supporters during his 2016 election campaign. It is yet another example of the enduring - and dangerous - tension between reason and ideology in policymaking.

Evidence-based policies, whatever their limitations, always stand a better chance of succeeding than ideologically-driven policies, because they allow for adaptation to changing conditions and new data. Policies born from rigid principles, by contrast, may not be in line with reality at all.

History is littered with the disastrous consequences of choosing ideology over reality. Notably, Adolf Hitler did not believe that science could satisfy the German Volk; Germany needed to conquer a vast Lebensraum, which required turning Wagnerian myths of Teutonic supremacy into policies aimed at imperial domination. Joseph Stalin, the head of another ideologically-based regime, prevailed over the Nazis precisely because he departed from absolute imperatives and based his war objectives on cold, rational self-interest.

As for the US, Trump is hardly the first president to choose faith over reason. Like Trump, President George W. Bush believed that his presidency was part of a divine plan and launched wars in Afghanistan and Iraq as part of what he himself called a "crusade."

Bush's 2002 national security strategy was explicitly guided by America's principles, rather than its interests. Bush's vice president, Dick Cheney, took that to heart: in 2003, he rejected Iran's "grand bargain" proposal - which would have ended its nuclear program and subversive foreign policy - on the grounds that the US would not "negotiate with evil."

The Trump administration and, more broadly, the US Republican Party, is upholding this tradition. No amount of evidence showing that immigrants have been central to America's success will satisfy Trump's nativist base. Circumventing the US Constitution to build an expensive, ecologically disastrous, and wholly unnecessary wall might.

Likewise, many Republicans, including Trump, continue to deny the threat posed by climate change, rejecting the near-universal scientific consensus. In the past, Trump has even indulged the growing anti-vaccine movement, having tweeted repeatedly about a potential link between vaccines and autism, despite there being zero evidence of such a connection. And Republicans argue that the US, despite being the world's richest country, cannot afford to ensure universal access to affordable health care, which in any case would amount to a socialist assault on personal freedom.

US Republicans use similar arguments to oppose making higher education more affordable. Student debt, at \$1.5 trillion, is now second only to mortgage debt as America's largest consumer debt category, and yet subsidizing tuition the way mortgages are subsidized is anathema. The

same goes for tax policy, with Republicans consistently advocating lower taxes for the highest earners, despite clear evidence that the benefits do not "trickle down" to the rest of the economy.

The US is not alone. In the United Kingdom, the entire Brexit drama has been driven by zealots. Clinging to an anachronistic view of Britain as a major global power, the Brexiteers argue that the European Union is holding the UK back. New trade arrangements with the Commonwealth - which, in their view, is still essentially the British empire - and emerging powers like China would, they argue, allow the UK to reclaim, independently, its rightful place on the world stage.

As ideological zealots are wont to do, the Brexiteers have consistently disregarded the facts. None of them has been able to put forward a coherent or feasible plan for realizing their vision of a full break with the EU. Yet many, such as the Conservative Michael Gove, blithely deride "experts," as if knowledge and experience were not worth bringing to bear on the issue.

Arguably, Brexit fanaticism among Conservatives - and even the Labour Party's lack of a strong stance on the issue - stems partly from the UK's legacy of disengagement from Europe in the 1930s. At that time, many British politicians focused on the threat posed to the UK by the Nazis' apparent determination to alter the international balance of power.

Today, Europe poses no such threat. Yet the British philosopher John Gray, for example, has portrayed Brexit as the UK's best defense against a reenactment of Europe's "dark" dictatorial past. A total collapse of the EU is inevitable, many Brexiteers believe. Leaving Europe to be ruled by some type of Russian-Eurasian empire would be worth it, as long as Britannia were again ruling the seas.

A similar combination of haughty detachment and anachronistic fantasy is displayed by Catalan secessionists toward Spain. Catalans believe themselves to be far more industrious and inventive than - and even racially superior to - the supposedly lazy and unproductive Spaniards. Moreover, they argue, Spaniards are more prone to authoritarianism. And in terms of its commitment to stifling Catalonia's creativity and entrepreneurship, Spain's democratic government is little different from Francisco Franco's regime.

Catalans pride themselves on their seny - ancestral wisdom and level-headedness - and the British on their common sense. But Catalan secessionists and Brexiteers have locked themselves - and their fellow citizens - in an ideological straitjacket.

Ideology is a powerful tool for packaging a broad political agenda, swaying public opinion, and assessing alternative goals. But faith-based fixations almost invariably lead to bad policies, especially at a time of rapid economic change and deepening geopolitical uncertainty. As the American psychologist Abraham Maslow famously put it, "it is tempting, if the only tool you have is a hammer, to treat everything as if it were a nail." That, as Trump might say with a straight face, is how walls get built.

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## O-PED

By *Stawomir Sierakowski*

# The Sikorski Doctrine

**W**ARSAW - Radostaw Sikorski served as Poland's Minister of Foreign Affairs for seven years, longer than anyone else since the transition from communism 30 years ago. During his tenure, Sikorski faced many serious challenges, from the 2010 plane crash at Smolensk that killed then-Polish President Lech Kaczyński to Russia's invasion of Ukraine and annexation of Crimea in 2014. Now, he has published a new book, outlining his philosophy of Polish foreign policy.

In *Polska może być lepsza* (Poland Can Be Better), Sikorski picks up on a 300-year tradition of Polish romanticism, only without all of the accompanying pathologies. His evident fascination with Polish history - even Polish mythology - is a welcome departure from the soulless Realpolitik that dominates so many political memoirs nowadays.

Through tales of hosting foreign guests at his manor in Chobielin to his retelling of Poland's great military victories in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, Sikorski proves always willing to defend Poland's good name. It was Sikorski, after all, who first campaigned against use of the term "Polish death camps," though he did so more skillfully than the current Law and Justice (PiS) government.

Nevertheless, Sikorski's approach to Polish history is to deconstruct it completely. He questions whether "contemporary nations" are really capable of having "honor" and highlights the damage that grand, demonstrative political acts committed in its name have done to Poland. In the best cases, the acts yield nothing; in the worst cases, they "succeed" by visiting terror and bloodshed upon the country. For example, almost no Poles regard the 1944 Warsaw Uprising as a defeat, even though it claimed some 200,000 civilian lives and led to the total destruction of the city.

In contemporary foreign affairs, Sikorski is always mindful of Polish interests, even - or especially - when it comes to dealing with more powerful countries like the United States. It is best, he argues, to start from a position of trust, but not if it means being played for a fool. Poland should demand reciprocity and avoid risks whenever possible. It should set ambitious goals, but only if they are feasible.

That means acknowledging that a country like Poland can never succeed on its own. The attraction the country held for major powers after 1989 stemmed from its accession to major international organizations such as the European Union, NATO, and the OECD. Still, Sikorski's book serves as a reminder of a time when Poland's foreign policy did have some significance for the EU, not least during the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Since PiS came to power, Poland has been left increasingly isolated within the EU.

During his time in public office (2005-2015), Sikorski's main priority was to ensure Poland's security by maintaining good relations with America and ramping up the US military presence inside Polish borders. Yet he is quick to add that Poland should avoid becoming a client state.

Indeed, Sikorski does not hide his frustration over the trajectory of Polish-American relations during President Barack Obama's administration. Poland's military presence in Iraq did not bring the hoped-for benefits. The anti-missile shield has not been built. The American military presence in Poland remains largely symbolic. If he had to choose, he would rather Poland be a strong country within the EU than a lesser ally of the US. Indeed, Sikorski comes close to saying that the US security guarantee is illusory, which is one of the greatest foreign-policy dangers imaginable.

Sikorski advocates a pragmatic approach to Russia, recognizing that it is the only existential geopolitical threat Poland faces. He cautions against the tendency among Poles to "hate Russia much more than they love Poland," as the father of Polish nationalism, Roman Dmowski, once put it. Sikorski thinks Poland should cooperate with Russia as much as possible, not through empty gestures, but by assuming an influential position within the EU - a body that Russia takes seriously. And he reminds us that Russia is Poland's largest non-EU trading partner.

Of course, Poland's single-largest trade partner overall is Germany, which championed EU membership for Poland. Sikorski makes clear that the Polish-German alliance must be nurtured. But that is sometimes easier said than done, as demonstrated by Poland's opposition to Nord Stream 2, a joint German-Russian pipeline that will allow Russian natural gas deliveries to Germany and the wider EU to bypass Ukraine and Poland.

Sikorski considers Polish concerns about Nord Stream 2 well-founded, but exaggerated. The most important component of Polish security is Poland's relationship with Germany. Under NATO contingency plans, it is Germany that would deploy forces to defend Poland in the event of an attack. The decision to follow through on the North Atlantic Treaty's mutual-defense clause would most likely be made in Berlin, not in Washington, DC.

Finally, Sikorski explains how, in managing relations with Poland's neighbors, he embraced the primacy of politics over history. As foreign minister, he pursued the traditional policy of developing a buffer between Poland and Russia, not least by initiating the Eastern Partnership as a way to bring Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova closer to the EU and NATO.

Looking back, Sikorski was smart also to include Sweden in this process, as Sweden and Poland tend to complement and amplify each other's strengths. For its part, Sweden is wealthy, but small. And while it has a good reputation as a longstanding EU member, it is not capable of influencing the bloc on its own. Poland, by contrast, has a larger population and comparable economy, but lacks Sweden's soft power. Both countries are wary of Russia's imperialist tendencies.

The publication of Sikorski's book marks his return to active politics after a three-year break. He is well-positioned to continue his career among the international elite of public intellectuals. But that will not satisfy his inner political animal. Now that he has presented his worldview, campaigning for a seat in the European Parliament - where he would no doubt play an important role - seems his most likely next step.

## OPINION

By *Carl Bildt*

# Showdown in Munich

**M**UNICH - It was at the 2007 Munich Security Conference that Russian President Vladimir Putin first signaled a cooling of Russian-Western relations. Soon thereafter, Russia invaded Georgia; and in the years since, it has annexed Crimea, launched incursions into Eastern Ukraine, and carried out cyber-attacks against Western democracies. Today, Russian-Western relations are in a downward spiral.

The annual Munich Security Conference is to geopolitics what the World Economic Forum's meetings in Davos are to business. The gathering has evolved from its Cold War-era focus primarily on German-American military cooperation to viewing global issues through a much wider lens. Participants now discuss topics ranging from foreign policy and international security to climate change.

This year's three-day conference, which had record-high attendance, will most likely be remembered for years to come. The speeches delivered by US Vice President Mike Pence and German Chancellor Angela Merkel could not have been more different, in terms of both style and substance. At a gathering originally designed to facilitate German-American cooperation, Germany and America's foreign-policy positions have rarely been so far apart.

For his part, Pence delivered a hardline "America first" message and celebrated the Trump administration's adamant refusal to accept longstanding rules and international agreements. Europeans, he declared, have no choice but to follow America's lead, even - indeed, especially - if it means renouncing the 2015 Iran nuclear agreement that European diplomats did so much to bring about. As with his previous appearance at the conference, Pence refused to take any questions after his speech. Many of his "applause lines" were met with stony silence.

Prior to Pence's appearance, Merkel had delivered a speech that might well go down as one of the best of her career. With energy and aplomb, she mounted a vigorous defense of multilateral efforts to confront climate change, Russian aggression, development in Africa, and a range of other challenges that lie ahead. The overall thrust of Merkel's remarks was obvious to everyone. She delivered a pointed rebuke of "America first" unilateralism.

Merkel's speech received a standing ovation, which is unusual for the Munich Security Conference. She also took questions, which she answered with confidence and a hint of humor, winning herself another standing ovation.

Like Putin's aggressive remarks in 2007, Pence and Merkel's speeches will be remembered for what they augur for the future. Taken together, they confirm that Donald Trump's presidency has ushered in a period of escalating transatlantic tensions that show no signs of abating. It was only a year ago that Europeans were told to ignore Trump's tweets and focus on the substance of US policies, which were being overseen by the "adults in the room." But with the departure of Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis and others, the adults are now gone, and there is ever-less daylight between the policies and the tweets.

Nowhere is the disconnect between US and European priorities more obvious than in the Middle East. When Pence browbeats European countries to abandon their efforts to save the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action - which imposes clear, verifiable restrictions on Iran's nuclear program - one can only wonder about the Trump administration's endgame. If and when Iran restarts its nuclear-weapons program, US-Iranian tensions will almost certainly escalate to the point of crisis. The question is whether that is the outcome Trump and his advisers have sought all along.

The tensions on trade issues are no less acute. The Trump administration has already designated European steel and aluminum exports a threat to US national security, and now it may be preparing to add European cars to that list. If it does, the transatlantic trade conflict will enter dangerous territory.

Trump seems to have a particular aversion to German cars, which account for only 8% of US auto sales (though they do command a much greater share of the luxury/premium market). Moreover, as Merkel pointed out in her speech, the world's largest BMW plant is not in Germany, but in South Carolina, where a substantial share of production is exported to China. By pursuing dramatically higher auto tariffs, the Trump administration is threatening jobs not only in Europe, but also in the US; both would suffer from a disruption to global value chains.

A year from now, many of the same leaders and policymakers will gather in Munich once again. If the worst-case scenario suggested by this year's gathering comes to pass, we might be heading for open war in the Middle East and a devastating trade war across the Atlantic.

Or perhaps this year's conference will have set off the alarm bells needed to prevent the worst from happening. The transatlantic relationship is complicated enough as it is. No one should place it at risk of unraveling further.

# LIBERIANS DEBATE

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



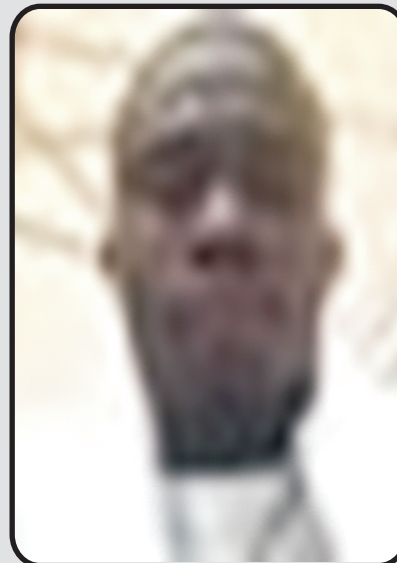
**Four opposition political parties in the country are today, Thursday, signing a document of intent in Monrovia to collaborate in future elections against President George Manneh Weah's governing Coalition for Democratic Change. The New Dawn asks some Liberians about their view on this undertaking and its impact on Liberia's budding democracy.**



**Nasri Gbelee**

"There is an overwhelming joy all over the country as a result of this great news. Fellow Liberians, let all of us join and support this very important initiative by these political parties. This will help in bringing to an end growing dictatorship, corruption, tribalism, cronyism, regionalism, Constitutional violations, divisive politics, abuse of power and many other ills being perpetrated by this vision-less and incompetent CDC-led government.

The time is now. In union, strength, success is sure. With God above our rights to prove, we will overall prevail and we will all together, sing that great song: free at last, free at last, thank God the Father, we're free at last."



**Abraham Mabande**

"Thanks to President Weah for making Liberian politicians to come together. No money for run-off; if you guys like, you can include the rest of the 22 remaining parties. CDC will still beat them in any election. The upcoming [senatorial] by-election will show them that the CDC is not a party to play with because we will beat them upside down. Lazy opposition Great beginning, but

some supporters should be advised to give the collaborative discussion chance to grow positive roots. It will be very early to make demands."

**Wellington Nana**

"For me, I see problem coming between them because who will be their political leader or chairman? You tell us; then we will know if it will. The four party leaders are like characters in the story, "Somebody, Anybody, Everybody and Nobody." We wait to see who really heads this quadruplet arrangement."



**Arthur Nassar**

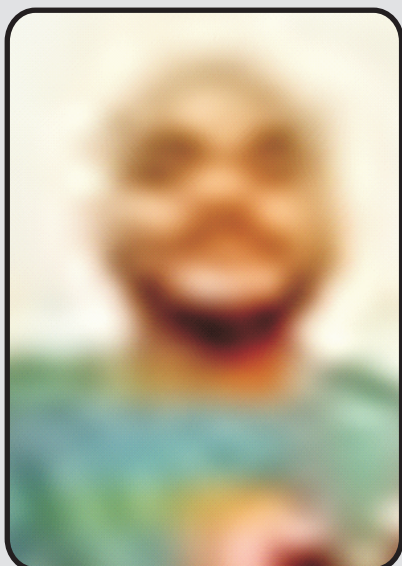
"We're getting there in bit and pieces; this country will be redeemed; this is good for our country. I will surely be a part of this ceremony. Please take note oppositions, as we strive to save Mama Liberia. I see Liberia reversing from multi-party to two-party system pretty soon. I'm very glad to hear this welcoming news from the angle of the opposition community. Opposition victory is sure in 2020 senatorial election. Dillon is our choice for Montserrado County. I see this is a first step in the right direction, Congratulations, guys."



**Benjamin George**

"What essence will this have than [mere] talk. We need actions in terms of desirables, as the people want solutions and not talks and criticisms. We need participation of the business community and economic stakeholders and not job seekers and opportunists with tarnished reputations. We need not leadership with pompous attributes, but realists with [good] track records. I can go on and on. It is a joke, as when you all could have collaborated, you fought and today to even say we want to eat with Unity Party shows that you are all

desperate losers and jokers. No respect for jokers. It's a new day and we need new leaders Thank God you're coming together, which will make you very easier to be flogged in a single round. Nobody can win Weah here, be knowledgeable!"



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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Opposition parties insignificant

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

As four opposition political parties sign a collaborating document today, Thursday, 21 February the vice chairman of the governing council of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) Chief Cyril Allen, describes the parties involved as “insignificant” to the electoral process of Liberia.

He says leaders of those parties, who are in the forefront of the so-called cementing collaboration, have no record politically, claiming that some have failed in their respective fields of study, and are instead, running to politics for survival.

Parties gearing for collaboration include, the All Liberian Party (ALP) of businessman-turned politician Benoni Urey, Alternative National Congress (ANC) of former corporate executive Alexander Cummings, Liberty Party (LP) of Cllr. Charles Walker Brumskine, and the former ruling Unity Party headed by former Vice President Joseph Boakai.

The pending marriage is in preparation for the 2020 Special Senatorial Election.

Speaking to the NewDawn on Monday, February 19, in Juazon, along the Roberts International Airport highway, Chief Allen explains, “Some of the political leaders of the opposition political parties have failed to renovate their



parents’ house in Grand Bassa County; some have failed in law field; some, who claim to having international contacts, cannot create jobs for partisans by inviting investors here, but [the] only option in their heads is politics without any significant achievements in the field of national leadership.”

All four parties participated in the 2017 Presidential and Representative Elections, fielding separate presidential candidates, but they lost to the now governing CDC of President George Manneh Weah, including the former ruling UP.

In his stinking attack, Chief

Allen further notes that some of the political parties bragging about collaboration do not have offices in the counties, as an indication of their existence outside the capital, suggesting that the opposition community should now start to engage communities positively and stop ranting insults on national leaders.

According to him, raining insults is unacceptable in an academic, intellectual and civilized world.

Commenting on a recent leaked audio recording that has gone viral on social media in which suspended Bong County Superintendent Esther

Walker, is heard discussing traditional leaders crowning Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor with the highest traditional title Dahkpannah, he says traditionally, a woman is not qualified for such title because it means ‘Oldman.’

Chief Allen, who is chairman emeritus of jailed former President Charles Ghankay Taylor’s National Patriotic Party now headed by Madam Taylor, stresses that tradition-related issues should never be discussed on the national scene. He calls on Liberians not to politicize the issue as it will be handled by traditional leaders.

According to him, Dahkpannah may be conferred on someone, who forms part of four or more traditional society practices and must be a male, instead.

The awarding of the title has caused serious stir in the current administration,

leading to recent dismissal of a prominent traditional chief in Bong County.

Bad blood is gradually developing between President Weah and Vice President Taylor with confidants of Mr. Weah suspecting Mrs Taylor has a secret political ambition.

Critics wonder how could President Weah, who recently opened a family church named in memory of his late mother and preached the watch night sermon on December 31, 2018 would at the same time, crave for traditional title contrary to teachings of the Holy Bible.

However, Chief Allen clarifies that President George Manneh Weah is not a member of any traditional society practice, so he may only become Dahkpannah if he asked for it, and traditional leaders here deem it necessary, they may award him purely on ceremonial basis. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*

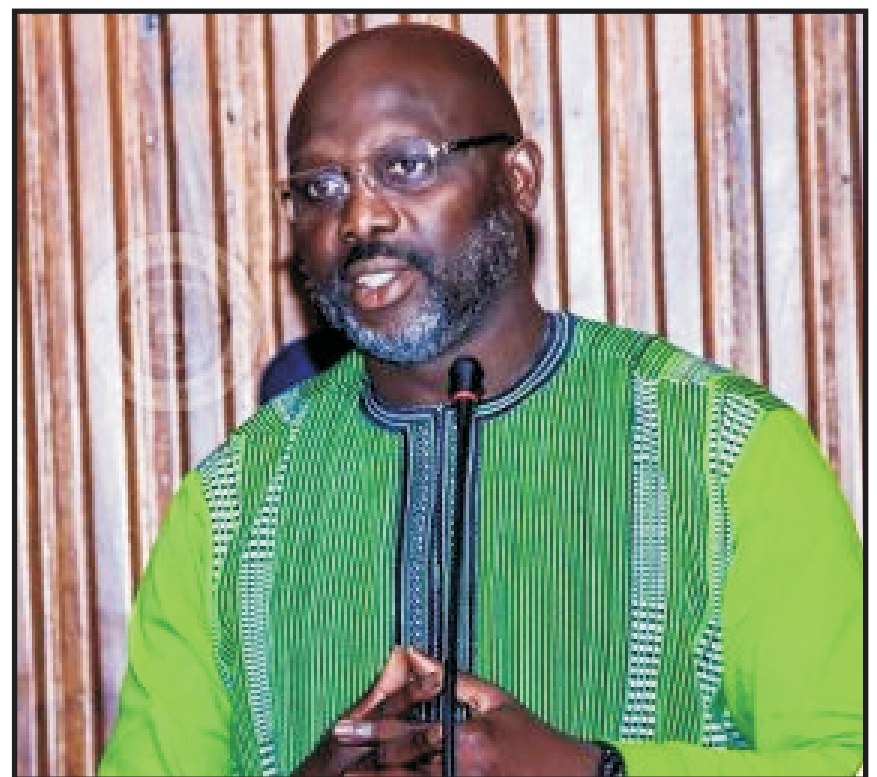
## Weah consoles India

President George Manneh Weah has sent a condolence message to the Government and people of the Republic of India following the tragic terror attack in the Kashmir region of that Country.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs says in a press release dated 19 February that the attack occurred in Kashmir and

as India goes through this difficult period of mourning, the people of Liberia stand with the peace loving people of India. He condemns in the strongest terms, the uncivilized and ruthless act of cruelty inflicted on the vigilant people of India.

“I wish nothing less than fortitude and solidarity to the families of those officers as they endure this difficult moment of



resulted to the gruesome death of more than 40 paramilitary police officers on Friday, 15 February.

In his message to Indian President Ram Nath Kovind, President Weah expresses his deepest sympathy and condolences to the Government and people of India on behalf of Liberia.

President Weah assures that

sorrow,” the release adds.

President Weah notes that as Liberians join other friends and partners of India in mourning the passing of the 40 Paramilitary police, he hopes that the people of India, especially the bereaved families will find solace in this hour of grief. *--Press release*

## Rape charge isolated in Nigerian Pastor’s trial

By Winston W. Parley

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The Pastor who runs the Global Revival Movement has been indicted for statutory rape, trafficking in person and kidnapping of a 12 - year - old girl placed in his care by her mother for spiritual cleansing back in 2016.

But prosecutors say all sexual offense cases including rape are exclusively under the jurisdiction of Criminal Court “E”, or Rape Court, thus requesting Judge Roosevelt Z. Willie to limit the ongoing trial at Court “C” to kidnapping and trafficking in person.

This means upon the completion of the ongoing trial at Court “C”, the indictee will

stand further trial at Court “E” to answer to the charge of statutory rape.

Following the reading of the indictment Wednesday, 20 February, Pastor Sam pleaded not guilty to the two charges of kidnapping and trafficking in person.

Defendant Pastor Revival Womo Sam allegedly raped the girl at his Diggsville residence while the victim was just aged 12 years in 2016, resulting to her pregnancy.

Prosecutors accuse the indictee of changing the name of the victim and travelling with her to Nigeria without her parents’ consent.

When the victim’s mother travelled to Nigeria in June 2018 and confronted her daughter about her condition,

the indictment says the kid confessed to her mother that Pastor Sam had allegedly impregnated her.

Further the indictment says when Pastor Sam was confronted by the victim’s mother, he also allegedly admitted to the act and expressed his wish that the victim becomes his wife.

Defendant Pastor Sam was arrested here by police when he returned to Liberia and indicted for multiple charges.

In a related development, Court “C” has commenced jury selection for the trial of Pastor Sam, following his plea of not guilty Wednesday.

Prosecutors say they want 15 men and women to serve as trial of facts in the proceedings.

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# MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Government and IREDD clash

By Ben P. Wesee

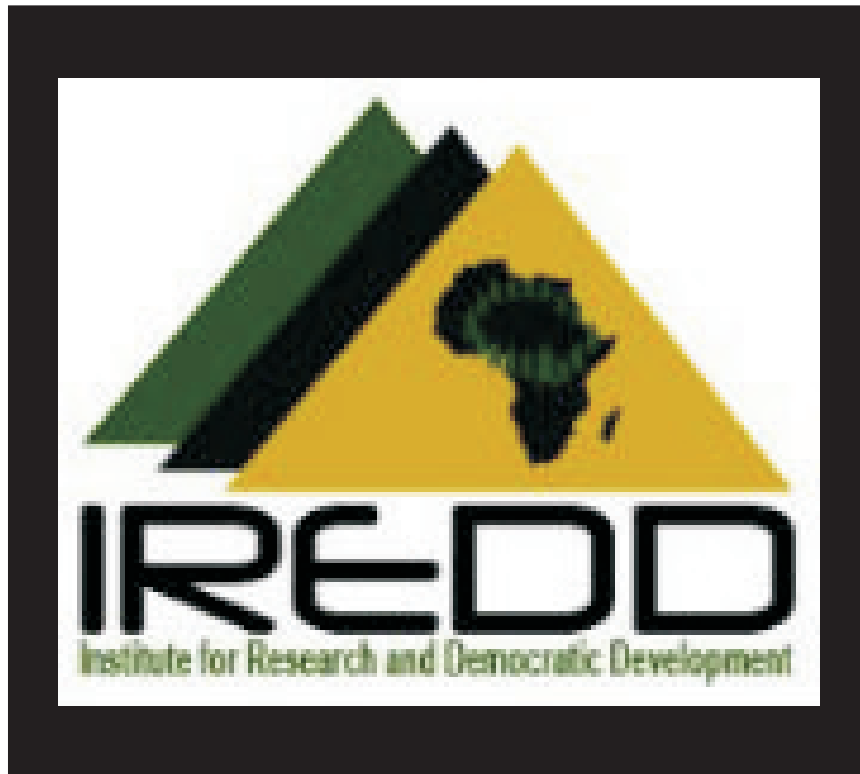
The Liberian government and the Institute for Research and Democratic Development (IREDD) have verbally clashed over latter's latest report citing the lack of logistics as big problem challenging the effectiveness of County Service Centers here.

Reacting to IREDD's report that surfaced at a dialogue Wednesday, 20 February in Monrovia, Assistant Internal Affairs Minister for Technical Services Lusene Saryon argues that the report being cited was done a year ago and the ministry had taken actions to remedy the issues raised then.

Assistant Minister Saryon accuses IREDD of presenting last year's report to a panel at a dialogue on Wednesday as if their current report.

"This is where we have problem as a Ministry. So I will like to request that you go back on the field and do more assessment," Minister Saryon tells IREDD.

"That report was done



some time last year and it was sent to the Ministry for investigation. And the report was turned over to me to recommend what to be done. We would have loved for you to go back because from last year August up till now, a lot has been done," Mr. Saryon says.

He however agrees that there are challenges, but insists that a lot have been done over the past months.

According to IREDD, lack of logistical problems remain a big challenge to the effectiveness in service delivery at the Service Centers

in the counties here. IREDD Project Supervisor Mercy Sackey says staff mobility is greatly hindered, and there are constant lack of internet, computers, electricity, vehicles and office supplies, among others.

According to Sackey, these things hamper the smooth operation of the centers. The report was presented Wednesday, 20 February at the Corina Hotel in Sinkor, during a one day policy dialogue under theme: "Citizen's Feedback on Service Delivery at the County Service Centers."

Madam Sackey explains that a large portion of county residents are yet to grab the decentralization concept because information dissimulation is poor and awareness on the availability of services is variously concentrated in cities and towns hosting or closer to the hubs. She says it leaves hard - to - reach communities with little or no contact with the centers.

She continues that the County Service Centers also lack human capacity on the

management and operation of some basic tools required to go about their work. "Thus far, services in high demand are not fully accessed at the CSCs. While application is made in the counties, users have to wait longer than stipulated time frame in order to have processing of documents completed at the Monrovia Central Offices," IREDD says.

Further speaking at the program, Madam Sackey indicates that the feedback from service users points out that Ministries, Agencies and Commissions (MACs) agents most often do not provide to them genuine reasons as to why certain services are not accessible at the hubs.

"Accountability issues also prevail across the CSCs. MACs agents do not feel obligated to their coordinators. They would rather operate, to a greater extent by direct orders from their bosses in Monrovia," she observes. She complains that this is affecting reporting timelines. The one day dialogue brought together government officials, lawmakers, youth groupings, international partners and civil society organizations, among others. --  
*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

## Lawmaker warns speaker

By Bridgett Milton

Frustrated Montserrado County District #10 Rep. and member of the independent bloc of lawmakers Mr. Yekeh Kolubah has warned that the chambers of the House of Representatives is not a private home of Speaker Bhofal Chambers.

Rep. Kolubah sounded the warning on "50-50," a local talk show hosted on Sky FM Wednesday morning, 20 February. The lawmaker complained of being suppressed, saying his communications of the floor have not been given the

necessary attention something which deny him from fully representing his district.

According to Kolubah, Speaker Chambers doesn't put his communication on the agenda of the House and the Speaker also refuses to recognize him when he has a point to make in session.

Kolubah notes that he has requested that the House invite ruling party Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) Chairman Mulbah Morlu to address his claim that there are people in the opposition planning to assassinate President George Weah.

The independent lawmaker

sees the pronouncement by President Weah and Chairman Morlu as issues that have security implications and need investigation.

But he laments that his effort to get these issues among others addressed by the House, have been suppressed by Speaker Chambers.

Kolubah claims that Speaker Chambers has made the House of Representatives to look like a government ministry instead of another branch of government. He believes that the lack of respect for the House from members of the public results from the way the House is being conducted by Speaker Chambers. He cautions that Liberians will hold lawmakers responsible for not proceeding the right way and for their failure to tell the president where he is going wrong.

The Montserrado Rep. threatens that he will test the law since he cannot be recognized by the Speaker.

He says Speaker Chambers' continuous action of not recognizing him amounts to silencing the people of Montserrado County District #10 that he represents at the House. Kolubah concludes that the rules of the House of Representatives say that the Speaker should not use the power he has to suppress any of his colleagues. --  
*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



Rep. Mr. Yekeh Kolubah

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# Français

## Personne ne veut tuer le président Weah (Cummings)

Le chef de l'opposition, Alexander Cummings, demande au président George Manneh Weah de fournir les éléments de preuve concernant le présumé complot d'assassinat dont il ferait prétendument l'objet.

Cummings, leader politique de l'ANC (Alternative National Congress), a pris la parole le mardi 19 février à Monrovia sur les antennes de Sky FM lors d'une émission retransmise en direct, défiant le régime actuel de présenter les preuves du complot présumé.

Selon lui, le président Weah a besoin des gens qui lui diront la vérité pour mieux gérer les affaires de l'État. Le président doit également se concentrer sur la gouvernance, et pas uniquement sur les militants de son parti, car il est le président de tous les Libériens.

Il a fait savoir que l'opposition est déterminée et réclame au président les éléments de preuve du prétendu complot d'assassinat.

« Les partis de l'opposition ont demandé au président Weah et au président de son parti, Mulbah Morlu, de fournir des preuves. L'opposition va



décider de la marche à suivre si le président de la république et le président de son parti ne présentent pas les faits », a prévenu l'opposant.

Il a qualifié d'insensée l'allégation selon laquelle l'opposition veut tenter à la vie du président. Il a ajouté que des membres de l'opposition attendent de connaître la position officielle du gouvernement à ce sujet.

Le chef de l'ANC, candidat officiel à l'élection

présidentielle de 2017, a déclaré que les partis de l'opposition ont déjà informé les partenaires au développement de l'allégation émanant du gouvernement.

Demandé de donner son point de vue sur la gestion du pays, il a déclaré qu'il était clair que le président Weah dirige mal le Libéria, rappelant qu'en tant qu'opposition, il lui incombe le devoir de demander au gouvernement dirigé par M. Weah de rendre

des comptes à la population, tout en proposant des solutions et en faisant des recommandations. « Cela aidera à résoudre les problèmes du pays ».

Il a ajouté qu'il est aussi de la responsabilité des partis politiques de l'opposition d'attirer l'attention du gouvernement sur les nombreux problèmes auxquels est confronté le peuple libérien.

Cummings a souligné que la Constitution du Libéria prévoit un système de contrôle et de contre-poids. Il a dit être une personne qui croit en l'état de droit, et estime que tous les citoyens sont tenus de respecter l'état de droit quel que soit leur statut. « Voilà les raisons pour lesquelles les partis politiques de l'opposition continuent de faire pression sur les membres du pouvoir législatif pour qu'ils jouent leur rôle de manière adéquate en tenant le gouvernement responsable conformément à la loi », a-t-il expliqué.

Contrairement à

l'affirmation du président Weah, selon laquelle le pays est meilleur qu'avant, il a indiqué que le Libéria est actuellement dans une situation bien pire qu'auparavant.

Il défie le gouvernement de demander aux citoyens ordinaires dans la rue si leur vie s'est améliorée ou s'ils ont du mal à payer les frais de scolarité de leurs enfants et leurs loyers au milieu de la flambée des prix des denrées alimentaires et des produits de première nécessité.

S'exprimant lors d'une conférence de presse récemment au siège de la Coalition au pouvoir, à Congo Town, en banlieue de Monrovia, le président du parti au pouvoir, Mulbah Morlu, s'en est pris aux dirigeants des partis politiques de l'opposition qui, selon lui, ont gardé le silence et refusé de condamner les soi-disant appels à l'assassinat du président George Weah.

Morlu: "Ils ont eu recours à la propagande et à des tactiques alarmistes et ils parlent maintenant d'assassinat."

Il a accusé les dirigeants de l'opposition de ne pas être patriotes, déclarant : « Je n'ai entendu aucune déclaration de condamnation à l'encontre de personnes appelant à la guerre, ce qui signifie qu'ils ont souscrit à ces déclarations. Nous sommes ici et ici pour rester. »

Cette allégation avait amené le député Yekeh Y. Kolubah à adresser un courrier à la séance plénière de la chambre basse, exigeant la comparution de M. Morlu afin de clarifier ses affirmations selon lesquelles des membres de l'opposition soutiendraient un complot d'assassinat contre le président George Weah.

## Côte d'Ivoire : La plateforme nationale condamne les décisions du conseil de discipline de l'université FHB

La plateforme nationale des organisations professionnelles du secteur public condamne les décisions du conseil de discipline de l'université Félix Houphouët Boigny de Cocody, au nombre desquelles la révocation de cinq syndicalistes de la coordination nationale des enseignants-chercheurs et

chercheurs de Côte d'Ivoire, attirant l'attention du Gouvernement sur les graves menaces que ces mesures font planer sur la trêve sociale.

La plateforme nationale des organisations professionnelles du secteur public se dit indignée, dans une déclaration parvenue, lundi, à l'AIP de "la révocation de cinq

syndicalistes de la coordination nationale des enseignants-chercheurs et chercheurs de Côte d'Ivoire (CNEC), dont le secrétaire général Johnson Kouassi, par ailleurs 3e vice-président de la plateforme nationale, du secrétaire général de section de l'UFR criminologie, Dr Kazon Aubin, par ailleurs membre du comité exécutif de la plateforme nationale et la suspension de huit enseignants syndicalistes pour un an ainsi que la suspension de deux autres pour une période de six mois" en date du 15 février.

"La plateforme nationale signataire des accords de la trêve sociale et attachée au strict respect des libertés syndicales en Côte d'Ivoire, réunie en assemblée générale extraordinaires des secrétaires généraux demande au Gouvernement de casser ces décisions par la réintégration immédiate et sans délai des enseignants syndiqués sanctionnés", fait savoir dans la déclaration le président de cette plateforme, Théodore Gnagna Zadi.



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Elle évoque "des convocations dans les commissariats, à la préfecture de police, l'envahissement du siège de la CNEC par des policiers, des huissiers et autres harcèlements", estimant que ces actes ont pour objectif de "criminaliser les responsables syndicaux de la CNEC pour mieux les abattre". "En tout état de cause, la plateforme nationale ne laissera pas prospérer la mort programmée de la liberté syndicale en Côte d'Ivoire", selon le document parvenu à

l'AIP.

La coordination nationale des enseignants-chercheurs et chercheurs de Côte d'Ivoire a décidé de la suspension des activités académiques dans les structures universitaires sur l'étendue du territoire national pendant une année à compter du lundi 04 février 2019 jusqu'au lundi 04 février 2020, après que des enseignants de cette coordination ont été sanctionnés par le conseil de discipline de l'Université Félix Houphouët Boigny de Cocody, rappelle-t-on.



# Français

## Le Juge en Chef de la cour suprême décide en faveur de lui-même et refuse de se récuser

Le juge en chef du Libéria, Francis S. Korkpor, a refusé de se récuser du procès en destitution dirigé contre le juge associé Kabineh M. Ja'neh de la cour suprême.

Les avocats du juge Ja'neh avaient déposé lundi une requête dans laquelle ils réclamaient la récusation du juge Korkpor en tant que juge président dans le procès en destitution de son collègue devant le sénat libérien. La défense avait fait valoir que le juge Korkpor avait également signé la décision pour laquelle le juge Ja'neh fait actuellement face à une procédure de destitution, par conséquent, sa présence en tant que juge présidant lors du procès en destitution constituait un conflit d'intérêts.

Le juge Korkpor, qui a statué à sa propre initiative le mardi 19 février, a déclaré que la requête qui demande sa récusation était dépourvue

question la crédibilité même du juge en chef Chief qui préside la Cour suprême.

Mais, rejetant la demande de récusation mardi, le juge en chef Korkpor a affirmé que l'article 43 de la Constitution lui conférerait le droit de faire office de juge président dans le cadre de toutes les procédures d'impeachment du président de la république, du vice-président ou des juges associés de la cour suprême.

Selon lui, aucune partie de la constitution ne dit qu'une personne peut présider en l'absence du juge en chef.

Le juge en chef Korkpor indique que ce n'est pas sa faute, mais que c'est la Constitution qui lui donne le droit de présider la procédure de destitution.

Il estime qu'il n'y pas de conflit d'intérêt d'autant plus que l'affaire Annie Constance n'a pas été jugée au fond par la Cour suprême. Selon lui, pour qu'un juge en



de tout fondement juridique et factuel.

Mais la défense s'est dite insatisfaite de la décision du juge en chef Korkpor et a annoncé qu'il s'appuierait sur les lois disponibles.

L'affaire qui a déclenché le procès en destitution du juge associé Ja'neh concerne un conflit foncier qui opposait le juge et une citoyenne ordinaire, Mme Annie Yancy Constance. Le législateur accuse Ja'neh d'avoir abusé de son pouvoir en usant de son influence en tant que juge associé de la cour suprême pour obtenir de cette cour une décision qui lui est favorable en vue de prendre possession de la terre qui faisait l'objet du conflit.

Mais les avocats de Ja'neh ont affirmé à plusieurs reprises que l'accusation selon laquelle leur client aurait manipulé la Cour suprême pour statuer en sa faveur dans l'affaire du conflit foncier remet en

chef puisse se récuser, il faut des raisons juridiques, tangibles ou factuelles qui démontrent que la justice ne sera pas équitable.

Au président de la cour suprême d'ajouter que, comme la Cour suprême n'avait pas statué sur le fond de l'affaire Annie Constance, les juges n'avaient pas pris de décision ni rendu un jugement.

« En tant que juge dans cette affaire, je n'ai exprimé aucun point de vue et je n'ai pris aucune position dans l'affaire », explique le juge en chef.

Le juge Korkpor affirme qu'il n'y a commis aucun conflit d'intérêts lorsque lui-même et trois autres juges ont signé le jugement ou la décision dans l'affaire Annie Constance et du juge associé Ja'neh.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Shlomo Ben-Ami

## Le piège idéologique

LOS ANGELES - Alors qu'il n'y a pas d'urgence, le président Trump a déclaré l'état d'urgence pour construire son "mur" à la frontière avec le Mexique, une promesse qu'il avait faite à ses partisans lors de sa campagne électorale en 2016. C'est là un exemple supplémentaire de la tension persistante, et dangereuse, entre raison et idéologie dans la vie politique.

Quelles que puissent être leurs limites, les décisions basées sur la raison sont préférables à celles qui se fondent sur une idéologie, car leur mise en œuvre peut s'adapter à des changements de situation ou à des faits nouveaux. Par contre, celles qui reposent sur des principes rigides risquent d'être totalement inadéquates à la réalité.

L'Histoire offre de multiples exemples des conséquences désastreuses de choix purement idéologiques qui font abstraction de la réalité. Ainsi, ne croyant pas que la science pourrait satisfaire le peuple allemand, mais que l'Allemagne devait élargir son espace vital, Hitler a instrumentalisé le mythe de la suprématie des Teutons pour justifier son entreprise. A la tête d'un autre régime fondé sur une idéologie, Staline l'a emporté sur les nazis, précisément parce qu'il a renoncé aux impératifs dogmatiques pour mener sa guerre en fonction d'objectifs rationnels reposant sur son propre intérêt.

Aux USA, Trump n'est pas le premier président à choisir la foi plutôt que la raison. Comme lui, le président George W. Bush considérait que sa présidence relevait d'un plan divin, au point de considérer les guerres qu'il a lancées en Afghanistan et en Irak comme des "croisades".

En 2002, il a explicitement basé sa stratégie en matière de sécurité nationale sur les principes de l'Amérique plutôt que sur ses intérêts. Son vice-président, Dick Cheney, a pris cela très à cœur, au point de rejeter en 2003 l'accord que proposait alors l'Iran qui aurait mis fin à son programme nucléaire et à sa politique étrangère agressive, parce que les USA "ne négocient pas avec le diable".

Le gouvernement de Trump et plus largement le parti républicain s'alignent sur cette tradition. Quelles que soient les preuves qui montrent que l'immigration est un pilier essentiel du succès de l'Amérique, les nativistes qui soutiennent Trump restent cramponnés à leur croyance. Par contre ils acceptent probablement de voir la Constitution américaine détournée pour construire un mur ruineux, désastreux sur le plan écologique et dépourvu de la moindre utilité.

De la même manière, beaucoup de républicains, dont Trump lui-même, restent dans le déni du réchauffement climatique et de la menace qu'il représente, et rejettent le consensus scientifique quasi général à ce sujet. Dans le passé, Trump a alimenté le mouvement anti-vaccin en envoyant nombre de tweets sur un lien possible entre vaccination et autisme, malgré l'absence totale d'éléments en faveur de cette thèse. Les républicains prétendent que les USA, bien qu'étant le pays le plus riche de la planète, n'ont pas les moyens de mettre en œuvre une assurance maladie universelle qui serait de toute façon à leurs yeux une attaque d'inspiration socialiste contre les libertés individuelles.

Ils ont recours à des arguments du même ordre pour s'opposer aux mesures destinées à diminuer le coût des études supérieures. L'endettement des étudiants américains qui atteint maintenant 1500 milliards de dollars n'est dépassé que par celui lié aux prêts immobiliers dans la catégorie des dettes individuelles ; pourtant les républicains frappent d'anathème toute subvention aux études qui ressemblerait à celles accordées au profit des prêts

immobiliers. Il en est de même en matière d'impôts : ils sont partisans d'un allègement de la fiscalité au profit des plus hauts revenus, alors que tous les éléments montrent qu'il n'y a pas "ruissellement" au bénéfice du reste de l'économie.

Les USA ne sont pas seuls dans ce cas. Au Royaume-Uni, ce sont des esprits dogmatiques qui ont mené tout le processus du Brexit. Croyant avec persistance au concept anachronique selon lequel la Grande-Bretagne reste une grande puissance mondiale, ils déclarent que l'UE freine le Royaume-Uni. De nouveaux accords commerciaux avec le Commonwealth (à leurs yeux toujours essentiel à l'empire britannique) et avec des puissances émergentes comme la Chine permettront selon eux au Royaume-Uni de retrouver sa place sur la scène internationale.

A l'image de ceux qui adhèrent aveuglement à un dogme, les partisans du Brexit ne tiennent aucun compte des faits. Aucun d'entre eux n'a pu proposer un plan réaliste et cohérent pour une rupture totale avec l'UE. Pourtant beaucoup d'entre eux, comme le conservateur Michael Gove, moquent allégrement les "experts", comme si la connaissance et l'expérience n'étaient d'aucune utilité.

Il est vrai que le dogmatisme en faveur du Brexit parmi les conservateurs et les flottements au sein du parti travailliste à ce sujet tiennent en partie au passé de désengagement du Royaume-Uni vis à vis de l'Europe au cours des années 1930. A cette époque, beaucoup de dirigeants politiques britanniques se focalisaient sur la menace que faisait peser sur leur pays la détermination des nazis de modifier l'équilibre des pouvoirs dans le monde.

Aujourd'hui l'Europe ne représente évidemment pas une menace de ce type pour le Royaume-Uni. Pourtant, le philosophe britannique John Gray décrit le Brexit comme la meilleure défense contre un retour au "sombre" passé dictatorial de l'Europe. Beaucoup de partisans du Brexit pensent qu'un effondrement total de l'UE est inévitable. Dans la mesure où la Grande-Bretagne retrouve sa prééminence sur les mers, elle a tout intérêt à quitter une Europe promise à devenir une sorte d'empire russo-eurasiatique.

Les sécessionnistes catalans font preuve d'une même combinaison de détachement hautain et de projets anachroniques à l'égard de l'Espagne. Ils se croient bien plus travailleurs et créatifs, que les Espagnols supposés être paresseux et peu productifs, et même pour certains d'entre eux racialement supérieurs aux Espagnols. Par ailleurs, ajoutent-ils, ces derniers ont un penchant en faveur de l'autoritarisme. Et ils estiment que pour étouffer la créativité et l'esprit d'entreprise des Catalans, le gouvernement démocratique espagnol n'est guère différent du régime de Franco.

Les Catalans de sont fiers de leur "seny", une combinaison de sagesse ancestrale et de réalisme, de même que les Britanniques se félicitent de leur bon sens. Mais les sécessionnistes catalans et les partisans du Brexit se sont enfermés, avec leurs concitoyens, dans une camisole de force idéologique.

L'idéologie est un outil performant pour présenter un programme politique, faire basculer l'opinion publique et évaluer des objectifs. Mais la fixation sur un dogme conduit presque inévitablement dans une mauvaise direction, notamment dans une époque de changement économique rapide et d'incertitudes géopolitiques grandissantes. Le psychologue américain Abraham Maslow l'a parfaitement formulé : si l'on dispose seulement d'un marteau, il est tentant de considérer tous les problèmes comme des clous. Ainsi que Trump pourrait le dire sans sourciller, c'est ainsi que l'on construit des murs.

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# Land degradation contributes to poverty in Liberia

**-Professor Nyenka**

By Emmanuel Mondaye

An Assistant Professor from the University of Liberia, Jerome Nyenka, says land degradation and unsustainable management of forest and water resources contribute to poverty, which affects the most vulnerable, rural poor population whose livelihoods and incomes centre around those natural resources.

He notes that in Liberia, shifting cultivation, as undertaken by rural farmers, leads to deforestation, land degradation as well as soil nutrient loss, adding that the practice is on the increase to the extent that it is posing serious challenges to national and sector specific efforts to increase food productivity, tackle climate change and ensure sustainable forest and environmental management.

Presenting a paper Wednesday, 20 February on Legal and Institutional Environment at a one-day Validation Workshop held at Belle Casa Hotel in Sinkor, Monrovia he stresses that ensuring sustainable land management in Liberia is paramount to achieving increased productivity, livelihood enhancement of



Assistant UL Professor of Forest Economics, Mr. Jerome Nyenka

rural poor and subsequent poverty reduction thereby, contributing to the achievement of Liberia's Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development or PAPD.

Nyenka, Assistant Professor of Forest Economics, explains that this can be achieved through development of national and sector-specific legal and institutional environment to guide sustainable management of the land and natural resources.

He says the Government of Liberia has formulated several

policies and strategies aimed at targeting economic growth, environmental protection and management, natural resource management, improvement of social welfare and peace building, adding that prominent amongst them are Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) covering the period 2008-2011, Agenda for Transformation (AfT) covering the period 2012-2017 and National Environmental Policy of 2003, etc.

According to him, analysis was carried out on sectoral laws and regulations relevant

to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) in Liberia based on a review of key policies, strategies and laws and regulations governing land and related natural resources.

Nyenka continues that capacity constraints at systemic level in combating desertification or and degradation are essentially similar to those related to the management and sustainable use of biodiversity and climate change, and that these constraints are mainly associated with inadequate policy and legal framework, poor governance, inadequately structured economic framework; and ineffective national processes and relationships in sustainable development.

According to him, the issue of land degradation has claimed the attention of both public and private actors in

Liberia, and several actions are being initiated; much of them are in areas of policies and strategies while there still exist limitations in on-site interventions; Data availability is still a challenge; Financial resources are far from reached.

He recommends a need to clarify roles of the Land Degradation Neutrality Technical Working Group and the national level disaster management program by putting in place minimum institutional capacity for generating needed data, including modalities for initial financing especially, from internal sources, while operationalizing the National Coordinating Committee to Combat Desertification and other substructures as identified in the National Action Plan or NAP. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

## UNFPA Liberia new Country Rep. presents credential

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Liberia has a new Country Representative. He is Dr. Bannet Ndyanabangi, a national of Uganda.

According to a press

whose tour of duty has since ended.

Dr. Ndyanabangi is a graduate of the University of Heidelberg, Germany, with a degree in Medicine. He also holds a Master's degree in

Tropical Medicine in Hamburg, Germany; working for a decade in Uganda as a clinician and public health programs' manager, including USAID programs implemented by Management Sciences for



Acting Foreign Minister Mr. B. Elias Shoniyin, receives accreditation from the new UNFPA Liberia Country Representative, Dr. Bannet Ndyanabangi

release, Dr. Ndyanabangi officially assumed his duty here following presentation of his Letter of Credence to the Government of Liberia on Tuesday, 19 February. He replaces Dr. Oluremi Sogunro

Community Health and Health management and a PhD. in Public Health.

He comes to UNFPA Liberia with a wealth of experience after beginning his career at the Bernhard Nocht Hospital of

Health (MSH) in Arlington Virginia, from 2004 before joining UNFPA in 2009.

Prior to his deployment her as UNFPA Liberia Country Representative, he worked in various capacities, including

## Mass exodus of girls from dormitory

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

This paper has gathered that about 50 girls have abandoned dormitories at the William Richard Tolbert High School and returned home in Bong County due to lack of support.

Our Bong County correspondent says since the beginning of the academic year, there has been no sufficient support from the government to the school.

The living conditions of the students at the dorm have been reportedly poor, ranging from the lack of electricity, food, water and other essential materials.

William Richard Tolbert High School is a government -run institution based in Zota District in Bong County. It caters for over 100 female students from across the country at its dormitories.

The dormitories are managed by the government of Liberia through the Ministry of Gender under the supervision of the Ministry of Education.

Since the reopening of the dormitories to female students from around the Country, there have been numerous challenges facing the smooth running of the facility which range from the lack of electricity, pipe borne water to food and housing facilities,

among others.

Addressing a team of reporters recently in Gbalatuah, the principal of the school Gorline Weh revealed that since the reopening of the dormitory after the civil war, the lack of essential facilities and materials have been hampering the smooth operation of the institution.

He further notes that enrollment at the dorm has drastically reduced over the years due to the lack of proper facilities to encourage parents to send their kids to the school.

According to Mr. Weh, they initially started with over 100 students, but the number has dropped by 50. He terms the students at the center as poverty-stricken kids.

According to Mr. Weh, the dormitory will only remain opened to the schoolgirls if the government of Liberia through the Ministries of Education and Gender direct funding to the area for the overall improvement of the learning system.

Mr. Weh boasts that they have qualified instructors at the institution who continue to volunteer, but complains that at present, they are gradually running out of instructional materials. **--Edited by Winston W. Parley**

Deputy Representative in Nigeria and South Sudan; Representative in Sierra Leone, as well as

Representative in Afghanistan, respectively. **-Press release**

# CJ Korkpor issues writ for Ja'neh

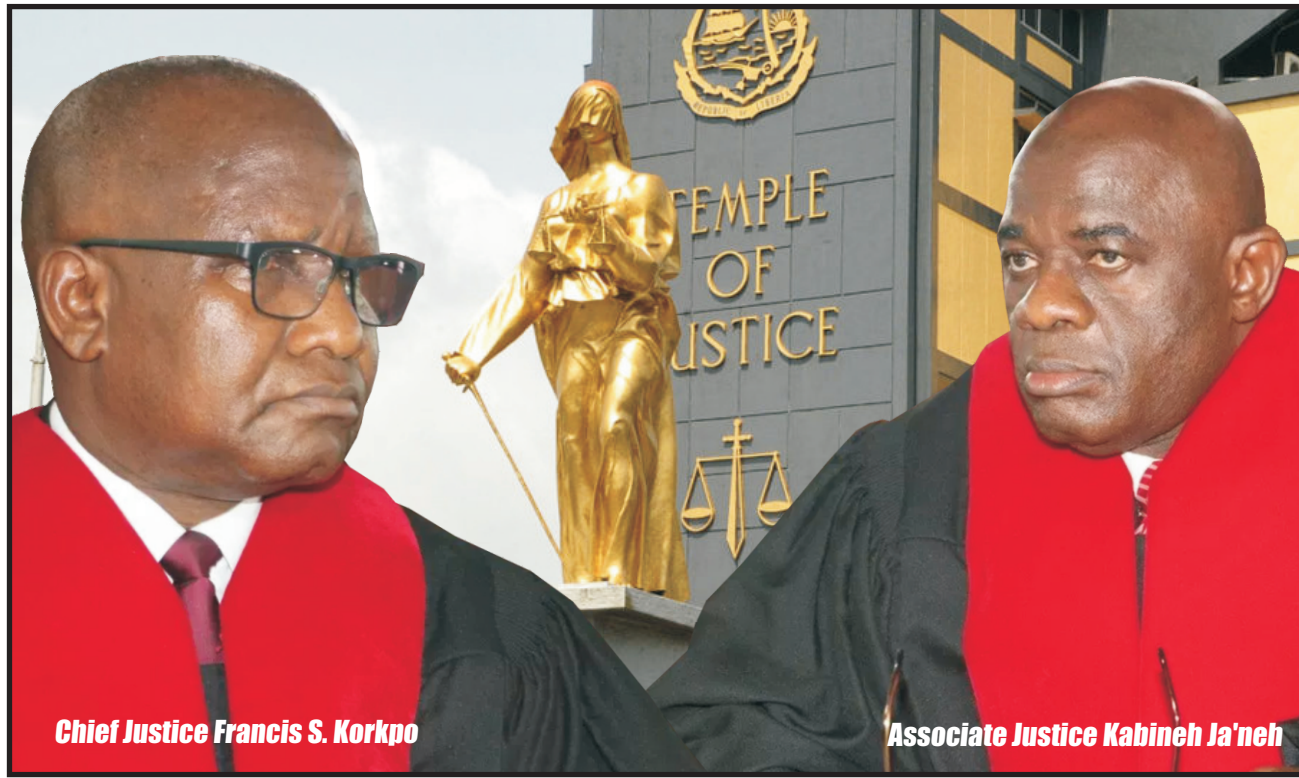
By Ethel A. Tweh

Just one day after Chief Justice Francis Korkpor announced his refusal to recuse himself from the pending impeachment trial against his colleague, Associate Justice Ja'neh, the Chief Justice has issued a writ giving Ja'neh three days ultimatum to appear for his impeachment trial at the Senate.

Lawyers representing Ja'neh on Monday, February 18, filed a motion requesting Justice Korkpor to recuse himself from presiding over the impeachment proceedings—a power invested in him by Article 43 of the Liberian Constitution.

The lawyers had argued that the ruling in the case for which Ja'neh's impeachment is being sought was also signed by Justice Korkpor and therefore his presence as the presiding officer in the impeachment trial poses a conflict of interest.

But ruling in his own motion Tuesday February 19, Justice Korkpor said the motion calling



Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor

Associate Justice Kabineh Ja'neh

for his recusal lacks legal and factual grounds.

To keep the heat on Ja'neh, on Wednesday Justice Korkpor returned his colleague the favor by serving him (Ja'neh) with a writ to appear in three days to begin his impeachment trial.

Justice Korkpor's directive

came as lawyers from both sides in the case traded accusation calling for the recusal of the other in the same trail.

Calls for lawyers' recusal on both sides of the case began Wednesday, 20 February when Justice Ja'neh's lead Counsel Arthur T. Johnson asked for the

recusals of Cllrs. Albert Sims and Syrenius Cephus, lawyers representing the House in the trial at the Senate.

In response to Cllr. Johnson's request, Cllrs. Cephus and Sims equally requested his recusal from the case.

The request for recusal from both parties prompted Chief Justice Korkpor to refer the lawyers to the Supreme Court's Grievance Committee to look into issues raised for their recusals.

Reasons behind the calls for recusals Cllr. Arthur Johnson had claimed that Cllrs. Sims and Cephus are not qualified to serve as lawyers in the impeachment trials.

According to him, Cllr. Sims violated the code of lawyers under the doctrine of conflict of interest. Although he did not state the particular code of conduct, but maintained that Cllr. Sims lacks the moral and ethical standing to serve as a lawyer for the managers.

Cllr. Johnson further told the impeachment proceedings that the Cllr. Sims serve as one of the counsels, as a member of the Sherman and Sherman Law Offices during the Austin Clarke case—one of the cases for which Justice Ja'neh's impeachment is being sought.

Furthermore, Cllr. Johnson claims that Cllr. Syrenius

Cephus, is not qualified to serve as one of the counsels in the impeachment proceedings on grounds that he (Cllr. Cephus) is a Deputy Minister of Agriculture.

Cllr. Johnson argues that allowing Cephus to serve as lawyer for the House while he remains a Deputy Minister of Agriculture is in violation of Section 11.17 of the Code of Conduct.

He notes that Cllr. Cephus is a member of the Executive Branch of Government and he can only be part of these impeachment proceedings if President George Manneh Weah authorizes him to do so.

He says further that Cllr. Cephus is also conflicted with Section 3.2 of the Code of Conduct.

However, Cllr. Syrenius Cephus says if the claims made by Cllr. Johnson against him and Cllr. Sims, are anything to go by than Cllr. Johnson is equally not qualified to be a part of the impeachment proceedings.

According to Cllr. Cephus, Cllr. Johnson is a lawyer for Ecobank Liberia Limited [in] the action of defrauding creditor which was filed against Austin Clarke that led to his arrest.

He argues that the case was filed and prosecuted by Sesay, Johnson and Associates Law Chambers of which Cllr. Johnson is a managing partner.

Cllr. Cephus recalls that during the case of Austin Clarke and Ecobank, Cllr. Johnny Momo and Amara Sheriff were employees of the Sherman and Sherman law offices so they are equally not qualified to be part of the impeachment proceedings.

Cllr. Cephus believes that Justice Ja'neh wants to delay the trial by bringing out all these things, urging the Chief Justice to not pay attention to it because they are all groundless.

Cllr. Cephus concludes that they want to harass the impeachment process and create serious crisis.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley, further editing by Othello B. Garblah*

## MCC receives enumeration reports

By Lewis S. Teh

The Monrovia City Corporation (MCC) has received preliminary enumeration report from the All-Terrain Service Incorporated, targeting four electoral districts in Montserrado County.

In a news conference at the Monrovia City Hall on 18 February, All-Terrain Services

Presenting an initial report to Monrovia City Mayor Jefferson T. Koijee, Mr. Massaley says his company is able to collect data from 36,000 homes within four of the targeted ten districts.

Districts 7, 8, 9 and 10 are completed and the company is expected to start with the rest of the six districts in the coming weeks.

Receiving the initial report, Mayor Koijee lauded All-Terrain Services Incorporated for the exceptional job done.

According to Mr. Koijee, the work will drive the MCC's agenda of transforming Monrovia to a smart city.

Koijee says the project is developing a citywide enumeration system for household location and waste tracking in the city limit of Monrovia.

He continues that the citywide enumeration project will involve the introduction of software that will serve as a pilot to track the general layout of neighborhoods and house locations in Monrovia and establish the amount of waste generated in the city per area. Koijee discloses that the other areas of concentration under the ongoing project will include the capacity of the existing infrastructure, its ability to the waste collection needs in each area of the city and the revenue generation potential for household services that the city government can provide.

The enumeration process began on Monday, 14 January and is expected to end in late March 2019.

Mayor Koijee has pleaded with residents of the City of Monrovia to comply with the enumeration team as the exercise seeks to benefit every inhabitant of the city.

According to Mayor Koijee, the enumeration of housing facilities in the city will help citizens easily locate their



Mayor Jefferson T. Koijee

Incorporated Operational Manager Mr. Edwin Massaley says his company is contracted by the Monrovia City Government to conduct an enumeration exercise in Monrovia and its surrounding areas.

He announces that his company has completed phase one of the project targeting four electoral districts.

Mr. Massaley says during the collection of data from the four districts, they also embarked on a systematic classification of properties within the city limit of Monrovia including private homes, schools, public buildings, businesses, marketplaces and hospitals, among others.

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

places of residence.  
"Today, directing a

## Mane's house burgled during Champions League match



Liverpool forward Sadio Mane's house was burgled while he was playing in the Champions League last-16 tie against Bayern Munich on Tuesday.

Items including watches, mobile phones and car keys were stolen.

The incident happened at

Mane's house in Allerton, south Liverpool between 18:00 and 23:45 GMT - while the 26-year-old was at Anfield. No-one was in the property at the time.

Forensic examinations are under way and a police investigation is ongoing.

Detective Inspector Phil Mahon, of Merseyside Police,

said: "We are appealing for anyone with information in relation to this burglary to please come forward and assist our inquiries."

"While the occupants were not present at the time of the incident this will no doubt be a distressing experience for them and I would ask the offenders to do the right thing and return the stolen items to the owner in any way possible."

"We know the watches in particular are of significant monetary value and I would also like to appeal to anyone who might have been offered the items for sale since the burglary to contact police."

Senegal international Mane was burgled in November 2017 while he was at Anfield for a Champions League game against Maribor.

A gang was thought to have broken into his home first before smashing a patio door at the nearby address of teammate Dejan Lovren before they fled when a woman shouted she was calling the police.

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## Man City owners buys Chinese Club

Manchester City have made inroads into China with the City Football Group (CFG) acquisition of third-tier club Sichuan Jiuniu.

CFG, which owns the Premier League champions, has bought the Chengdu-based side as part of a joint-

purchase deal involving China Sports Capital and robotics firm UBTECH.

City chief executive Ferran Soriano said in a statement on Wednesday: "Today marks an exciting new chapter in the growth of City Football Group. China is an extremely important football market,

which we have been focused on for some time.

"We believe strongly in the future of football in China. We are making a long-term, sustainable commitment to grow and develop Sichuan Jiuniu FC and to nurture Chinese footballing talent. These objectives are equally



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