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The New Dawn

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TRULY INDEPENDENT

#Stop prioritizing foreign businesses over Liberian businesses!#

VOL. 9 NO. 023

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2019

PRICE LD\$40.00

Playing with fire



Pres. Weah

Minister of State Nathaniel McGill

Cllr. James Verdier



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Continental News

Nigeria awaits results of delayed vote

Ballots are being counted in Nigeria's closely fought general election, although voting has been extended to a second day in a handful of places.

Due to logistical problems and some cases of violence, polls have been put back to a later date in a few areas.

President Muhammadu Buhari, 76, is seeking a second term. His main challenger is former Vice-President Atiku Abubakar, 72.

The election had been due last week but was delayed at the last minute.

Whoever wins in Africa's most populous nation and largest economy will have to address power shortages, corruption, security threats, and an economic slowdown.

President Buhari cast his ballot in his hometown of Daura in the northern state of Katsina. Asked if he would congratulate his rival if he lost, he said: "I will congratulate myself." Mr Abubakar, a

business tycoon, also said he was confident of victory.

The main results centre is expected to open at 18:00 local time (17:00 GMT) in the capital, Abuja, but final results

are not expected until Monday at the earliest.

Was the election peaceful?

Most of the country was calm but there were reports of attacks by the Boko Haram

Islamist militant group in the north, and voter intimidation and attempts to steal ballot boxes from some polling stations, especially in the southern states of Rivers, Lagos and Anambra.

A coalition of civil society groups reports that a total of 16 people were killed around the country - this is less than in previous elections.

Two people were arrested in the Surulere district of the commercial capital, Lagos, after voters were attacked by a group of young men "brandishing weapons: cutlasses, axes and stakes", one witness told the BBC. "What they were saying was that if you were not [voting for the ruling party] APC, you'll be attacked," Ralph Onodike, who sustained an arm injury, told the BBC.

The Independent National Electoral Commission (Inec) said that voting had not been possible in about 8,500 of the 120,000 polling stations around the country, reports the AFP news agency.

But Inec official Festus Okoye said the commission was "generally satisfied with the process and the procedures for the conduct of these present

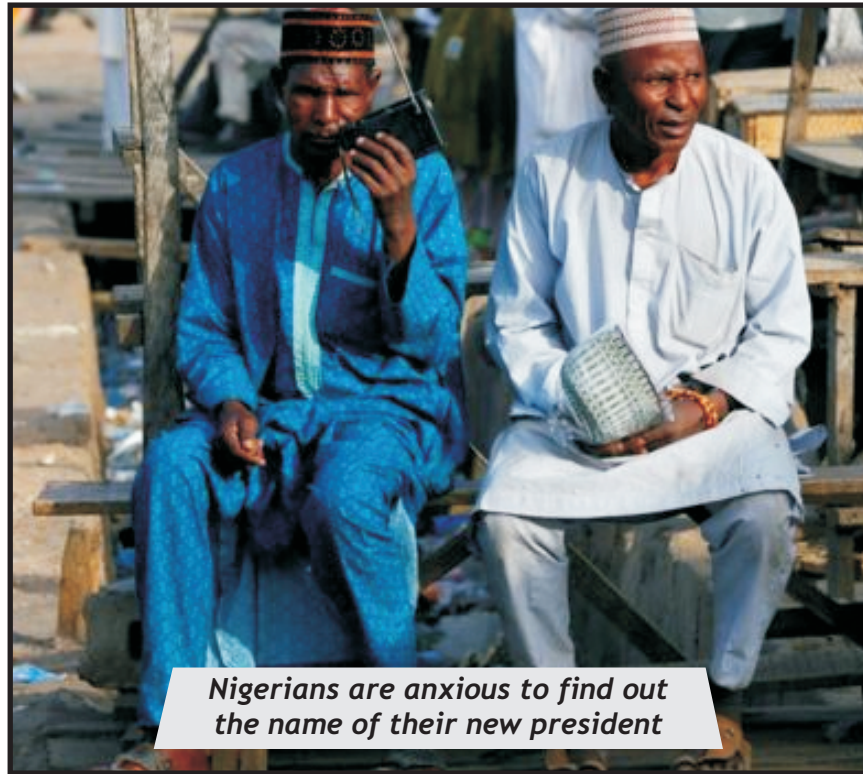
elections". He said 68% of polling units had opened by 10:00, according to Reuters news agency.

The initial vote was rescheduled in a dramatic press conference in the early hours of Saturday 16 February, just five hours before polls were due to have opened.

Voters were also choosing members of the House of Representatives and Senate. How does the election work? The candidate with the most votes is declared the winner in the first round, as long as that person gains at least 25% of the votes in two-thirds of Nigeria's 36 states.

There are 73 registered candidates in the presidential election, but campaigning has been dominated by the two political giants and the established party machines behind them. The president's All Progressives Congress (APC) has promised to take the country to the "next level", arguing that in his first four-year term Mr Buhari has done a lot of "foundational work" that may not be immediately obvious.

Mr Abubakar and his People's Democratic Party have pledged "to get Nigeria working again", saying that the president has wasted the last four years. BBC



Nigerians are anxious to find out the name of their new president

Special tribunal to recover SA stolen money

A special tribunal is to be set up in South Africa with powers to fast-track prosecutions and recover the proceeds of corruption.

President Cyril Ramaphosa said the tribunal would consider cases brought by the Special Investigating Unit.

After 25 years in power, the African National Congress has become tainted by widespread

allegations of corruption, which forced out Mr Ramaphosa's predecessor, Jacob Zuma, last year.

South Africa faces elections on 8 May.

Mr Ramaphosa's announcement of the eight-member panel comes a day after the largest opposition party, the Democratic Alliance, said it would place the fight against corruption at

the heart of its election campaign.

"I want to say to all the politicians, if you are corrupt, you can expect to spend 15 years in jail," said DA leader Mmusi Maimane at the launch of its manifesto.

Mr Ramaphosa has vowed to tackle corruption since coming to power.

In his State of the Nation Address earlier this month, he announced the creation of a special investigating team to deal with serious corruption and associated offences within the National Prosecution Authority. But in November 2018, he was forced to repay \$35,000 (£27,300) given to his leadership campaign by a firm accused of corruption.

The donor, a firm called Bosasa, has won lucrative government contracts but is under investigation.

The revelations were made at an ongoing judicial inquiry into "state capture" - the allegation that under Mr Zuma, the state was effectively taking instructions from businesses which used corrupt politicians to further their own interests.

The Gupta family have been



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at the heart of these accusations.

One allegation is that Ajay Gupta offered a bribe of \$42m (£32m) to ANC politician Mcebisi Jonas to take up the post of finance minister.

Ajay Gupta and his two brothers deny all allegations of wrongdoing and earlier this month a warrant for his arrest was cancelled. The judicial

inquiry is also looking into allegations of corruption at state-owned power firm Eskom, which are allegedly one factor behind a recent spate of nationwide power cuts.

Mr Zuma is on trial for alleged corruption relating to a multi-billion dollar arms deal in the 1990s. He has denied any wrongdoing. BBC

EDITORIAL

Parties should demonstrate sincerity

FORMER PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE and leader of the ex-ruling Unity Party Ambassador Joseph Nyumah Boakai, says it all when he urges his colleagues of the four-party coalition to be “genuine and truthful, bold and decisive” in their resolve to unseat President George Manneh Weah and his governing Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) in 2023.

LEADERS OF THE Unity Party, Alternative National Congress, All Liberian Party and the Liberty Party should realize that demonstrating these four words above will be very cardinal in their sacred mission to rescue and preserve the Republic of Liberia from ineptitude, bad governance, constitutional violation, corruption and eventual collapse.

NONE OF THE four leaders should treat last Thursday's (February 21) signing of a framework for collaboration as mere publicity stunt. That would be a grave disservice to the people of Liberia and posterity.

WE BELIEVE TO achieve what they have set out to do, each party of the emerging coalition should put aside selfish agenda and work for the advancement of the common goal, which is to take power thru the ballot box and provide better services to the people.

THIS IS NO time to play, because there is much work to do. Firstly, leaders of the respective parties should immediately begin to educate and conscientize their respective partisans about the larger picture, which is collaborating for a common objective. We are afraid if leaders do not hammer this into the heads of their followers, the framework would remain just what it is; nothing else.

AT A FORMAL signing ceremony Thursday, 21 February held at the headquarters of the former ruling Unity Party in Cong Town, the parties agreed, among others, to commit to forging, branding and/or rebranding, and supporting a common national interest upon which the opposition may collaborate.

THEY ALSO VOW to keep focus on the welfare of the people, not allowing their political differences and personal ambitions to derail the cooperation, and to openly and consistently engage and collaborate on various issues of concern to the people whom they represent, as well as establish common national positions.

THE WORKS START now; not tomorrow, if this collaboration should succeed. The parties should see themselves as a government in waiting. They should begin to carve a blueprint of how they intend to govern Liberia, if given state power.

IN OTHER WORDS, the campaign should not be just about unseating the current administration, but endeavoring sincerely to make Liberia better for present and future generations. The ultimate focus should be the people.

UNLESS THE PARTIES and their leaders put on a new thinking cap and get out of their little corners to sincerely work against all odds for the future of Liberia, the marriage would be nothing but a snake party, where everybody will be on the watch for his own security and personal interest rather than working for the greater good.

The New Dawn
FULLY INDEPENDENT

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COMMENTARY

By Perseus Mlambo

Africa's Digital Generation Gap

For evidence that Africa's aged rulers are increasingly out of touch with the continent's booming youth population, look no further than the digital economy. Rather than cultivating a sector that could help to address Africa's pressing need for new jobs, African governments are stifling it with new taxes and regulations.

LONDON - Africa is the youngest place in the world. But because African heads of state tend to be older - with an average age of 62 - they are out of touch with African youth. At an event in London last April, Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari suggested that young Nigerians were lazy and looking for government handouts, provoking a social-media backlash (hashtag: #LazyNigerianYouths) by young Nigerians who listed all of their productive pursuits.

For its part, the Nigerian mobile lending platform OneFi showcased some of its enterprising customers. With a small loan, one young woman was able to buy inventory for a wholesale plantain chip business; another young entrepreneur was able to build a poultry house that could hold 1,000 chickens.

African tech startups like OneFi largely owe their existence to the expansion of mobile Internet across the continent. With a projected smartphone user base of 725 million by 2020, and Internet access expected to grow by 130% in the next six years, Africa's digital economy could create millions of jobs for young Africans.

Considering that almost two-thirds of Sub-Saharan Africa's population is under 25, and a staggering 29 million young people are entering the labor market each year, a surge in employment opportunities is essential to Africa's future. Unfortunately, a creeping trend toward government overregulation threatens to derail future job creation.

Like governments everywhere, those in Africa are constantly trying to keep up with the pace of technological innovation. As technology fundamentally reshapes daily life, changing the way Africans communicate, consume media, and pay for goods and services, many governments have only just awoken to the emergence of the digital economy. But instead of applying a light touch and creating a set of nuanced regulations, too many are implementing heavy-handed, top-down measures that could stifle the startup boom.

Consider Uganda's recently imposed social-media tax, supposedly intended to discourage the spread of “gossip” and generate tax revenue from foreign social-media apps. In practice, the foreign companies have simply passed the costs on to the end-users through their telecom providers. For someone who uses social media daily, the cost of purchasing a prepaid data bundle has surged by 23-62%, leading to a 20% drop in mobile data subscribers. To purchase one gigabyte of data, Ugandans who earn less than the average annual income of \$606 must now spend approximately 40% of their monthly earnings.

The government of Benin attempted to replicate Uganda's poorly formulated policy, but, after widespread outcry, repealed the tax after only three days. Uganda's government seems less concerned about public opinion: in addition to the social-media tax, it has also levied a 1% tax on mobile-money transactions.

Many new digital regulations resemble classic attempts to restrict free speech and political organizing. In Tanzania, a draconian policy introduced last March requires anyone running a blog or website to pay \$930 for a license. That is higher than the country's annual per capita GDP.

The Tanzanian government is also attempting to pass a bill that would make it a crime to disseminate data without permission from the country's chief statistician.

Such measures would severely limit the services that could be offered by any tech startup that relies on data flows. The Ghana-based platform mPharma, for example, uses insights from anonymized datasets to forecast demand for prescription drugs and negotiate lower prices with pharmaceutical manufacturers, reducing costs for end-users. If Tanzania's policy becomes the new norm, this data-driven business model - a common one among African tech startups - will be imperiled.

On a continent where over one-fifth of the working-age population has started a new business, the Internet and social media have proven crucial for marketing and customer service. Still, some African leaders have tried to justify the new policies by pointing to the need for tax revenues and characterizing online activity as frivolous, unproductive, and even unpatriotic.

For example, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has equated the social-media tax with taxes on other social vices. But when Museveni came to power 33 years ago, the most advanced new technologies were armored vehicles and coffee harvesting machinery. Sadly, though emerging young leaders such as Bobi Wine, an Ugandan actor-turned-MP, are speaking out for young people and opposing entrenched economic interests and ineffectual policymaking, the Musevenis of the region have had no trouble silencing or ignoring them.

The consequences of digital overregulation will have far-reaching ripple effects. It is estimated that a ten-percentage-point increase in mobile broadband penetration leads to an increase of 1.38 percentage points in a developing economy's growth rate. Moreover, most of the African tech startups now taking a hit were created to deliver basic services that traditional institutions and governments have failed to provide, from banking to health care to last-mile logistics. The impulse to regulate blindly could leave consumers on their own again.

Overregulation can also spook international investors, who gauge mobile-based startups' commercial viability by the number of subscribers they can acquire. Given that Africa's mobile data costs are already high relative to average incomes, the introduction of burdensome new taxes and regulations means that many startups will lose investors.

Africa's aged ruling elites ignore the needs of youths at their peril. By 2055, more than 450 million Africans - approximately one-fifth of the continent's total projected population - will be between the ages of 15 and 24. By stymying digital innovation, African governments are preventing the growth of a tech ecosystem that will generate the jobs of the future.

It is time to repeal these overzealous regulations before they do too much damage. Otherwise, young leaders like Chijioke and Ngozi Dozie, the founders of OneFi, will never fulfill their potential to unlock opportunities for hundreds of millions more young Africans.

O-PED

By Andrew Sheng, Xiao Geng

Can Trump Make a Deal with China?

HONG KONG - Trade negotiations between the United States and China are closing in on the March 1 deadline, after which the bilateral tariff war will resume - beginning with an increase from 10% to 25% on \$200 billion worth of Chinese products. While global financial markets are fluctuating wildly, investors seem to assume that too much is at stake for the US and China to fail to reach a deal. Their optimism could prove short-lived.

To be sure, there has been considerable progress on several key issues, such as technology transfer, protection of intellectual-property rights, non-tariff barriers, and implementation mechanisms. But to defuse tensions between the US and China in any sustainable way will require a more comprehensive approach, based on a fundamental shift in mindset.

Over the last 40 years, Sino-US engagement has been largely cooperative, reflecting a holistic approach that takes into account the interests of the entire global system. US President Donald Trump's administration, however, does not seem to believe that engagement with China (or anyone else for that matter) can benefit both sides. As Trump's "America First" agenda shows, the US is now playing a zero-sum game - and it is playing to win.

For example, the US has threatened to punish or desert its closest allies unless they increase their defense spending. Under pressure from the Trump administration, South Korea just agreed to increase its contributions to US forces in Korea by 8.2%, to \$923 million, in 2019.

Similarly, Trump has repeatedly disparaged fellow NATO members for insufficient defense spending. Most recently, Trump has criticized Germany for spending only 1% of GDP for defense, compared to America's 4.3%. German Chancellor Angela Merkel responded by condemning US isolationism at the Munich Security Conference, and calling for the revival of multilateral cooperation.

The Trump administration's myopic approach is also apparent in its preoccupation with bilateral trade imbalances. Any US deficit with another economy is, from Trump's perspective, a loss. Given this, if China agrees to cut its bilateral trade deficit with the US, other economies with bilateral surpluses vis-à-vis the US - including close allies, such as the European Union and Japan - may find themselves facing intensifying pressure to do the same.

The weakening of trade that could result in this scenario would compound existing negative pressure on global growth, hurting everyone. A global economic downturn is the last thing the world needs at a time when it is already beset with risks, including a possible no-deal Brexit and populist gains in the European Parliament election in May.

Of course, while Trump does not spare his allies, his primary target remains China. After all, the competition between the US and China extends far beyond trade. Although the US maintains military, technological, financial, and soft-power superiority, China has been steadily catching up, leading to bipartisan support in the US for a more confrontational approach.

Last October, US Vice President Mike Pence bluntly accused China of technology theft, predatory economic expansion, and military aggression. Pence's stance echoed the fears of the US national security community. As former US Defense Secretary Ashton Carter put it, "Because it is a Communist dictatorship, China is able to bring to bear on US companies and our trading partners a combination of political, military, and economic tools that a government such as ours cannot match. This puts us at an inherent disadvantage."

And yet America's tools are hardly useless. The US authorities have mobilized a broad range of domestic and international resources - from law and diplomacy to national security measures - to stop the overseas expansion of the Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei. If Western countries allow Huawei to build their 5G infrastructure, America's hawks and their allies argue, they will be vulnerable to cyberattacks from China in some future war.

All of this has shaken business and market confidence to the core, wiping out trillions of dollars in market capitalization. And the Trump administration's apparent insistence that countries choose sides in its dispute with China is further heightening fears. As the rest of the world's trading countries understand, Trump's approach will fragment business and reverse the globalization-enabled economies of scale that have fueled growth for decades.¹

More broadly, the Trump administration's rejection of multilateralism undermines the global cooperation needed to confront a range of issues, including migration, poverty and inequality, climate change, and the challenges raised by new technologies. Trump's focus on geopolitical rivalry - and the associated rise in security and defense spending - will dramatically reduce resources available for global public goods, such as infrastructure investment and poverty-reduction programs.

Ending the Sino-US trade war will require considerable statesmanship on the part of Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping. But, beyond that, both sides need to recognize that supporting global peace and prosperity requires less ideology and more respect for diversity of political, social, and cultural systems. Failing that, the fault lines will continue to deepen - much as they did in the 1930s - potentially setting the stage for full-blown war.

OPINION

By Joschka Fischer

Will Germany Permit Joint European Security?

BERLIN - US President Donald Trump has proved truly disruptive to the transatlantic relationship. His questioning of America's mutual-defense commitments presents NATO with an ominous and potentially existential crisis. The US security guarantee, after all, is one of the two pillars upon which European peace and prosperity have rested since the end of World War II. And nor has Trump spared the second pillar: the rules-based global trade system and economic order.

Just two years after Trump's election, Europeans find themselves shivering alone in the icy winds of international politics, rightly wondering what is to be done. It stands to reason that Europe must deepen its internal bonds, close ranks, and strengthen its military capacity. Some might question whether this is what Europeans truly want, given that we are living in the age of Brexit, which will deprive the European Union of its second-strongest military and economic power.

But just because the British don't seem to know what they want doesn't mean the rest of Europe is in the same boat. In fact, most Europeans favor a stronger, more powerful EU with a joint security policy.

The big exception is Germany. As the EU's economic engine and most populous member state, there can be no joint security policy without the country that sits at the very heart of Europe. But it is an open question whether achieving joint European security with Germany's participation is even possible.

Europeans must not allow wishful thinking to obscure important facts, as happened when the European Monetary Union was being formed in the 1990s. From the start, there were pronounced differences between individual member states not only with respect to economic and fiscal policy, but also in terms of political culture and mentality. Nonetheless, willful ignorance prevailed, and the monetary union was launched without the integrated political institutions that such a project requires.

The EU must not make this mistake again. Today, the main fact that cannot be ignored is that a joint security policy will require a compromise between Germany and France, the two largest and most powerful member states. Such a compromise will not come easily. The two countries' political mentalities, historical narratives, and geopolitical interests are simply too far apart, and in many cases diametrically opposed. Still, owing to its particular history, Germany poses the bigger obstacle, even if its official rhetoric suggests otherwise.

For its part, France's traditional self-image reflects its long history as a great European power, even if that era - and Europe's global dominance generally - has passed. As a nuclear power and a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, France views its military actions and arms exports not as moral failures but as the prerogatives of a world power conducting foreign policy.

The genius of Charles de Gaulle was to claim the status of a victorious power for his country after World War II. Doing so invited French citizens to forget the Vichy regime, the defeat by the Nazis in 1940, and the internal political rifts of the 1930s. It was thanks to de Gaulle that France maintained its historical course.

The same cannot be said for Germany. During the twentieth century, Germany made two bids for European hegemony and world domination, and the price it paid was its own destruction, to say nothing of Europe's. Its sense of historical continuity was demolished in 1945, at which point its culture and traditions were devalued and its territorial integrity destroyed. Germany became synonymous with aggression, terror, and genocide.

Postwar Germany abandoned military-based power politics and foreign adventurism, and concerned itself primarily with economic development. Germans simply saw no other way to gain reentry to the democratic West, let alone reclaim political sovereignty. This strategy culminated in the reunification of East and West Germany in 1990.

With the shift away from power politics in 1945, Germans on both the left and the right became pacifists. And to this day, many Germans remain deeply and emotionally committed to neutrality, despite many decades of European integration and NATO membership. This has been particularly true in the post-reunification period, owing in no small measure to America's security guarantee and willingness to manage the dirty business of power politics on Germany's behalf. But this cozy division of labor, like the American-led postwar order, came to an end with the election of Trump.

A German return to traditional power politics certainly has its risks. But the alternative is to maintain the status quo and forego a joint EU security policy. A policy consisting of more than lofty words necessarily implies a deepening of political integration in the name of European sovereignty. Without common export rules, for example, there can be no meaningful cooperation on European armaments development, let alone more far-reaching and ambitious projects.

Germans are currently engaged in an intense debate over defense spending, which must rise to 2% of GDP by 2024 to meet the country's NATO commitments. Given the foreseeable geopolitical risks on the horizon, in the absence of a joint EU security policy, German defense spending would have to rise even higher to make up for the US's withdrawal from Europe.

Needless to say, Germany's rearmament on its own would raise many questions and historical concerns. Rearmament with and for Europe and NATO, however, would be a completely different matter. One way or another, Europe must grow stronger. It is in everyone's interest that Germany be productively engaged in that process.

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. Goan Jr.
Procurement & Logistics Manager

Approved: 
S. Bidi Elliott
Director of Administration



TransAtlantic Africa Investment Consultants Liberia Limited
(TRANSAT AFRICA)


24th Street, Airfield Shortcut Road Sinkor

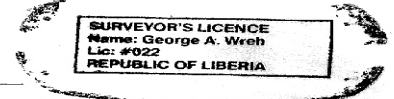
SURVEY NOTICE/ANNOUNCEMENT

The national Port Authority (NPA) has requested, authorized and hired the Transatlantic Africa Investment Consultants Inc., to provide and conduct Land Re-surveying services for the Port of Buchanan, Grand Bassa County. The quantity of available land that will be re-surveyed is seven thousand four hundred (7,400) acres, located within the entire Buchanan Port land area.

The surveying services will assist the National Port Authority (NPA) review and ensure quality assurance, making use of information gathered from the re-survey to determine the relative position of the land space available for extended port operations as well as ware-housing activities. The Field work will include Perimeter Survey and location of details and infrastructure.

The survey will commence at 10:00am, Thursday, March 7, 2019 and will continue and cover period of six (6) weeks. Therefore, all property owners, port users, concessions, companies, County and Local authorities, Local Communities, occupants, etc., are requested to be present with their deeds, diagrams, and all relevant documents to support and substantiate their claims; and are also required to take note and give their fullest cooperation for the successful outcome and result of the re-survey exercise.

Signed by: 
George Ashton Wreh
Survey Engineer



Approved by: 
Joseph E. Massad
Acting General Manager
Transatlantic Africa Investment consultant, Inc.

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Public Service Announcement

A Liberian passport with number # L 214051 belonging to Mr. James K. Nimene of Paynesville is reportedly missing.

The passport has an issuant date of 2/06/2017 and expiry date 02/05/2022.

Any one coming across this passport should please call 0886484201 for a handsome reward.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Senate probes Nimba mining disaster

By Ethel A. Tweh

Maryland County Senator J. Gbleh-bo Brown has written a communication requesting plenary to invite the heads of the National Disaster Management Agency, Ministry Mines and Energy and the Liberian Immigration Service to brief the Senate on the status of the recovery process of those trapped in a mudslide in Nimba.

A number of the trapped gold miners died in the mudslide, but authorities say they were making efforts to recover those who may still be alive.

The call comes days after President George Manneh Weah ordered a technical committee headed by Internal Affairs Minister Varney Sirleaf to work with the National Disaster Management Agency to move as quickly as possible to the affected area.

Sen. Browne wants the authorities to provide briefing on the current status of the recovery process, stressing that there is need that an action be taken to avoid reoccurrence.

The Maryland County lawmaker adds that prior to

the incident, there have been persistent reports of illegal mining activities in many parts of Liberia.

According to him, most of those alleged illegal mining activities have been associated with foreign agents.

Further citing reports, Sen. Browne says foreign nationals are said to have brought and deployed heavy equipment in Liberia's forests and are engaged in illegal mining

activities here.

Browne says the heavy presence of foreign agents in the interior parts of Liberia where there is little or no security presence does not only undermine Liberia's economy, but also poses serious security threat to Liberian citizens.

According to him, the tragic deaths of Liberians that were at the alleged illegal mining site should serve as a wake-up

call for action.

He however requests the heads of the government agencies concerned to answer to the Senate about alleged illegal mining and those foreign agents that are involved.

It can be recalled that about 40 persons were reportedly trapped at the

Gbanepea Gold Mine in Gbanepea Town, Near Tappita City in Nimba County on 9 February. The disaster was termed as emergency, and Sen. Browne's communication was accepted by the Senate and was sent to the appropriate committees to report in the soonest possible time.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



Senator J. Gbleh-bo Brown

Weah in Israel

President George Manneh Weah is in the State of Israel at the head of a high-level government delegation that departed Liberia Friday, 22 February on a four-day official visit.

The Executive Mansion says in a statement issued over the weekend that the visit is in honor of an invitation extended to President Weah by the Government and people of Israel.

While in Israel, the Mansion says President Weah will hold

ceremony, an historic event for every visiting President or Head of State.

Those accompanying President Weah include the Minister of Foreign Affairs Gbehzohngar Findley; Minister of National Defense Daniel Ziankahn; Minister of Agriculture Mogana Flomo; and Minister of Mines & Energy Gesler Murray.

Others are Minister of Health Wilhelmina Jallah; Minister of Finance Samuel Tweah; Minister of Information Len Eugene Nagbe; the Head of the National



Juli Endee rallies Liberians to support government

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

Liberia's Culture Ambassador Juli Endee has rallied Liberians to get behind the government of President George Manneh Weah, in furtherance of peace and economic development.

According to our correspondent, Ambassador Endee says it is time that every Liberian thinks positively

about Liberia and join hands with the government in bringing development to the country.

Speaking recently, Endee says she wants citizens to embrace one another and promote peace as a vehicle for economic developments.

She believes that the success of President Weah will yield massive dividends in the lives of every Liberian

particularly the ordinary people if citizens rally around the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) in promoting the government.

"Let us maintain the peace and support our government because with peace there will be developments. With peace you will make your farm and grow more food to feed your children and your children will go to school without fear of harassments. With peace I'm able to travel around the country to sing my music freely", Ambassador Endee continues.

Ambassador Endee argues that when political leaders of the country put aside their differences and work together, the lives of the common people stand to change for the better.

She says the level of development undertaken by the government since it was inaugurated is worth commending.

In concluding, she denounces the culture of violence and calls on citizens of the country to embrace peace at all times.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



discussions with Israel's President Mr. Reuven Rivlin and the Prime Minister Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu respectively.

The meetings, according to the press release, will focus on the creation of investment opportunities in agriculture, health, security and energy sectors by Israelis financiers.

President Weah will also participate in a traditional and cultural "Tree Planting"

Investment Commission Molewuleh Gray and Monrovia City Mayor Jefferson Koijee.

While President Weah is away, the Minister of State for Presidential Affairs Nathaniel F. McGill will chair the affairs of the Cabinet in close consultation with the Vice President, Madam Jewel Howard-Taylor and via telephone conversation with the President.--*Press release*

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

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Lawmaker complains LRA, BIVAC

By Bridgett Milton

Lofa County District #3 Rep. Clarence Massaquoi has complained the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) and the Bureau Veritas (BIVAC) to the House of Representatives for not reporting to the House's specialized committee set up to review all

institutions which are enjoying tax incentives and tax waivers.

The Specialized Committee was appointed by House Speaker Bhofal Chambers during the 2nd Day Sitting of the 2nd Session of the House following a letter from Rep. Massaquoi to review all concessions and incentives.

Rep. Massaquoi in his communication recently says

believe that the concessions and investment incentives that are currently in place should be looked at.

According to Rep. Massaquoi, from the the Committee's investigation so far, the Liberia Agriculture Company (LAC), Firestone Liberia, APM Terminals, Conex Petroleum, and ArcelorMittal are some of the concessions or



incentives and concession agreements.

Rep. Massaquoi chairs the Specialized Committee. He complains that the LRA is delaying to give the Committee the cost incentive, total amount of all the tax incentives or tax waivers from all concessions and business

it is an open knowledge that the current economic status as a country is challenged.

He informs his colleagues at the House that the selfless inputs of all stakeholders to revive the economy and rekindle the hope of the people is needed now.

The lawmaker expresses

business institutions that are in compliance.

Meanwhile the specialized committee has asked the House Plenary for an extension to enable them to look into the investigation. The request was granted by plenary.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

Margibi fire victims appeal for help

Residents of Korr - Ta village in Section Four, Wea Clan, Electoral District Four, Margibi County are appealing for

assistance from the Liberian government, the Liberia National Red Cross Society, District Representative, Ben A. Fofana, and other

philanthropists for help.

There was however no human casualty reports during the fire incident in Korr- Ta.

Their appeal comes in the wake of a fire disaster that razed over 10 houses to the ground recently in the district.

The incident left over nine rice hut (kitchen) burnt without villagers taking out anything in a disaster that occurred at about 2:00 P.M. on Wednesday, February 13th.

General Town Chief, Binda Sackie told the Liberia News Agency circumstances that led to the houses gutted with fire is not yet known, as local government is still carrying out a thorough investigation.

"All of our rice kitchens got burned flat to the ground and as a result, we are now left with no food at all to sustain ourselves in the coming days; therefore, we are appealing to all goodwill individuals to please help us in the wake of our ordeal", Chief Sackie



Flashback: A fire disaster scene

Fire destroys business center in Paynesville

By Emmanuel Mondaye

A fire disaster destroyed a business center that was being run in a 20 - foot container shop on 22 February in the Peace Island Community of Paynesville, displacing owners of the shop as well.

The affected business center identified as Julee and Sons Business Center was trading dry goods in Jacob Town, Paynesville City.

The container shop was partitioned and used as a place for petty trading and a portion of it as residence for the family that owned the business.

But fire consumed the entire area, displacing the family.

An eyewitness and resident of the area Mr. Augustine Arkoi told our reporter that the fire disaster left the entire goods in the container burnt.

He says some youth in the area made efforts to extinguish the fire, but they never succeeded until the damage was done.

Residents say the lack of water at the time of the fire incident further frustrated the young people's efforts aimed at extinguishing the fire.

Mr. Arkoi narrates that the fire disaster displaced the owner of the business center and her family.

According to him, the affected family had partitioned the container shop for their residence and for petty trade before the incident.

Cause of the fire disaster was not established immediately.

The proprietress of the business establishment Madam Julee Teta Wilson expresses frustration over the incident, saying she was at Redlight in Paynesville when the incident occurred.

She tells our reporter that she went to shopping at Redlight when she received a call from one of her neighbors that her entire business center and dwelling place had been gutted by fire.

She adds that by the time she arrived at the scene of the fire disaster most of the goods inside the container and her dwelling place had been destroyed by the time she arrived on the incident scene, Julee explains.

She is now worried that she is left with no money to cater to she and her family as a result of this incident.

She laments that she already bought goods with all the money she had for the business before she learned of the disaster.

Julee appeals to her colleagues and friends to come to her rescue.

Further information gathered indicates that the residents did not call the Liberia National Fire Service (LNFS), and it is not known why the LNFS was not called.

A personnel at the LNFS office Paynesville who did not want to be named has told our reporter that the LNFS was investigating the cause of the fire disaster and would make the outcome public.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



pleas.

He narrates they all left the village to commence brushing for a new rice farm for this year only to receive information fire had engulfed their houses and rice kitchens.

"We are in dire need of help, and if nothing is done now, the coming days will be very tough for families in the town as we will have no rice to plant for this year."

Meanwhile, Margibi County

Superintendent Jerry Varnie expressed serious concern about the incident in Korr- Ta.

Superintendent Varnie described it as a very troubling news especially, when citizens are gearing up for the upcoming farming season in their respective communities.

He said his office was quickly studying the situation in order to adequately address it and avoid citizens being stricken by hunger.

Français

Front commun des partis politiques de l'opposition : un accord de principe signé

Quatre partis politiques de l'opposition ont finalement signé un accord de principe, confirmant ainsi leur volonté de joindre leurs forces dans le cadre des élections prochaines, à savoir notamment les élections sénatoriales spéciales de 2020 et les élections présidentielles et législatives de 2023, respectivement.

En effet, L'ALP (All Liberians Party) de l'homme d'affaires reconverti à la politique Benoni Urey, l'ANC (National Alternative Congress) de l'ancien directeur Afrique de Coca-Cola Alexander Cummings, le Parti de la liberté (LP) de Me Charles Walker Brumskine et l'ancien parti au pouvoir, le Parti de l'unité dirigé par l'ancien vice-président Joseph Boakai semblent très déterminés à donner du fil à retordre au président George Manneh Weah et à sa Coalition pour le changement démocratique au pouvoir.

Lors de la cérémonie de signature officielle qui a eu lieu le jeudi 21 février au siège de l'ancien parti au pouvoir, à Congo Town, les partis ont convenu d'adopter une



position commune sur les questions d'intérêt national. Ils s'engagent à rester concentrés sur le bien-être de la population et à ne pas permettre à leurs différences politiques et leurs ambitions personnelles de compromettre leur coopération.

Ces partis politiques se disent convaincus que la prospérité et la sécurité à long terme du Libéria ne sont possibles que dans un cadre de processus démocratique juste,

transparent et compétitif où les partis politiques de l'opposition sont reconnus comme étant des forces et des partenaires indispensables au développement national et au renforcement de la jeune démocratie du pays.

Les partis alliés sont conscients du poids et de la force que représentent les avis collectifs des leaders politiques sur les questions de gouvernance nationale, d'état de droit et de responsabilité.

Ils reconnaissent la responsabilité sacrée que les citoyens confient toujours aux dirigeants nationaux pour défendre leurs intérêts. Ils s'engagent ainsi à contribuer aux efforts de développement du pays, conscients de ce que le processus politique du Libéria nécessite une

approche désintéressée qui place l'intérêt commun de la nation au-dessus des aspirations et des ambitions individuelles.

Les partis s'engagent à travailler ensemble pour la survie du Libéria, pour une paix durable et la prospérité, qui sont pour eux une priorité absolue, tout en reconnaissant la responsabilité individuelle et collective d'inverser la tendance, c'est-à-dire sortir le pays de la « détérioration » qu'il connaît sous la gouverne du président Weah.

Les partis alliés disent en outre reconnaître également l'importance de la démocratie multipartite et la lutte pour l'inclusion nationale et invitent donc tous les autres partis et les acteurs qui partagent les mêmes valeurs et principes à adhérer. Par ailleurs, ces quatre partis politiques de l'opposition assurent que leurs comités exécutifs nationaux respectifs vont rapidement mettre en place et approuver les cadres et les modalités de l'alliance politique.

Tentative présumée d'assassinat du président : Mme Taylor s'en prend à l'opposition

Le bureau de la vice-présidente Jewel Howard-Taylor exhorte le président George Manneh Weah à ne pas se fier aux rumeurs et aux commérages qui lui sont transmis par une opposition présumée dont le seul but serait de créer un malentendu entre les deux premières personnalités de la

république.

Le Coordonnateur du bureau du comté de Bong de Mme Taylor, M. Kusee Armstrong, a déclaré lors d'une conférence de presse tenue le mercredi 20 février que le gouvernement devait enquêter et tirer des conclusions qui permettraient de savoir si sa patronne, Mme Taylor, et le représentant du

comté de Bong, Marvin Cole, avaient, oui ou non, l'intention de renverser le gouvernement.

Le bureau de la vice-présidente a lancé cet appel à la suite de la publication d'un enregistrement audio troublant de la surintendante du comté de Bong, Esther Walker, qui est actuellement sous le coup d'une suspension. L'enregistrement en question fait état du fait que des responsables clés du gouvernement du président Weah soupçonnent la vice-présidente Taylor et le député Marvin Cole de vouloir renverser ce gouvernement.

« Un pays comme le Libéria ne prend pas les accusations de terrorisme à la légère. Si le président Weah était quelqu'un qui n'enquête pas, il aurait maintenant ordonné l'arrestation de la vice-présidente Howard Taylor et de l'honorable Marvin Cole », a déclaré M. Armstrong.

« Nous disons donc que le président ne devrait pas prendre cette situation à la légère », poursuit-il.

M. Armstrong demande au

gouvernement d'ouvrir une enquête afin de tirer des conclusions dans cette affaire, car il est convaincu que « c'est le bloc de l'opposition qui colporte des mensonges contre Mme Taylor et le représentant Cole au président ».

Il accuse plus particulièrement les membres du bloc d'opposition du comté de Bong d'avoir propagé des commérages auprès du maire de Monrovia, Jefferson Kojee, du ministre d'État Nathaniel McGill et du ministre des Finances, Samuel Tweh.

Il a invité ce bloc d'opposition à rester à l'écart du gouvernement de la Coalition pour un changement démocratique (CDC), ajoutant que « si nous voulons les consulter, nous le ferons. Mais qu'ils nous laissent tranquille ». A M. Armstrong d'affirmer que le bloc d'opposition du comté n'a l'intention que de renverser le gouvernement, déplorant le fait que le président Weah lui-même se

soit entouré de ces personnes qui ne font que divulguer des rumeurs.

M. Armstrong n'a cité aucun nom, mais il accuse les membres de l'ancien parti au pouvoir. Toutefois, comme pour laisser entrevoir un indice, il a indiqué que ces membres du Parti de l'unité concernés ont exercé leur premier mandat lors du premier mandat de l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

Pourtant, le seul législateur du comté de Bong à avoir exercé son premier mandat au cours du premier mandat de l'ancienne présidente Sirleaf est l'actuel vice-président de la Chambre des représentants, Prince Kermue Moye. Mais nous ne pouvons être formels.

Quoi qu'il en soit, M. Armstrong a exhorté le président Weah à faire preuve de prudence, car cette situation risque de donner lieu à de graves malentendus entre lui et son numéro deux si l'on n'y prend pas garde.



Articles traduits

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Français

Le président ivoirien dans le collimateur des anti-FCFA

Monsieur le Président de la République de la Côte d'Ivoire, ancien vice-gouverneur et ancien-gouverneur de la BCEAO, ancien Directeur Général du FMI pour l'Afrique, ancien Conseiller économique de 120 pays à travers le monde qui ont tous sombré dans la faillite.

Monsieur le Président

Lors de votre intervention sur les médias, vous avez affirmé que : le Franc CFA est une monnaie africaine depuis 1960, c'est une propriété des Africains. Que le débat sur le FCFA est un faux débat.

Nous sommes une fois de plus dans l'obligation de vous enseigner sur les fondements d'une monnaie et l'histoire du FCFA. Au plan juridique "la propriété est" le droit de jouir et disposer des choses de la manière la plus absolue" (article 544 du Code civil français). Permettez-nous de vous informer que le FCFA ne nous appartient pas !

Un brevet est déposé par la France sur le FCFA. Elle est propriétaire du FCFA et bailleur, elle nous la loue. Tout simplement parce que battre monnaie relève purement de la volonté du peuple ou bien de ses représentants.

Il existe trois classes de citoyens qui interviennent dans la création d'une monnaie, ce sont :

1-) Les experts qui mettent leur expertise au service du politique pour l'intérêt du peuple, pour démontrer les avantages et les inconvénients d'avoir une monnaie propre au peuple.

2-) Le politique à son tour, étudie le contexte géopolitique nationale et internationale, les capacités du peuple à assurer la survie d'une monnaie souveraine, l'observation de critères de convergence quand il s'agit d'une Union Monétaire, c'est à dire l'appartenance à une Zone Monétaire Optimale (ZMO) (selon les termes de Mendel 1961)...

Le politique n'ayant pas le dernier mot, fait appel à l'unique souverain : Le Peuple.

3-) Le peuple en dernier ressort, par référendum ou par ses représentants, décide si oui ou non il veut sa monnaie.

Exemple: Le 20 septembre 1992, avant que la France ne rejette le franc français pour l'Euro, le peuple français a été appelé par référendum et à 51%, le peuple français a rejeté le Franc français pour l'Euro.

Nous avons vu tout récemment la Grèce qui a fait pareil pour rejeter l'Euro.

Nous avons parcouru toutes les constitutions des pays africains du FCFA, il n'existe dans aucune constitution, ni dans aucun journal officiel un seul article ni un seul décret qui reconnaissent le Franc CFA comme étant la monnaie du peuple africain.

Le Franc CFA n'est pas un héritage colonial mais une monnaie coloniale contrairement à la langue française qui est reconnue dans toutes les constitutions des pays africains francophones comme étant la langue officielle.

Le seul décret au monde qui reconnaît le FCFA c'est : l'article 3 du décret N° 45-0136 du 26 décembre 1945. Les signataires de ce décret furent : Charles de GAULLE, Président du Gouvernement provisoire, René PLEVEN, Ministre des finances et Jacques SOUSTELLE, Ministre des colonies.

Monsieur le Président

Nous vous informons également que la BCEAO que vous aviez dirigée en tant qu'employé du trésor français, n'est pas juridiquement reconnue sur le marché international et la France seule a le pouvoir de vendre et d'acheter le franc CFA sur l'échiquier international.

La BCEAO n'a jamais participé à la conférence internationale sur la monnaie organisée par le FMI. Les Zones CFA ont toujours été représentées par la France chaque première semaine du Mois d'Octobre de chaque année de la conférence internationale sur les monnaies. Et Pour mémoire :

1-) Le rapport d'information N° 2907 produit par l'Assemblée Nationale de France dit que c'est : "La Banque de France qui achète et vend quotidiennement les devises sur le marché des changes pour le compte des Institutions d'émission africaines"

2-) Edouard BALLADUR ancien Ministre d'État de l'Économie, des Finances et de la Privatisation et ancien Premier Ministre français disait que : « le FCFA a été dévalué à l'initiative de la France »

3-) Le Vendredi 30 Septembre 2016 à Bercy, le Ministre de l'économie et des Finances français Michel SAPIN avait réuni ses homologues des 14 Pays du Franc CFA pour « échanger sur les grands enjeux économiques et monétaires d'intérêt commun. » Cette rencontre avait un autre objectif : les tenir informés de la tenue des assemblées du FMI et de la Banque mondiale organisées dans la première semaine du mois d'octobre 2016 avec la participation de toutes les monnaies officielles du monde entier à Washington avec pour thème : "Croissance, investissement, développement..." Le grand absent représenté par la France était : le franc CFA, une monnaie au service de la France depuis plus de soixante-dix ans.

Monsieur le Président, vous nous parlez de la technicité de la monnaie et de sa stabilité. Voyons le point de vue de ceux qui ont créé le FCFA

Le même Edouard BALLADUR disait que :

COMMENTAIRE

Par Perseus Mlambo

Un conflit numérique des générations en Afrique

LONDRES - L'Afrique est le plus jeune continent au monde. Mais parce que les chefs d'État africains ont tendance à être plus âgés - avec un âge moyen de 62 ans - ils ne sont plus en phase avec la jeunesse africaine. Lors d'une manifestation à Londres en avril dernier, le Président Muhammadu Buhari a suggéré que les jeunes nigériens étaient paresseux et qu'ils recherchaient les subventions gouvernementales, ce qui a provoqué une violente réaction sur les médias sociaux (hashtag : #LazyNigerianYouths) de la part des jeunes Nigériens qui y ont listé l'ensemble de leurs activités productives.

Pour sa part, la plate-forme de prêt mobile nigérienne OneFi a présenté certains de ses clients notoires. Avec un petit prêt, une jeune femme a été en mesure d'acheter du stock pour une entreprise en gros de bananes plantains ; un autre jeune entrepreneur a pu créer un élevage de volailles de 1 000 poulets.

Des start-ups technologiques africaines comme OneFi doivent leur existence en grande partie à l'expansion de l'Internet mobile à travers le continent. Avec une base d'utilisateurs de smartphones de 725 millions d'ici 2020 et un accès à Internet censé connaître une croissance de 130 % d'ici les six prochaines années, l'économie numérique africaine pourrait créer des millions d'emplois pour les jeunes Africains.

En considérant que près de deux-tiers de la population de l'Afrique subsaharienne a moins de 25 ans et que pas moins de 29 millions de jeunes entrent sur le marché du travail chaque année, une forte augmentation des opportunités d'emploi est essentielle pour l'avenir de l'Afrique. Malheureusement, une tendance vers la réglementation gouvernementale excessive menace de faire échouer la création d'emplois d'avenir.

Comme tous les autres gouvernements, ceux de l'Afrique s'efforcent constamment de suivre le rythme de l'innovation technologique. Alors que la technologie redéfinit fondamentalement la vie de tous les jours et change la façon de communiquer, que les Africains consomment des médias et payent des biens et services, de nombreux gouvernements prennent à peine conscience de l'émergence de l'économie numérique. Mais au lieu d'agir par petite touches en créant un ensemble de règlements nuancés, un trop grand nombre imposent des mesures de haut en bas, qui risquent d'étouffer l'explosion des start-ups.

Voyez par exemple le cas de l'Ouganda, qui a récemment créé une taxe sur les médias sociaux, soi-disant dans le but de décourager la propagation de « rumeurs » et de générer des recettes fiscales à partir des applications étrangères de médias sociaux. En pratique, les entreprises étrangères ont simplement transmis les coûts aux utilisateurs finaux, par l'intermédiaire de leurs fournisseurs de télécommunications. Pour quelqu'un qui utilise les médias sociaux tous les jours, le coût d'achat d'un lot de données prépayé a augmenté de 23 à 62 %, ce qui a conduit à une baisse de 20 % des abonnés aux services de données mobiles. Pour l'achat d'un gigaoctet de données, les Ougandais qui gagnent moins que le revenu annuel moyen de 606 dollars doivent maintenant consacrer environ 40 % de leurs revenus mensuels.

Le gouvernement du Bénin a tenté de reproduire cette politique mal conçue de l'Ouganda. Mais après une indignation généralisée, le Bénin a abrogé la taxe après seulement trois jours. Le gouvernement de l'Ouganda semble moins préoccupé par l'opinion publique : en plus de la taxe sur les médias sociaux, il a également imposé une taxe de 1 % sur les transactions d'argent mobile.

De nombreuses nouvelles réglementations numériques ressemblent à des tentatives classiques de limiter la liberté d'expression et l'organisation politique. En Tanzanie, une politique draconienne, présentée en mars dernier, oblige toute personne publiant un blog ou site Internet à payer 930 dollars

pour une licence. C'est plus cher que le PIB annuel par habitant. Le gouvernement tanzanien s'efforce également de faire passer un projet de loi qui criminaliserait le fait de diffuser des données sans la permission du statisticien en chef du pays.

De telles mesures risquent de limiter durement les services qui pourraient être offerts par toute start-up qui s'appuie sur les flux de données. La plate-forme mPharma au Ghana, par exemple, utilise des analyses sur des ensembles de données anonymisées pour prévoir la demande en médicaments prescrits sur ordonnance afin de négocier de meilleurs prix auprès des fabricants de produits pharmaceutiques, en réduisant ainsi les coûts pour les utilisateurs finaux. Si la politique de la Tanzanie devient la nouvelle norme, ce modèle économique fondé sur les données - et qui est courant dans les start-ups africaines - va être mis en péril.

Sur un continent où plus d'un cinquième de la population en âge de travailler a démarré une nouvelle entreprise, Internet et les médias sociaux se sont avérés indispensables pour le marketing et service à la clientèle. Pourtant certains dirigeants africains tentent de justifier les nouvelles mesures en soulignant la nécessité des recettes fiscales et en caractérisant l'activité en ligne comme futile, stérile voire même comme antipatriotique.

Par exemple, le Président ougandais Yoweri Museveni a assimilé la taxe sur les médias sociaux à la taxe sur d'autres vices sociaux. Mais quand Museveni est arrivé au pouvoir il y a 33 ans, les nouvelles technologies les plus avancées étaient les véhicules blindés et les machines de récolte du café. Malheureusement, bien que de jeunes leaders émergents comme Bobi Wine, un acteur ougandais devenu député, aient pris la parole en faveur des jeunes et se soient opposés aux intérêts économiques bien établis et aux prises de décision inefficaces, les Museveni de la région n'ont eu aucune difficulté à les faire taire ou à les ignorer.

Les conséquences de la réglementation gouvernementale excessive vont avoir de profondes répercussions. On estime qu'une augmentation d'une dizaine de points de pourcentage du taux de pénétration du haut débit mobile entraîne une augmentation de 1,38 point de pourcentage du taux de croissance de l'économie. En outre, la plupart des start-ups technologiques africaines actuellement touchées par ces mesures ont été créées pour fournir des services de base que les institutions traditionnelles et les gouvernements n'ont pas réussi à fournir, aussi bien dans le domaine bancaire, des services de santé ou encore dans celui de la logistique du dernier kilomètre. La volonté de réglementer impulsivement à l'aveugle risque de laisser encore une fois les consommateurs en plan.

L'excès de réglementation peut également effrayer les investisseurs internationaux, qui évaluent la viabilité commerciale des start-ups fondées sur la technologie mobile en fonction du nombre d'abonnés qu'elles peuvent acquérir. Étant donné que les coûts des données mobiles en Afrique sont déjà élevés par rapport aux revenus moyens, l'introduction de nouvelles taxes et réglementations lourdes signifie que de nombreuses entreprises vont perdre des investisseurs.

Les élites africaines au pouvoir ignorent les besoins des jeunes à leurs risques et périls. En 2055, plus de 450 millions d'Africains - environ un cinquième de la population totale projetée du continent - aura entre 15 et 24 ans. En faisant obstacle à l'innovation numérique, les gouvernements africains empêchent la croissance d'un écosystème de haute technologie qui va générer des emplois de l'avenir.

Il est temps d'abroger ces réglementations trop zélées avant qu'elles ne causent trop de dégâts. Sinon, les jeunes dirigeants comme Chijioke et Ngozi Dozie, les fondateurs de OneFi, ne pourront jamais réaliser leur potentiel pour débloquent des opportunités pour des centaines de millions d'autres jeunes Africains.



Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission

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Office of the Executive Chairperson

RL/LACC/JNV-EC/2124/'19

February 22, 2019

Mr. Nathaniel F. McGill
 Ministry of State for Presidential Affairs
 The Executive Mansion
 Monrovia, Liberia

Dear Mr. Chief of Staff to the President:

I refer to your letter of 19 February 2019 (*MOS-RL/NFM-COS/0090/2019*) on the directive of the President of the Republic of Liberia, in which you requested the "list of all officials of Government" who have declared their assets; and you further inquired on behalf of the President, "whether or not an exit interview was done with former government officials".

Please allow me to respond to the request and inquiry in the following manner:

1. By "all Officials of Government" in my mind, you are making reference to the three branches of government. But as you may know, under our Asset Declaration regime, it's the individual heads of the three branches of government who are charged with the responsibilities to implement and enforce compliance by officials of their various branches. In the case of the Executive branch, it's the President of Liberia; in the case of the Judicial Branch, it's the Chief Justice; and the Legislature, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. So I am left to wonder if this request refer to "all officials of Government" or to all "officials of the Executive branch of Government".
2. I would surmise that the request refers to "all officials of the Executive Branch of Government. In that case, Sir, let me remind you, that on January 4, 2019, in a communication (*LACC/JAT-VC/gbn/001/19*) to the Office of the President of Liberia, "a listing of public officials in the Executive Branch of Government who HAVE filed" and "a listing of public Officials in the Executive Branch who HAVE NOT filed as per our mandate" were presented to the President. This means the President already has what you are requesting. Notwithstanding, and for the ease of reference, I am once again including in this response, a listing of all "officials of the Executive branch of government who HAVE filed their assets".
3. I am also concern why the request is made only for "Officials of Government who have filed their assets and not for those who HAVE NOT filed their assets. Because to institute punitive actions as required by law and was advised in our communication (*LACC/JNV-EC/2106/'18*) is inaccurate. However, I have once again attached this list of non-compliant officials of the Executive branch of government who have deliberately, defiantly, and disrespectfully refused to file asset declarations in keeping with law.
4. Mr. Chief of Staff to the President, if your communication actually refers to a list of "all officials of Government" who have filed asset declaration, then please confirm this and we will be obliged to send you the listings of the Judicial Branch of Government. There has been a zero percent compliance on the part of the Legislative branch. There is no listing for this branch.
5. Now, regarding the President's inquiry as to "whether or not an *exit interview* was done with former government officials", my respond is NO. There is no law requiring an "exit interview". The National Code of Conduct in Part 10.1 provides: "Every Public Official and Employee of Government involved in making decisions affecting contracting, tendering or procurement, and issuance of licenses of various types shall sign performance or financial bonds and shall in addition declare his or her income, assets and liabilities prior to taking office and thereafter: (a) at the end of every three years; (b) on promotion or progression from one level to another; (c) upon transfer to another public office; and (d) upon retirement or resignation.
6. I believe you are referring to the "exit declaration". This is another weakness in the Code of Conduct because there is no supplemental clause that compels or punishes public officials upon retirement, resignation or even dismissal to file their exit declaration. We have had less than 1% compliance with this provision and the law does not give the LACC neither power nor authority to ensure compliance by officials exiting government.
7. Finally, Sir, I want to draw your attention to your salutation in your letter where you referred to me as "Mr. Counselor-At-Law". Please note that "Counselor-At-Law" is a professional title and it's not my surname. The appropriate and/or conventional/official salutations would be: Mr. Executive Chairperson / Chairman; Counselor Verdier; Mr. Verdier, etc. I hope this is taken into consideration in future communication.

Kind personal regards.


 James Nyepan Verdier, Jr.
 COUNSELOR-AT-LAW



Playing with fire

By Othello B. Garblah

There appears to be some wisps of silver grey smoke hanging in the air shifting like ghosts between the hallways of the Executive Mansion and the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission or LACC.

Both buildings, though some miles apart, have seen the exchange of communications over the battle for assets declaration like a fog in an alley of a humid night.

This come days after President George Weah told a BBC interview that his assets have not been made public to the Liberian people because “he wants to protect his children’s privacy.”

The President’s interview was followed by an interview with the LACC Chairman, Cllr. James N. Verdier Jr., who indicated that the integrity institution has not been given the necessary support to function.

This may have apparently erupted the cloud of smoke on Thursday February 21, 2019 when the Executive Mansion wrote the LACC requesting the agency to furnish the office of the President with the list of all individuals within government who have declared their assets as required by law.

The letter signed by the Minister of State, Mr. Nathaniel McGill further requested



Pres. Weah

Minister of State Nathaniel McGill

Cllr. James Verdier

information on “exit interview” presumed to have been conducted by the LACC for former government officials.

However, on February 22, 2019, in what appears to be a tutorial for the minister of state, Cllr. Verdier responded: “By “all officials of government” in my mind, you are making reference to the three branches of government. But as you may know, under our Assets Declaration regime, it’s the individual heads of the three branches of government who are charged with the responsibility to implement and enforce compliance by officials of their various

branches.”

“In the case of the Executive Branch,” Cllr. Verdier continues, “it’s the President of Liberia; in the Judicial Branch, it’s the Chief Justice; and the Legislature, the Speaker for the House of Representative and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. So I am left to wonder if this request refer to “all officials of Government” or to “all officials of the Executive branch of Government.”

Cllr. Verdier then came back to address the issue as if the preceding paragraph was intended to clarify his doubt. “I would surmise that the request refers to “all of the

officials of the Executive Branch of Government. In that case, Sir, let me remind you that on January 4, 2019 in a communication (LACC/JAT-VC/gbnf/001/19) to the Office of the President of Liberia, “a listing of public officials in the Executive Branch of Government who have filed” and “a listing of Public officials in the Executive branch who have not filed as per our mandate was presented to the President.

“This means the president already has what you are requesting.” Cllr. Verdier said adding, “Notwithstanding, and for the ease of reference, I am once again including in this response, a listing of “all officials of the Executive branch of government who have filed their assets.

As if this was not enough, Cllr. Verdier expresses concern over the President’s request.

“I am also concern why the request is made only for officials of government who have filed their assets and not for those who have not filed their assets because to institute punitive actions as

required by the law and was advised in our communication (LACC/JNV-EC/2106/18) is inaccurate. However, I have once again attached this list of non-complaint officials of the Executive branch of government who have deliberately, defiantly and disrespectfully refused to file asset declarations in keeping with law,” Cllr. Verdier wrote.

Moreover, Cllr. Verdier went on further to address the initial inference saying “Mr. Chief of Staff to the President, if your communication actually refers to a list of “all officials of government,” who have filed their asset declaration, then please confirm this and we will be obliged to send the listings of the Judicial Branch of Government. There has been a zero percent compliance on the part of the Legislative branch. There is no listing on this branch.”

Part 10.1 of the National Code of Conduct provides that “every public official and employee of government involve in making decision affecting contracting, tendering or procurement and issuance of licenses of various types, assets or liabilities should prior to taking office and thereafter declare their assets (a) at the end of every three years, b) upon promotion or progression from one level to another c) upon transfer to another public office and d) upon retirement or resignation.

Cllr. Verdier said in relations to whether there was an exit interview that there is no law requiring an exit interview. And that if the minister of state meant to say “exit declaration” then the law has been weak on this one. See page 5 for detail of full letter.

“I’m not interested in gossip”

-VP Taylor

By Ethel A. Tweh

Vice President Jewel Howard - Taylor says she is not interested in gossips, in the wake of a disturbing leaked audio in which suspended Bong County Superintendent Esther Walker alleges that Madam Taylor and Rep. Marvin Cole are suspected of wanting to overthrow the government.

Speaking to a group of Legislative reporters Thursday, 21 February at the Capitol,

Madam Taylor says she has no interest in the gossips and rumors that are circulating in the country.

Madam Taylor and Bong County Rep. Marvin Cole are named in a leaked audio recording believed to contain narratives of suspended Superintendent Esther Walker as those allegedly suspected by Finance Minister Samuel Tweah and Minister of State for Presidential Affairs Nathaniel McGill of wanting to overthrow the government.

Madam Walker alleges that the suspicion to overthrow the

government came after Vice President Taylor was given high honor by the Chief Zoe of Bong County.

According to the recording, Madam Walker was angrily explaining her alleged encounter and conversation with senior members of Government at President George Manneh Weah’s Jamaica Resort off the Robertsfield Highway after the delivery of the State of the Nation Address.

But Vice President Taylor discloses that she is more concerned and focused on the improvement of the Liberian economy than to give ears to gossips.

“The governance of the state is of priority to me than to pay attention to issues that will undermine the growth and development of the country,” Vice President Taylor notes.

In a brief comment on the impeachment trial of Associate Justice Kabineh M. Ja’neh, Vice President Taylor vows that she will remain neutral in the impeachment trial.

And Madam Taylor stresses that Associate Justice Kabineh Ja’neh must be given due

#It’s shame that only in Liberia foreigners are siphoning billions thru sand and rock mining.#



process under the law of Liberia.

Justice Ja’neh is standing impeachment trial at the Liberia Senate on the basis of allegations levied against him by members of the House of

Representatives.

Masterminds of the impeachment process are lawmakers that are members of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC).-- Edited by Winston W. Parley

Man City beat Chelsea in shootout to win Carabao Cup



Manchester City won the Carabao Cup in a penalty shootout at Wembley after Chelsea goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga defied manager Maurizio Sarri's attempt to substitute him.

City claimed the first major trophy in their four-pronged assault on silverware but this stale final, which was goalless after extra time, will be remembered for an almost unprecedented challenge to Sarri's authority by Arrizabalaga.

The £71m Spanish keeper, Chelsea's club record signing, had been struggling with cramp in the closing stages of extra time and Sarri decided to send on substitute Willy Caballero, who saved three penalties in a shootout to help Manchester City win this trophy against Liverpool in 2016.

Arrizabalaga refused to come off and Sarri backed down in a rage, before his misery was completed as City won the shootout, with Raheem Sterling scoring the

winning penalty.

Carabao Cup final reaction from Wembley as Man City beat Chelsea on penalties

Keeper refuses to come off - how bizarre episode unfolded

Arrizabalaga incident a misunderstanding - Sarri

Pep Guardiola: Fernandinho and Aymeric Laporte injured in League Cup win

Ilkay Gundogan, Sergio Aguero and Bernardo Silva scored from the spot for City and even though Arrizabalaga saved from Leroy Sane it was to no avail.

Jorginho's spot kick was saved by Ederson and David Luiz hit the post as Chelsea were sunk, despite Cesar Azplicueta, Emerson and Eden Hazard converting their kicks.

City retained the trophy but Arrizabalaga's insubordination will be the headline story.

City claimed the first of the four trophies on their agenda without being at their silky, creative best.



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Pochettino facing touchline ban after Mike Dean confrontation

Mauricio Pochettino could be hit with a touchline ban for angrily confronting referee Mike Dean.

Pochettino ranted at Dean after Tottenham's damaging 2-1 defeat to Burnley at Turf Moor and the official is expected to include his

uncharacteristic outburst in his report to the FA.

The FA will study Dean's report - along with the others from the match - and are highly likely to charge Pochettino with misconduct.

The FA take a dim view of officials being abused and the Spurs boss could be clobbered

with a touchline ban.

Pochettino was remorseful afterwards and admitted he had "crossed the line" with his behaviour.

The Argentinian said: "I should have gone to the dressing room and got some water. A stupid thing happens and you react."



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