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The New Dawn

French Version Inside

TRULY INDEPENDENT

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European Union Ambassador Tiina Intelmann

P11

Web of Lies

Chief Justice presiding illegally

-**Clr. Brumskine**



Clr. Brumskine

P11



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Continental News

Bashir's state of emergency fails to end Sudan protests

Sudan's President Omar Hassan al-Bashir has declared a state of emergency in an attempt to end a 10-week uprising that has threatened to bring an end to his 30 years in power.

However, if anything, the protests have gathered momentum since his declaration. What has happened since the announcement?

Mr Bashir's declaration was widely anticipated and protesters had already taken to the streets before his speech on Friday, and continued as he was speaking. Since then, the protests have increased with thousands of demonstrators in the capital Khartoum and Omdurman, its twin city across the River Nile.

The opposition Umma National party and the protest organisers, the Sudanese Professionals' Association, have both rejected the new measures and called for more

protests to force Mr Bashir to step down.

The security forces have resumed firing live ammunition at protesters, according to opposition

sources. They say three people were injured with gunshot wounds on Sunday.

In hotspots such as the Khartoum district of Burri, door-to-door searches for

activists and protesters have been carried out. The embattled president declared a national state of emergency across the country to last for up to one year.

He dissolved the government after just over five months in office and sacked his long-time ally - the only remaining member of the original Revolutionary Command Council that carried out the coup which brought him to power in 1989 - Gen Bakri Hasan Salih as vice-president.

But he was replaced with another hardliner, former Defence Minister, Gen Awad Ibn Awof, who has been under US sanctions since 2006 for his alleged role in Darfur, when he was the chief of military intelligence.

President Bashir also dissolved all elected regional governments and replaced all state governors with senior military officials. There had been speculation that President Bashir would say he not running for another term and also that he would step down as head of the ruling National Congress Party (NCP). However, he did neither.

His resignation as president is the key demand of the ongoing anti-government demonstrations which started in mid-December. Mr Bashir did try to distance himself from the NCP by announcing that he would "stand at an equal distance from all the political forces", and most of the governors he sacked were from the ruling party.

Some Sudan observers have likened this moment to the infamous split between Mr Bashir and his Islamist "godfather", the late Hassan al-

Turabi in 1999. Back then, Mr Bashir dissolved parliament, suspended the constitution and split Sudan's Islamists between the National Congress and the Popular Congress parties.

On Monday, Sudanese press statements attributed to senior NCP figures suggest that the party will consider electing a new party head.

One senior regime stalwart, Amin Hassan Omar, told the Sudanese daily al-Intibaha that the president had consolidated all powers in his hands and the party could not be seen to be running the country.

But it is not yet clear whether Mr Bashir and the NCP will have a permanent split, as happened in 1999, or if it is just tactical manoeuvring. Since the state of emergency was declared, hundreds of pick-up trucks with mounted machine guns have been deployed onto Khartoum's streets, along with armoured personnel carriers. The pick-up trucks are known locally as Thatchers, after the former British prime minister - a reference to their agility and toughness. A show of force on this scale was last seen at the end of December.

Activists and protesters have ridiculed the declaration of a state of emergency with all the extra powers it gives the security forces.

They have pointed out that, as far as they are concerned, they have already been living under a state of emergency where the authorities use force with impunity, arrest people without warrants and detain them without investigation. BBC



An Unexpected Succession Battle Throws Kenya Into Chaos

A split in Kenya's ruling party over President Uhuru Kenyatta's successor is reigniting political tensions and threatening to hobble the government's ambitious reform agenda. Alliances in Kenyan politics are often in flux, but analysts say the current spat between Deputy President William Ruto and an ally of Kenyatta is particularly worrying and exposes a rupture between Kenya's two most senior

politicians.

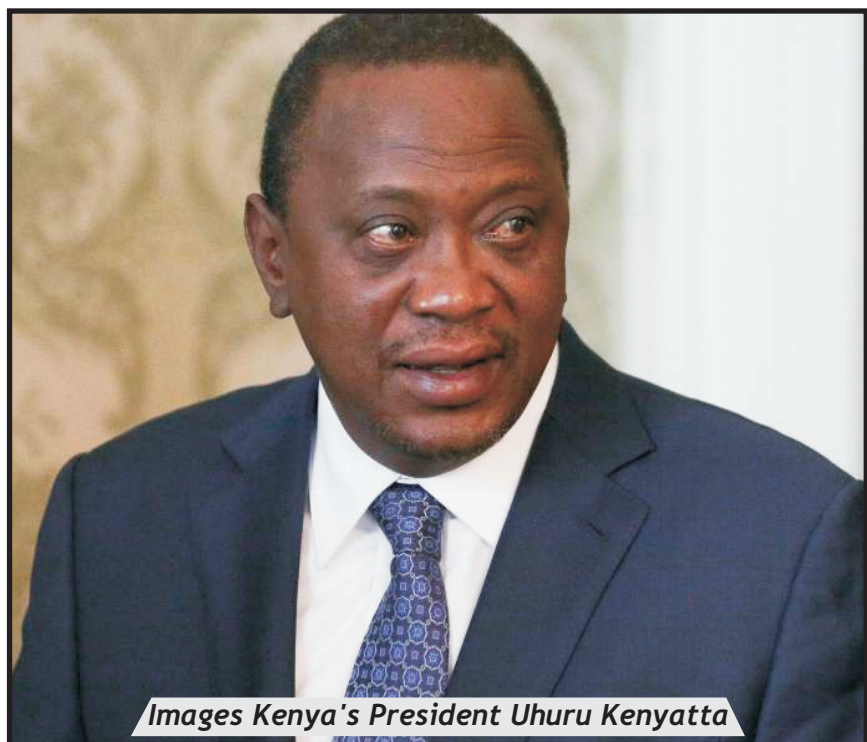
David Murathe, a former vice chairman of the ruling Jubilee party, has launched a series of stinging public attacks on Ruto this year. He has accused the leader of the politically influential Rift Valley region of embezzling public funds and declared him unfit to succeed Kenyatta as the party's next candidate for head of state.

Kenya is East Africa's biggest economy and an

important commercial hub for many of the region's biggest companies. Analysts warn that renewed political infighting could curtail development, less than two years after a disputed election rattled investors and suppressed growth.

Kenyatta and Ruto joined forces in 2013 when they were both under indictment by the International Criminal Court for their involvement in post-election violence in 2008. Ruto delivered his Rift Valley voters to help elect Kenyatta in 2013 and backed him again four years later on the understanding that he would succeed the president in 2022.

While the alleged deal was always unpopular with some sections of Kenyatta's support, it was accepted as a necessary compromise. But Murathe's attacks, which analysts say are designed by the party's leadership to torpedo the arrangement, have divided the alliance and threatened to plunge the country into a premature succession battle. "I am convinced he is not fit to run for president," says Murathe in an interview at his private residence in



Images Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta

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Nairobi. He adds that Ruto has focused on strengthening his own political and financial position and failed to support the president's agenda. "If he can behave like this when he is No. 2, how will he behave when he is No. 1? Because then he would have the absolute power to ride roughshod over everybody," says Murathe.

Marathe insists that his opinions are his own, but many observers say he is acting as a proxy for his friend Kenyatta. He stepped down from his position in the ruling party in January, saying he could no

longer work with Ruto in good faith.

"The importance of Murathe is that nobody thinks he is speaking for himself," says Murithi Mutiga, a Kenya expert at the International Crisis Group. "In the minds of the public, he is seen as speaking for a powerful camp within Jubilee that is mobilizing against Ruto."

Ruto dismissed Murathe's accusations while in London this month. "I haven't responded to David Murathe in Kenya, and I won't respond to him in Europe. AFP

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.

COMMENTARY

By Joschka Fischer

Will Germany Permit Joint European Security?

In an institution as large and complex as the European Union, there will always be blame to go around when efforts to deepen economic and political integration fail to get off the ground. But when it comes to developing a joint EU defense capability, it is clear where the problem lies.

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.

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O-PED

By Michael J. Boskin

The Race to Challenge Trump

STANFORD - With the first debate between Democratic candidates just four months away, the 2020 US presidential campaign is off to an early start. This election will be hugely consequential for the United States, its allies and adversaries, its trading partners, and the global economy. US policy on trade, energy, corporate taxation, debt, defense, climate change, and more is on the line.

It is far too early to predict the eventual Democratic nominee, let alone whether he or she will win the presidency in 2020. But with 12 candidates already in the race, Democrats clearly believe that President Donald Trump is extremely vulnerable (his job-approval rating currently hovers around 44%). An early take on the Democratic field is therefore in order.

Attention so far has focused on the senators: Kamala Harris (California), Cory Booker (New Jersey), Kirsten Gillibrand (New York), Elizabeth Warren (Massachusetts), Amy Klobuchar (Minnesota), and Bernie Sanders (Vermont). Former Vice President Joe Biden is expected to join the race; in early polling, he runs first, and Sanders second. Michael Bloomberg, the billionaire former mayor of New York, Senator Sherrod Brown (Ohio) and media sensation Beto O'Rourke may also run.

The current Democratic candidates fall into two camps. Those on the far left (Sanders, Warren, Harris, Booker, and Gillibrand) favor a huge expansion of government along Scandinavian democratic socialist lines. This entails higher taxes on the wealthy and corporations, and a government-run health-care system. They also support a radical restructuring of American energy under the so-called Green New Deal, which is being backed by new Democratic congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, among others. The initiative calls for retrofitting every building in the US for green efficiency, rapidly phasing out fossil fuels, and replacing much air travel with a national high-speed rail system. Also included is the left's "social justice" wish list of guaranteed jobs and vacations, and a basic income for those "unable or unwilling to work."

By contrast, the likely center-left candidates - Biden, Klobuchar, Bloomberg, and Brown (if they run) - favor more incremental policy proposals, claiming that the country is willing to go only so far and can afford only so much. All will claim they can win the presidency with the support of undecided independents and moderate Republicans.

If history is any guide, candidates who are not incumbent presidents rarely waltz to their party's nomination. Bill Clinton eventually won the 1992 Democratic nomination after recovering from potentially fatal setbacks early in his campaign. And on the Republican side, John McCain was down and almost out before roaring back to capture the 2008 nomination.

Some of the Democratic candidates for 2020 may also overcome inevitable early stumbles. These include Warren's controversial DNA test that disproved her Native-American heritage, Booker saying that the world can't continue eating meat because cow flatulence emits methane, and Harris planning to eliminate employer-provided health insurance, upon which most Americans now rely. One of these three may even record an upset and become president. Or they may secure the nomination, fizzle on the big stage, and fade to an historical footnote, like George McGovern, Walter Mondale, and Michael Dukakis.

There is far less uncertainty among Republicans: barring a lightning strike, Trump will easily be renominated. Former Massachusetts Governor William Weld is a minor distraction, while former Ohio Governor John Kasich also is considering a challenge. Ex-Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz may run as an independent, enraging Democrats who fear he would siphon off votes from their candidate.

The most important factor in the 2020 election will be the state of the economy, which is currently very strong, thanks in part to Trump's tax reforms and his rollback of stifling Obama-era regulation, although only a fraction of voters give him credit for this. In addition, Trump can appeal to likely Republican voters by pointing to some of his other major first-term accomplishments. These include the start of military rebuilding, the appointment of two conservative Supreme Court justices, and new (albeit risky) approaches to North Korea and China.

The challenge for Trump in 2020 will be to persuade enough voters in the middle to give him another four years, despite their discomfort with some of his behavior. It remains to be seen whether Trump can tone down his tweeting to offend fewer potential voters and, as in his recent State of the Union address, reach for bipartisan compromise on important issues, as he recently did on major legislation to reform the criminal justice system.

Polls show that Democrats most value a candidate who can defeat Trump. Should Trump's reelection prospects weaken, this could increase the likelihood of a far-left Democratic nominee with a radical agenda. But if Trump's approval ratings improve, such a nominee could spell electoral disaster for the Democrats.

If the 2020 election is close, the result will hinge on a modest number of contested states, some of which are in the Midwest and are home to working-class voters who feel under assault from national Democrats. The Green New Deal will not go down well with Pennsylvania's frackers, Ohio's coal miners, and the region's electricity consumers. Nor will the left's cultural agenda.

As of now, the best thing going for the Democratic contenders, absent an economic downturn, is Trump's behavior, whereas Trump's best hope is the radical policy agenda of many Democratic candidates. If these trends continue, the 2020 presidential election could be as dramatic and unpredictable as the last one.

OPINION

By Mark Leonard

The Accidental Atlanticist

MUNICH - Two Americas were represented by two different vice presidents at the Munich Security Conference this year. Between them, former Vice President Joseph Biden certainly received the warmer reception, but Vice President Mike Pence may have unwittingly emerged as the savior of transatlantic relations.

In his address, Pence duly championed his boss, US President Donald Trump, as the "leader of the free world." But the "free world" he described was scarcely recognizable to the Munich audience. In the world Trump wants to lead, America is not the exceptional power, but merely a normal country putting its own interests first. By that logic, it is only reasonable to break from multilateral institutions that allow weaker countries to free-ride on American largesse.

In keeping with this vision, Pence used his speech to demand that Europeans spend more on defense, and to extol the virtues of the Trump administration's trade war against China. But the climax came when he enjoined Europe to get in line with the US in suspending the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran - the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) - and restoring sanctions on the Islamic Republic.

According to Pence, Iran is plotting another Holocaust, for which Europeans will bear partial responsibility unless they stop undermining US sanctions. This warning came on the tail of a US-hosted conference in Warsaw, which was designed to drive a wedge between European Union countries and derail the bloc's efforts to salvage the JCPOA.

Pence spoke for the America that works to divide and weaken Europe. The other America, represented in Munich by Biden, views the Trump administration's actions as an "embarrassment." In his speech, Biden described an America that does not want to turn its back on allies and that values democracy, the rule of law, freedom of the press, and a close partnership with Europe based on shared "human decency."

The rapturous applause following Biden's appearance was markedly at odds with the awkward, stony silence that followed Pence's address. The contrast was reminiscent of the early 2000s, when disillusioned transatlanticists took refuge in The West Wing, wherein the cerebral character of President Josiah Bartlet (played by Martin Sheen) stood in stark contrast to George W. Bush and his administration's disingenuous brutality.

But such escapism yields only false hope. Rather than being lulled into complacency by Biden's reassuring words, Europeans would be better off heeding Pence. Only by growing up, paying its way, and clarifying its goals can Europe repair the transatlantic relationship and ensure a healthy and durable partnership.

The fact is that Europeans and Americans have long lied to themselves and each other about the extent of their common interests and values. European and US strategic interests have been diverging at least since the end of the Cold War. America rescued a hapless Europe in the Balkan Wars of the 1990s. But by the time of the Kosovo War at the end of that decade, Europeans had begun to wake up to their responsibilities. In the 2008 Russo-Georgian War, and in the conflict in Ukraine since 2014, it was Europeans, not Americans, who led the diplomatic response and imposed the strongest sanctions on Russia.

Moreover, Europe is the only party ever to have mobilized in the name of collective defense under Article 5 of the NATO treaty. Following the terror attacks of September 11, 2001, Europeans sent forces to distant wars in the Middle East, over which they had little control.

In hindsight, it is clear that those wars destabilized Europe's neighborhood and, eventually, Europe itself. America's exclusive focus on counterterrorism left war-torn Middle Eastern countries with fragile governments, or none at all. And in recent years, Europeans have increasingly borne the costs in the form of terrorism and influxes of refugees.

As for the US, many of its 320 million citizens no longer understand why they should have to protect 500 million Europeans, who live, after all, on a relatively peaceful and prosperous continent. They know that their country is in an escalating competition with China in the Indo-Pacific, and are thus shocked that Europeans would join the Chinese-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. Ultimately, Europeans are left between a rock and a hard place. They, too, want to push China harder on trade and investment issues. But the best way to do that is through the World Trade Organization, which the Trump administration is actively undermining.

The divergence in values is no less pronounced. For their part, Europeans support international institutions, rules-based arrangements, and multilateralism generally. But America has always been ambivalent about treaties and institutions that might constrain its sovereignty or defy its objectives.

While Trump and Pence crudely state what today's America wants, Biden is selling a vision of America that it no longer obtains. The US government does not have the American people's consent to act on the world stage as it once did. While Americans still recognize the importance of sustaining US economic and military primacy vis-à-vis China, they appear to have rejected the elite consensus on trade, defense spending, and diplomacy.

The transatlantic partnership will always be Europe's most important relationship. But it can last only if both sides take responsibility for their own affairs. The alliance would be immeasurably stronger if it were based on an honest assessment of each side's interests and values, rather than on quaint illusions of fellow feeling.

Pence's blunt speech in Munich may have been painful to hear; but one hopes that it will bring an end to European complacency and point the way to a renewal of transatlantic relations on realistic terms. If that turns out to be the case, Pence will have won the title of transatlantic hero - whether he wants it or not.

LIBERIANS DEBATE

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



Four collaborating opposition political parties signed a Memorandum of Understanding over the weekend, agreeing to operate under a united front.

The New Dawn asks some residents of Monrovia what impact they think members of the opposition will make against the governing Coalition for Democratic Change [CDC] headed by President George Manneh Weah.



Christia Dennis

“I agreed with partial subtleties but will not take it to the bank unapproved. An unbiased, non-hypocritically concerted political approach, encompassing grassroots moderate liberals has to be the signature endorsement for this check to be enashed. I would not agree to assume earlier than normal but deploy a political calculus to determine possible likely outcome.”



Emmett Marvia

“I for one, don’t see anything good this ticket will do for us because it’s not workable. I’m not sure they got it right because six years from now, some of them will not be able to run like the UP’s head [Boakai] am not sure the old man will be interested in 2023. I don’t think after six years, Joseph N. Boakai will be a presidential material, necessarily because we have bunch of neophytes, including you still around. I concur with you comrade ally, but it depends whether they will come together under a coalition. If they aren’t ready to build up young people who will talk over after six years, I can say they are not ready yet; President George Weah will beat them [again] big time.”

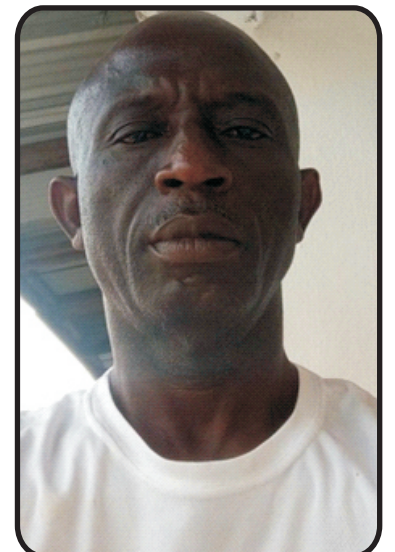
Amon

“I bet you; they can never come together in a coalition. Cummings said he can only be president and nothing else, and that will definitely pull Brumskine and Boakai out of any coalition talks. I see this will not [make] any impact on the country and its people because everybody will want to be the president, with this crippled team, I foresee President Weah being President for lifetime; joker you are.”



George Paye

“They are professional leaders and the best four heroes in Liberia, but if you are asking for impact in 2023 elections, I do not see it. I say this because after the senatorial election, I see them going their ways. The team is very strong, but I don’t see it materializing. It will be great, if they could let go of power greed and put one young Liberian as leader [on any future] ticket, but they will be talking about how long they have been behind this power and nobody will give in; that will make a lazy ticket . [Let them] tell the Liberian people who will be candidate come 2023.”



Andrew Zaizay

“I see this as just another big show because we saw this before this gone election, and at the end of the day, power [greed] put them apart. Brumskine himself feels it is his time after President George Weah, especially, after coming third in 2017. You better go sit down, because Urey will definitely join Weah, while



Prince Johnson will finally join the Coalition. On the other hand, Nuquay has been taken captive already. So, you can make-do with the remnants of the UP.”



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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Nigerian defense college team visits Defense Ministry

A visiting team from the Nigerian National Defense College has arrived in the Country on a one-week study tour to get firsthand information on lesson learned from the Liberian civil war.

Liberia's Defense Ministry says in a press statement issued in Monrovia Monday, 25 February that the information on lesson learned from the Liberian civil war could be used for future crises prevention in West Africa.

The study tour is being held under the theme: "The Role of the Military in Democratic Governance, and National Development".

In a round table discussion with officials of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) and the Ministry of National Defense, Deputy National Defense Minister for Administration, T. Olandrus Dickson recounted what he termed as the "Dark history" of the Armed Forces of Liberia during the Liberian civil crisis.

According to Minister Dickson, the dark history of the AFL contributed to the dissolution of the force in 2006.

He informs the team that



the new Armed Forces of Liberia, which was created as the result of the dissolution of the army in 2006, is now contributing to the overall national development of the Country.

Minister Dickson says the Liberian Military is now part of regional process to restore peace and security in some parts of Africa.

He explains that the AFL as a "Force for Good", is more focused on building relationship with the people of Liberia by engaging in

productive programs in order to build public confidence in the new army.

He lauds the Nigerian Military for its overwhelming support to the formation of the new Liberian Military, stressing that Nigeria's contributions to the AFL has placed the army in a position to contribute to the rebuilding process of the country.

He further states that as part of the rebuilding process, the AFL is currently involved in the reconstruction of roads, hospitals, medical outreaches

and other civil activities around the country.

Commenting earlier, Armed Forces of Liberia Chief of Staff, Major General Prince C. Johnson, III, commended the Nigerian Defense College for including Liberia in the tour of five countries in Africa.

He assures the Nigerian

Military delegation that AFL will continue to remain steadfast and do away with acts that will undermine its professionalism in the development of the Country.

The Liberian Army Chief of Staff says the AFL is cognizant of its past history that made the Liberian military the seventh worst faction in the Liberian civil war according to the Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) report.

He assures that the army will therefore promote values that will enhance democratic governance and national development.

For his part, the Nigerian team leader, BD Solomon, a faculty member of the Nigerian Defense College informs the Minister that they are in the Country to conduct a firsthand information on lesson learned on Liberia's civil war that could be used for future crises prevention in West Africa.-- Press release

Eighty trainers graduate from Cocoa farming program

Eighty persons have graduated from a 3-week Training of Trainers (TOT) workshop hosted by Solidaridad West Africa, Liberia for Farmers' Field School (FFS) facilitators.

According to a release, the ceremony took place on Friday, 22 February in Ganta, Nimba County.

Participants of the training were drawn from selected communities in Bong, Lofa and

Nimba Counties, where the Liberia Cocoa Sector Improvement Program (LICSIP) is being implemented.

LICSIP is funded by the European Union In Liberia.

According to the lead trainer, two to three persons were designated by their various communities to be interviewed and tested by program staff before selection.

Sylvanus Agordorku says

after a robust vetting process, one person was selected from each community to form part of the training.

"We trained them in several different aspects of cocoa production including nursery establishment and management, management of farmers' field school, cocoa diseases and pests management, and cocoa rehabilitation, among others," he says.

He notes that the facilitators will now return to their various communities to open up FFS and begin training other farmers on the best management practices for cocoa. "There are several cocoa farmers in these communities, but they don't have the support in terms of information, knowledge and skills. We expect the facilitators to run the various schools for 10 months, teaching what we have been teaching them during the weeks of training," says Mr. Agordorku.

"If we get this right, we will have enough farmers doing the right thing and before you know it, we will be producing quality cocoa and with the

desired yields that will change the lives of the struggling farmers," Mr. Agordorku explains.

The lead trainer also explains that the program will ensure that new plantings are done according to standard. This, he says, will produce cocoa with better quality and quantity and help change the livelihood of smallholder farmers in Liberia.

Follow ups will be made to ensure that facilitators are doing the right thing at their various training schools", he adds.

In remarks, the Program Associate of Solidaridad West Africa - Liberia Kefi Conteh describes cocoa is an important crop in West Africa,

and Solidaridad has a strong presence in the value chain.

According to Conteh, Ivory Coast and Ghana are driving the region in the production of the crop, but Liberia has a promising future, especially with the support being given by the European Union through the LICSIP.

"Liberia, as a country, is presently contributing less than 1% of the cocoa coming out of the region. But the soils here are even better than some of the other places that are producing more," Mr. Conteh observes.

He concludes that the LICSIP hopes to address this problem under their activity to improve farm-level production.--Press release



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Weah starts ball rolling in Israel

President George M. Weah arrived in Israel along with his delegation, and has started the ball rolling with high-level meetings held with both political and business leaders towards promoting the pro-poor agenda and extracting meaningful investment opportunities to Liberia.

According to a press release by the Executive Mansion dated 25 February, President Weah is expected to visit Green 2000 on Tuesday, 26 February where a presentation on agriculture will be made by the Israelis.

President Weah is accompanied by First Lady Clar M. Weah, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Gbehzohngar Findley and Monrovia City Mayor, Jefferson Koijee.

The Executive Mansion says the Green 2000 Agricultural Equipment & Know-How Ltd has in recent years engaged in planning, set-up, consultation and sale to various projects in different spheres.

It says these projects include Greenhouses, Irrigation, Open-field crops, Processing crops, Cut flowers, Poultry and others in many parts of the world, and in Israel.

According to the Executive Mansion, the importance of the Green 2000 in Israel lies in



Pres. Weah shakes hands with Israeli Communication Min. Kara

the constant contact maintained with research institutes so as always to keep abreast of the best state-of-the-art, and gives the best foundation for the company activities worldwide.

The release says President Weah will tour organic farms including horticulture, aquaculture, dairy production, poultries and African demo plot.

He and his delegation will also visit a MASHAV Agriculture Training Center where he will be briefed on MASHAV ongoing and prospective activities in Liberia.

At the same time president

Weah will later travel to ZRIFIN for technological and innovation exhibition to include land forces solutions and capabilities, maritime solutions and capabilities, intelligence systems and solutions, UAVs and drones, armored vehicles, detections and targeting, radar, border protection, cyber solutions, and internal security solution.

He will be presented with Shimon Peres' vision for peace and innovation, and then embark on a tour of the Peres Center for Innovation and Exhibition.

While President Weah tours the Peres' Center, the

Executive Mansion says key members of the delegation will hold a roundtable discussion with Israeli companies and organizations separately to present investment opportunities and plans.

It says Israelis companies

and organizations are also expected to present their profiles and to possibly express interests for investment in Liberia.

President Weah will hold bilateral talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday, February 28, 2019 in Jerusalem. He will then hold discussions with the President of the State of Israel, Mr. Reuben Rivlin.

Members of The Liberian delegation includes Ministers Gbehzohngar Findley (Foreign Affairs), Daniel Ziankahn (Defense), Samuel Tweah (Finance and Development Planning), Lenn Eugene Nagbe (Information, Culture and Tourism) Mogana Flomo (Agriculture), Gesler Murray (Mines and Energy), Wilhelmina Jallah (Health), and National Investment Commission Chairman Molewuleh Gray as well as Monrovia City Mayor, Jefferson Koijee.--Press release

Lottery boss frowns on media

-cites report against Go-Bet Liberia

The Director General of the Liberia National Lotteries (LNL) Martin Kollie has expressed serious discontentment over media report that Go-Bet Liberia did not obtain license prior to its operation in Liberia.

According to a press release, Mr. Kollie made the statement recently at his 10th Street, Sinkor office.

Director General Kollie says in the release that the entity went through the necessary

procedures before being licensed by the Liberia National Lottery with the consent of its Board of Director.

The clarity comes in the wake of concerns raised several week ago from various quarters in society regarding what appeared to be series of illegal activities occurring at the National Lottery Authority regarding the issuance of sport betting license to entities without first conducting due diligence and verifying the

companies' financial abilities.

GoBet231 is alleged to have received sports betting license to operate in Liberia without paying into government revenue the required license fees immediately.

Instead, it was alleged that what was discovered was an arrangement between the National Lottery Authority and GoBet231 to be granted the license and payment be done on a stipulated basis.

GoBet231 is owned and operated by Palm Springs Resort in Congo Town, an entity that itself is said to be besieged with workers publicly demonstrating in demand for payment of their salaries spanning several months.

Meanwhile, the release says the management of Go-Bet Liberia has in no uncertain terms detested the work of detractors that are in the hobbit of providing falsehood about the new establishment.

In a related development, Go-Bet Liberia has been training over 500 Liberians for employment and management has disclosed that in a not too distant future, those behind such scheme would be brought to book.--Press release

#Stop prioritizing foreign businesses over Liberian businesses!#

Ja'neh trial begins

Starts from back page

recuse himself, arguing that Article 43 of the Constitution gives him the right to preside over impeachment proceedings when the president, vice president or associate justice are to be tried.

According to him, there is no part of the constitution that says someone can preside in the absence of the Chief Justice, as Ja'neh's lawyers said they will make use of the statutes.

Meanwhile, there have been calls for the recusal of lawyers from both sides of the

impeachment proceedings.

The counsels that were requested to rescue themselves from the case include Cllr. Cephus, Cllr. Sims who represent the House of Representatives, and Cllr. Arthur T. Johnson who represents Justice Ja'neh.

The request for the lawyers' recusal has prompted Chief Justice Korkpor to refer the lawyers to the Supreme Court's Grievance Committee to look into issues raised for their recusals. --Edited by Winston W. Parley

Lonestar Cell MTN

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campaign progresses, customers will benefit from more tantalizing offers from Liberia's #1 network. Lonestar Cell MTN is #Here4u.

Français

Jouer avec le feu

Il semble qu'il est suspendu dans l'air, entre le palais présidentiel et la Commission Anti-Corruption du Liberia (LACC), des traînées de fumée gris-argentée et épaisse comme des fantômes.

Les deux bâtiments, bien que distants l'un de l'autre, ont été témoins d'échanges de courriers dans le cadre de la bataille pour la déclaration des biens comme un brouillard dans une ruelle d'une nuit humide.

Cela arrive quelques jours après que le président George Weah a déclaré lors d'une interview avec la BBC que ses biens n'avaient pas été rendus publics au peuple libérien parce qu'il « voulait protéger la vie privée de ses enfants ».

L'entretien avec le président a été suivi d'un entretien avec le président de la LACC, Me James N. Verdier Jr., qui a indiqué que l'institution de la moralisation de la vie publique n'a pas reçu le soutien nécessaire pour fonctionner proprement.

Voilà peut-être ce qui a provoqué cette nuée dans l'air le jeudi 19 février 2019 lorsque la présidence a



es. Weah

Minister of State Nathaniel McGill

Cllr. James Verdier

adressé un courrier à la LACC pour lui demander de soumettre au bureau du président la liste de tous les fonctionnaires et agents de l'Etat qui ont déclaré leurs avoirs conformément à la loi.

La lettre signée par le ministre d'Etat, M. Nathaniel McGill, faisait en outre état des informations sur « les entretiens de départ » qui auraient prétendument été menés par la LACC avec les

anciens fonctionnaires de l'Etat. Pourtant, dans le code de conduite, il n'est question que de déclaration et non d'entretien de départ.

Trois jours plus tard, le 22 février 2019, comme s'il s'agissait d'un tutoriel à l'intention du ministre d'Etat, Me Verdier a répondu : « Dans mon esprit, par l'expression "tous les agents de l'Etat", vous faites allusion aux trois pouvoirs de l'Etat. Mais

comme vous le savez peut-être bien, dans le cadre de notre régime de déclaration des avoirs, ce sont les responsables de chacun des trois pouvoirs qui sont chargés de la responsabilité de mettre en œuvre et de faire respecter les règles aux employés de leurs secteurs. »

« Dans le cas du pouvoir exécutif », Me Verdier poursuit : « C'est le président du Libéria ; dans le secteur judiciaire, c'est le juge en chef et pour le pouvoir législatif, ce sont le président de la Chambre des représentants et le président Pro Tempore du Sénat. Il me reste donc à me demander si cette demande concerne « tous les agents de l'Etat » ou « tous les responsables du pouvoir exécutif de l'Etat ».

M. Verdier est ensuite revenu pour aborder la question comme si le paragraphe précédent avait pour but de clarifier son doute. « Je suppose que la demande fait référence à « tous les responsables du pouvoir exécutif de l'Etat. Dans ce cas, permettez-moi de vous rappeler que le 4 janvier 2019, dans une communication immatriculée (LACC / JAT-VC / gbnf / 001/19) qui a été adressée à la présidence du Libéria, « une liste des fonctionnaires de l'exécutif y a été jointe » et « une liste des fonctionnaires de l'exécutif qui n'ont pas encore déposé de dossier conformément à notre mandat a été présentée au président. »

« Cela signifie que le président a déjà ce que vous demandez. » A Me Verdier d'ajouter : « Malgré tout, et pour plus de commodité, j'inclus encore dans cette réponse une liste de « tous les responsables du pouvoir

exécutif de l'Etat qui ont jusque-là déclaré leurs avoirs.

Comme si cela ne suffisait pas, Me. Verdier a continué à exprimer sa préoccupation face à la demande du président.

« Je suis également préoccupé par le fait que la demande concerne uniquement les fonctionnaires du gouvernement qui ont déposé leurs avoirs et non ceux qui ne l'ont pas fait pour prendre des mesures punitives conformément à la loi et à notre recommandation qui a été incluse dans notre communication (LACC / JNV - EC / 2106/18). Cependant, j'ai à nouveau joint la liste des responsables de l'exécutif qui ont délibérément et de manière provocante et irrespectueuse refusé de faire la déclaration de leurs avoirs », a écrit le patron de la LACC.

De plus, Me Verdier a poursuivi en abordant la demande initiale en disant : « M. le Chef de cabinet du président, si votre communication fait effectivement référence à la liste de « tous les agents de l'Etat » qui ont fait la déclaration de leurs avoirs, veuillez le confirmer et nous serons obligés de vous la faire parvenir. Sachez par contre que pour ce qui concerne les pouvoirs judiciaire et législatif, il n'y pas d'agent qui se soit conformé à la loi et par conséquent, il n'existe pas de liste pour ces deux pouvoirs de l'Etat »

Le code de conduite, en son article 10.1 stipule que « chaque fonctionnaire et employé de l'Etat qui est impliqué dans la prise de décision ayant trait aux marchés publics, aux adjudications ou commandes et à la délivrance des titres de différents types, sont tenus de déclarer leurs avoirs avant leur prise de fonctions, et puis de redéclarer leurs avoirs soit tous les trois ans, soit lors d'une promotion ou d'une progression d'un niveau à un autre, soit lors de son transfert à une autre fonction publique ou encore lors de son départ à la retraite ou de sa démission.

Me Verdier a déclaré qu'il n'y a pas de loi qui fasse état d'un entretien de départ, si entretien de départ il y en avait. Et si le ministre d'Etat faisait allusion à une déclaration des avoirs en cas de départ, et bien la loi est faible sur ce point. C'est en tout cas ce qu'a fait savoir M. Verdier.

Côte d'Ivoire : Guillaume Soro rencontre Henri Konan Bédié à Daoukro

Guillaume Soro a rencontré samedi 23 février Henri Konan Bédié dans son fief de Daoukro. L'ex-président de l'Assemblée nationale, qui n'a pas encore précisé ses intentions pour la présidentielle de 2020, va participer avec le leader du PDCI à la mise en place d'une plateforme devant réunir

plusieurs forces politiques d'opposition du pays, laissant planer l'idée d'une alliance pour la conquête du pouvoir l'an prochain.

Contrairement à sa précédente visite à Daoukro le 17 décembre dernier, Guillaume Soro longe d'un pas lent la haie d'honneur que lui a dressé la population, prenant

le temps de serrer le plus de mains possibles. Désormais, ce n'est plus le président de l'Assemblée nationale, mais le député de Ferkessedougou et nouveau membre de l'opposition, que reçoit Henri Konan Bédié.

Après une visite aux chefs traditionnels, les deux hommes se sont entretenus en privé, avant d'annoncer dans un bref communiqué leur volonté de collaborer au lancement de la fameuse plateforme politique censée réunir les adversaires du président Alassane Ouattara autour d'un objectif : l'alternance en 2020.

Il y a une semaine, Guillaume Soro annonçait la création d'un « comité politique », objet politique non identifié aux contours flous, devant permettre à l'élu de participer au débat national. Il a entamé ce jeudi une tournée à l'intérieur du pays pour présenter localement les missions de son comité.

L'ex-président du Parlement, auparavant très avare en paroles, se sent



Français

Éditorial

Encore faut-il que les partis politiques de l'opposition fassent preuve de sincérité

Joseph Boakai, candidat malheureux à la dernière présidentielle et leader politique de l'ancien parti au pouvoir, le Parti de l'unité, a tout dit lorsqu'il exhorte ses collègues de la coalition quadripartite à faire preuve de « sincérité et d'honnêteté, d'audace et de détermination » dans leur volonté d'arracher le pouvoir au président George Manneh Weah de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) aux élections présidentielles de 2023.

Les dirigeants du Parti de l'unité, de l'Alternative National Congress, du All Liberians Party et du Parti de la liberté doivent comprendre que l'honnêteté, la sincérité, l'audace et la détermination sont indispensables à leur mission sacrée de débarrasser et de protéger la République du Libéria de l'inaptitude, de la mauvaise gouvernance, de la violation constante de la Constitution, de la corruption et de l'effondrement éventuel.

Il ne faut pas que les dirigeants considèrent la signature du cadre de collaboration de jeudi dernier comme un simple effet d'annonce, car cela nuirait gravement au bien-être du peuple libérien et à la postérité.

Nous pensons que pour atteindre leurs objectifs, chaque parti de la coalition émergente devrait mettre de côté ses ambitions égoïstes et d'œuvrer à la réalisation de l'objectif commun, qui consiste à prendre le pouvoir par le biais des urnes afin d'améliorer les conditions de vie des populations.

Ce n'est pas le moment de jouer, car il y a beaucoup de travail à faire. Premièrement, les dirigeants des partis respectifs devraient immédiatement commencer à éduquer et à sensibiliser leurs partisans respectifs au combat qui consiste à collaborer pour un objectif commun. Nous craignons que le cadre ne reste sans effet si les dirigeants n'inculquent pas cela dans la tête de leurs partisans.

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, entre autres, d'élaborer un programme sur lequel ils collaboreront afin de défendre l'intérêt commun et supérieur de la nation.

Ils s'engagent également à mettre un accent particulier sur la question du bien-être des populations en ne permettant pas à leurs différences politiques et leurs ambitions personnelles d'enrhumer cette coopération.

Ils veulent aussi procéder de manière ouverte et cohérente dans leur collaboration sur toutes les questions relatives au bien-être des populations qu'ils représentent et avoir une position nationale commune.

Le travail doit commencer dès maintenant et non demain, si l'on veut que cette collaboration soit une réussite. Il est indispensable que les partis politiques de l'opposition se considèrent comme un gouvernement potentiel en attente. Qu'ils commencent à élaborer une feuille de route qui mettra en exergue les grandes lignes de leur gouvernance si le pouvoir de l'Etat leur est confié.

En d'autres termes, la dynamique ne doit pas uniquement consister à renverser le régime actuel, mais à s'efforcer sincèrement d'améliorer le Libéria, tant pour les générations actuelles que les générations futures. L'objectif ultime devrait être le peuple.

À moins que les partis politiques de l'opposition et leurs dirigeants mettent en place une nouvelle base de réflexion et sortent de leurs petits coins pour travailler sincèrement à l'avenir contre toute attente pour le futur du Libéria, le mariage ne sera plus qu'un effet d'annonce, où chacun sera à l'affût pour son avenir, sa sécurité personnelle et son intérêt personnel, en lieu et place du plus grand bien commun.

COMMENTAIRE

By Joschka Fischer

L'Allemagne va-t-elle autoriser une politique de sécurité et de défense commune ?

BERLIN – Le président américain, Donald Trump s'est révélé vraiment perturbateur envers la relation transatlantique. Sa remise en question des engagements de défense mutuelle avec l'OTAN présente une crise grave et potentiellement existentielle. La garantie de sécurité des États-Unis, après tout, est l'un des deux piliers sur lesquels reposent la paix et la prospérité depuis la fin de la Seconde Guerre mondiale. Trump n'a pas épargné le second pilier non plus : le commerce et un système économique mondial fondés sur des règles.

Seulement deux ans après l'élection de Trump, les Européens se retrouvent seuls, battus par les vents glacés de la politique internationale, à se demander à juste titre ce qu'ils doivent faire. Il va de soi que l'Europe doit approfondir ses relations internes, serrer les rangs et renforcer sa capacité militaire. Certains pourraient se demander si c'est ce que les Européens veulent vraiment, étant donné que nous traversons l'ère du Brexit, qui va priver l'Union européenne de sa deuxième puissance économique et militaire.

Mais le seul fait que les Britanniques ne semblent pas savoir ce qu'ils veulent ne signifie pas que le reste de l'Europe est dans le même bateau. En fait, la plupart des Européens sont favorables à une UE plus forte et plus puissante avec une politique de sécurité commune.

La grande exception est l'Allemagne. L'Allemagne étant le moteur économique et l'État membre le plus peuplé de l'UE, il ne peut pas y avoir de politique de sécurité commune sans ce pays qui se trouve au cœur même de l'Europe. Mais c'est une question ouverte de savoir si la réalisation de la sécurité européenne commune avec la participation de l'Allemagne est encore possible.

Les Européens ne doivent pas laisser des vœux pieux obscurcir les faits importants, comme ce fut le cas lorsque l'Union monétaire européenne était en train de se former dans les années 1990. Dès le début, il y a eu des différences marquées entre les États membres individuels non seulement en ce qui concerne la politique économique et budgétaire, mais également en termes de culture politique et de mentalité. Néanmoins l'ignorance délibérée a prévalu et l'union monétaire a été lancée sans les institutions politiques intégrées qu'un tel projet exige.

L'UE ne doit pas commettre cette même erreur à nouveau. Aujourd'hui, le principal fait qui ne peut pas être ignoré, c'est qu'une politique commune de sécurité va nécessiter un compromis entre l'Allemagne et la France, les deux plus grands et plus puissants États membres. Un tel compromis ne sera pas facile. Les deux pays ont des mentalités politiques, des récits historiques et des intérêts géopolitiques simplement trop divergents et dans de nombreux cas diamétralement opposés. Néanmoins, en raison de son histoire particulière, l'Allemagne représente le plus grand obstacle, même si son discours officiel laisse croire le contraire.

Pour sa part, l'autoreprésentation traditionnelle de la France reflète sa longue histoire de grande puissance européenne, même si cette époque - et la domination mondiale de l'Europe en général - est révolue. En tant que puissance nucléaire et membre permanent du Conseil de sécurité des Nations Unies, la France considère ses actions militaires et ses exportations d'armes non pas comme des fautes morales, mais comme les prérogatives d'une puissance mondiale dans la conduite de sa politique étrangère.

Le génie de Charles de Gaulle a été de prétendre au statut de puissance victorieuse pour son pays après la Seconde Guerre mondiale. Cela a invité les citoyens français à oublier le régime de Vichy, la défaite par les Nazis en 1940 et les clivages politiques internes des années 1930. C'est grâce à de Gaulle que la France a maintenu son cap dans l'histoire.

On ne peut pas en dire autant de l'Allemagne. Au cours du XX^{ème} siècle, l'Allemagne a tenté deux fois d'exercer son hégémonie sur l'Europe et de dominer le monde. Mais le prix à payer fut sa propre destruction, sans parler de celle l'Europe. Son sens de la continuité historique a été démolé en 1945, date à laquelle sa culture et ses traditions ont été dévaluées et son intégrité territoriale détruite. L'Allemagne est devenue synonyme d'agression, de terreur et de génocide.

L'Allemagne d'après-guerre a abandonné sa politique de puissance militaire et d'aventurisme hors de ses frontières, pour s'intéresser principalement au développement économique. Les Allemands n'ont trouvé aucun autre moyen pour réintégrer l'Occident démocratique et pour recouvrer leur souveraineté politique. Cette stratégie a abouti à la réunification de l'Allemagne de l'Ouest et de l'Est en 1990.

En abandonnant de la politique au pouvoir en 1945, les Allemands de gauche et de droite sont devenus pacifistes. Et à ce jour, de nombreux Allemands restent profondément et émotionnellement engagés envers la neutralité, malgré plusieurs décennies d'intégration européenne et leur adhésion à l'OTAN. Cela a été particulièrement vrai durant la période qui a suivi la réunification, en grande partie grâce à la garantie de sécurité de l'Amérique et à sa volonté de gérer les affaires sales du pouvoir politique de l'Allemagne son nom. Mais cette division du travail, tout comme l'ordre d'après-guerre sous la direction des États-Unis, ont pris fin avec l'élection de Trump.

Un retour à la tradition politique de la force comporte certainement ses propres risques. Mais l'autre choix possible consiste à maintenir le statu quo et à renoncer à une politique de sécurité et de défense commune de l'UE. Une politique faite de davantage que de nobles paroles implique nécessairement un approfondissement de l'intégration politique au nom de la souveraineté européenne. Sans règles d'exportation communes, par exemple, il ne peut y avoir de coopération significative sur le développement de l'armement de l'Europe, sans parler de projets plus ambitieux et à plus grande portée.

Les Allemands sont actuellement engagés dans un intense débat sur les dépenses de défense, qui doivent être à hauteur de 2 % du PIB d'ici 2024 pour répondre à leurs engagements envers l'OTAN. Compte tenu des risques géopolitiques prévisibles à l'horizon, en l'absence d'une politique de sécurité commune de l'UE, les dépenses de défense allemandes devraient augmenter pour compenser le retrait des forces américaines de l'Europe.

Il va sans dire que le réarmement de l'Allemagne par ses propres moyens soulèverait de nombreuses questions et préoccupations historiques. Cependant, un réarmement avec et pour l'Europe et l'OTAN serait complètement différent. D'une manière ou d'une autre, l'Europe doit se renforcer. Il est dans l'intérêt de tous que l'Allemagne s'engage de manière productive dans ce processus.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Youth and Sports Minister inspires “Zoegos”

The Minister of Youth and Sports D. Zeogar Wilson has given hope to several street thugs otherwise known here as “zoegos.”

Minister Wilson, who spoke at the weekend during an interactive forum held at the Friends of the Friends Hatire Center (FOFHA), told the street thugs that government has a special plan for them aimed at changing their story for the better.

The purpose of the interactive discussion was to listen to their plight and to unveil government’s plan for their lives.

In their many recommendations, several of the zoegos requested the government through the Ministry of Youth and Sports to provide them empowerment opportunities such as skills training.

“We want to be empowered. We need opportunities that will enable us work for ourselves. And so the best thing the government can do is to empower us through skills training,” they recommended.

Chairman of the group, only identified as “Ghankay”, also



Minister D. Zeogar Wilson in Photo With “Zoegos”

called on the Liberian government through the Ministry to build a rehabilitation center that would transform their lives to become acceptable in society.

“Mr. Minister, we want the government to build a rehabilitation site for us. We are saying this because some of us have been addicted to other harmful substances, and these substances need to leave our body before you can think about providing any skills training and jobs for us,” said Chairman Ghankay.

One of the zoegos, David Tweh, notes, “Most times people come to us and take our names but to no avail. They take down our names and we never see them again and so we hope that you are not like one of those people. We need your help because we are really bad off. We need you to really be with us; we are not crazy and we are not lazy, but people think we are,” David laments.

In response, Minister Wilson assures that government will do as much it can to help them.

He discloses that the Ministry of Youth and Sports is already providing help and support to some underprivileged youth through the effort of the Dream Team under the auspices of the Destiny Recovery Program, at the Redeemed Church of God at Nee-Zoe junction in Paynesville, outside Monrovia.

The Destiny Recovery Program is a Christian initiative that is rehabilitating young street children through Christianity.

“There are vocational training centers run by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, and we will be giving some of you scholarship to have quality

vocational training, which will enable you fit into society,” says the Minister.

“Because you; youth, cover about 60% of our country’s population, we need to put plans together that will help all of you. The Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Lebanese NGO and the Ministry of Public Works are working on a piece of property on the highway around German Camp to provide vocation and skills training for you.”

The Minister reiterated that the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) led government headed by President George Manneh Weah remains committed to the empowerment of youth.

“Government can’t employ everyone but with good skills training you can get employment and create jobs,” Minister Wilson added.

James Koryor, Secretary General of the Federation of Liberian Youth (FLY), in remarks, lauds the Youth and Sports Minister for considering the zoegos under its youth development program, saying, “This is the first time for a government official to meet these zoegos face-to-face for an open discussion, given that these guys pose serious threat to our national security.”

Editing by Jonathan Browne

Private group registers houses, businesses for spraying

By Emmanuel Mondaye

A private group called George Mulbah Spraying Enterprise (GMS) has begun a process leading to the registration of houses and business establishments to benefit from a spraying campaign.

The campaign to spray homes and businesses here comes as Liberia suffers the consequences of dirty and

unhealthy environment.

The GMS Enterprise located in Congo Town, adjacent the Congo Town Guest House intends to conduct the campaign to destroy the hideouts of dangerous insects such as bugs, spider, scorpion, cobra, fleas, and ants, among others.

Speaking to reporters Monday, 25 February on the planned spraying campaign in

Sinkor, a female agent of GMS Patricia Lewis says the homes and business center owners are required to first register with the organization with the sum of LRD\$100.00.

According to Lewis, registered businesses and houses are to sign a special form containing relevant information of the person whose home or business center is to be sprayed.

She notes that they are also required to pay a service fee of LRD\$500.00 on the day of the spraying of the registered homes and businesses.

According to Madam Lewis, the GMS seeks the cooperation and support of Liberians in ensuring a clean, safe and healthy environment.

She maintains that the spraying campaign will commence in March this year and it is hoped that the exercise will be taken to rural parts of the country.

During the rule of slim President William R. Tolbert Jr., he introduced and implemented what was then referred to as the ‘National Spraying Week’ under the former Public Utility Authority (PUA) which is now the



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Ministry of Public Works (MPW).

The campaign under Tolbert’s regime meaningfully helped to reduce insects caused by dirty environment and also promoted good health here.

Meanwhile, an environmentalist Joseph D.Z. Wah has welcomed the move by the GMS Spraying Enterprise.

Mr. Wah believes that this

campaign will eliminate dangerous insects from the communities and the country in general, adding that it will also help to create a conducive environment.

The World Health Organization Statistics indicates that one million children under the age of 0-5 died every year from mosquito bites which cause malaria.--

Edited by Winston W. Parley

Chief Justice presiding illegally

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Opposition Liberty Party (LP) former Standard Bearer Cllr. Charles Brumskine says Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor's role of presiding over the impeachment trial of Associate Justice Kabineh M. Ja'neh is illegal.

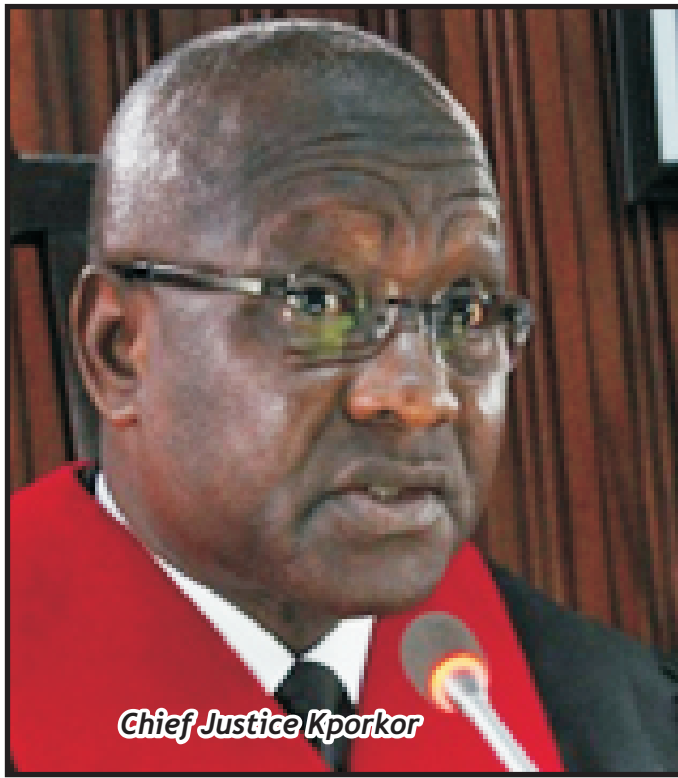
"Liberia and the world watch in dismay, as the Chief Justice of the Republic descends the high bench of the Constitutional Court, and runs into the darkness of our time, to preside over an unconstitutional impeachment trial at the Senate," Brumskine claims.

Speaking recently, the veteran Liberian lawyer lamented that Chief Justice Korkpor's role of presiding over the impeachment proceeding lacks legal basis.

The ongoing impeachment trial at the Senate leaves Cllr. Brumskine to draw a conclusion in Monrovia that the governance challenges facing the country is not only the presidency, but it also includes leaders of the other branches of government.

"The rules that would make the trial constitutional have yet to be agreed upon by both houses of the Legislature, but the trial goes on," Cllr. Brumskine laments.

One of the cases which triggered Associate Justice Ja'neh's impeachment trial relates to a land dispute



Chief Justice Korkpor



Cllr. Brumskine

involving the embattled justice and a private citizen, one Madam Annie Yancy Constance.

Associate Justice Ja'neh has been accused by lawmakers for abuse of power, using his influence as Associate Justice to secure a ruling in his favor at the Supreme Court to take possession of the land.

But Ja'neh's lawyers have repeatedly maintained that the claim that their client allegedly manipulated the Supreme Court to rule in his favor in the property case questions the credibility of Chief Justice Korkpor who serves as the head of the Supreme Court and also signed

the ruling that is one of the counts against Ja'neh.

There was a motion for the Chief Justice to rescue himself from presiding over the impeachment trial of Justice Ja'neh because he too was allegedly conflicted by signing the judgment in Madam Constance's case which favored Justice Ja'neh.

But the Chief Justice rejected the motion filed to recuse himself, arguing that Article 43 of the Constitution gives him the right to preside over impeachment proceedings when the president, vice

president or associate justice are to be tried.

According to him, there is no part of the constitution that says someone can preside in the absence of the Chief Justice.

But the opposition LP's three-time defeated presidential candidate Cllr. Brumskine intimates that some people have said that Liberia will never change in recent time, so they proceed to make the situation worse by

becoming part of the corrupt system.

To move the country forward, Cllr. Brumskine suggests that the national vehicle (government) must include the old and the young, the weak and feeble, female and male, the literate and the illiterate, the rich and the poor.

"But this is just the first step in a long journey. We seek not the establishment of yet another political class to the exclusion of the full participation of the Liberian people," Cllr. Brumskine says.

Politics must be about fulfilling the aspiration of the people, he adds, and warns that it should not be about the realization of the dreams of grandeur of individual politicians.

Cllr. Brumskine challenges citizens to begin working together now to make a difference because Liberia needs help.

"Our task will be not only to criticize, but also to engage all three branches of government. Yes, engaging will be difficult, because it is not part of our political culture," he concludes.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

Web of lies

The European Union Delegation to Liberia has issued a statement denouncing reports here that the EU has blacklisted the tiny West African country. The EU Delegation said Liberia is nowhere on the 2018 Common EU list of Third Country Jurisdiction for Tax Purposes.

According to an EU press release dated Monday, 25 February, the overall goal of the EU list is to improve tax good governance globally, and to ensure that the EU's international partners respect

the same standards as EU Member States do.

As of December 2018, the EU says five jurisdictions remain on the 'blacklist.' But it clarifies that Liberia is not in this category.

The EU explains that the list is a result of a thorough screening and dialogue process with non-EU countries, to assess them against agreed criteria for good governance.

These criteria, it adds, relate inter alia to tax transparency, fair taxation, the implementation of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development-Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (OECD BEPS) measures and substance requirements for zero-tax countries.

The criteria were agreed by Member States at the November 2016 ECOFIN and used as the basis for a screening "scoreboard". -Press release



European Union Ambassador Tiina Intelmann

Change of Name



From Mark Dolo Workor
To
Mark D. Walker

I Mark Dolo Workor want to legally change my name from the above name to Mark D. Walker.

Therefore, all documents bearing my old name remain valid.

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.

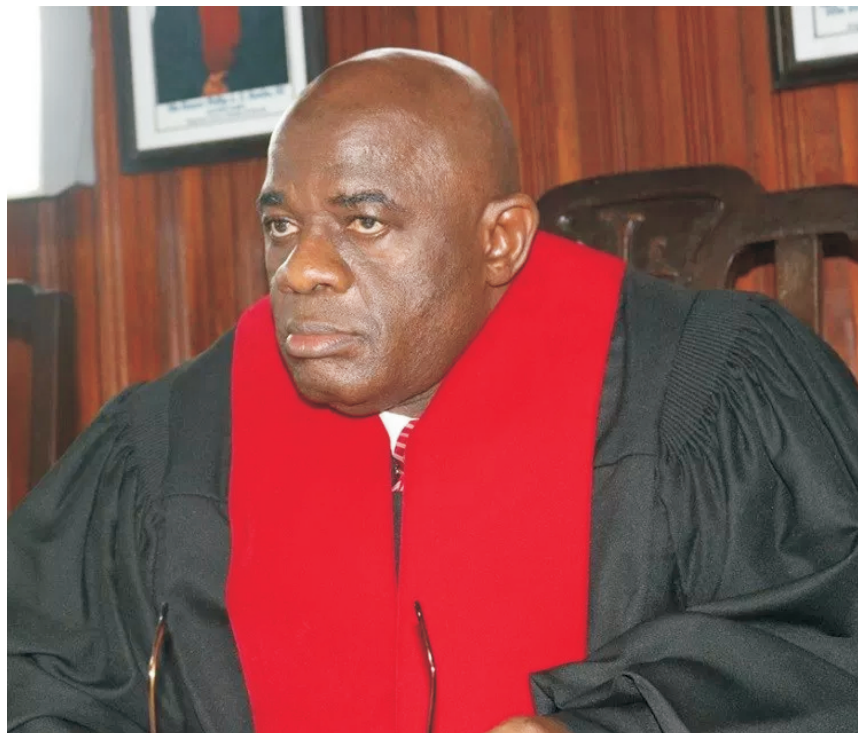
Signed by: *George Ashton Wreh*
George Ashton Wreh
Survey Engineer

Approved by: *Joseph K. Massaquoi*
Joseph K. Massaquoi
Acting General Manager
Transatlantic Africa Investment consultant, Inc.

SURVEYOR'S LICENCE
Name: George A. Wreh
Lic: #922
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Ja'neh trial begins today



By Ethel A. Tweh

The impeachment trial of Associate Justice Kabineh M. Ja'neh is expected to begin today Tuesday, 26 February at the Liberian Senate.

Justice Ja'neh was served a writ to appear for the purpose of the impeachment trial on

Wednesday, 20 February by Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor, Sr.

One of the cases which triggered Associate Justice Ja'neh's impeachment trial relates to a land dispute involving the embattled justice and a private citizen, one Madam Annie Yancy

Constance.

Associate Justice Ja'neh has been accused by lawmakers for abuse of power, using his influence as Associate Justice to secure a ruling in his favor at the Supreme Court to take possession of the land.

But Ja'neh's lawyers have repeatedly maintained that the claim that their client allegedly manipulated the Supreme Court to rule in his favor in the property case questions the credibility of Chief Justice Korkpor who serves as the head of the Supreme Court and also signed the ruling that is one of the counts against Ja'neh.

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But the Chief Justice rejected the motion filed to



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Lonestar Cell MTN launches Morning Gees

Lonestar Cell MTN, Liberia's #1 network, has recently made significant investments in our data network. To ensure that our subscribers can experience our new and improved high-speed data, we have launched Morning Gees for

our customers to enjoy our data experience free of charge.

With Morning Gees, customers can get 200MB of free data to browse the internet or chat online with friends between 1am and 7am. Customers can simply dial *352# and select Morning Gees

to subscribe. Subscription must be done every day and customers can purchase bundles from our data menu (*352#) to continue browsing throughout the day. This offer is a part of the #Here4u campaign, is totally free and is available to



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