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# The New Dawn

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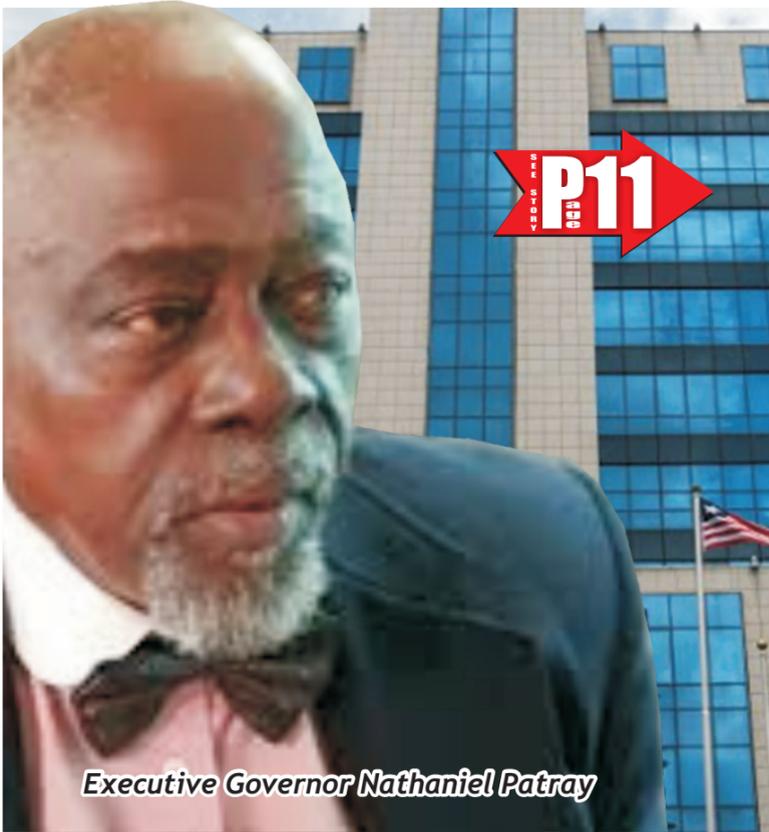
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Executive Governor Nathaniel Patray

# Weah's headache

# Lawyer drops from Ja'neh's trial



Associate Justice Kabineh Ja'neh



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# Continental News

## Zimbabwe says US renewal of sanctions 'regrettable'

Zimbabwe on Wednesday slammed as a travesty of justice the "regrettable" year-long extension of sanctions targeted against selected government officials and institutions by the United States.

US President Donald Trump this week prolonged the sanctions, first imposed in 2003, on more than 100 individuals and entities -- including President Emmerson Mnangagwa and his predecessor Robert Mugabe -- over human rights abuses. Trump also said the individuals posed "an unusual and extraordinary threat" to US foreign policy.

"Zimbabwe has no history of aggression against any nation, so the statement that 'Zimbabwe poses an extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States' is absurd," said Information Ministry Secretary Nick Mangwana in a statement cited by the state-media daily

The Herald. "The continued unilateral imposition of sanctions against Zimbabwe by the United States is a travesty of justice against the Zimbabwean people," said Mangwana.

Since the removal of longtime ruler Mugabe with the help of the military in

November 2017, the new government has been on campaign to re-engage internationally, especially with the West.

"We... expect our warm gestures to be reciprocated and to witness a shift in US foreign policy on Zimbabwe as the logical dividend," added

Mangwana.

Foreign Affairs secretary James Manzhou told a parliamentary committee on Wednesday that while the US sanctions "regrettably remains in place, the ministry believes that the new dispensation (government) has laid firm a foundation for future relations with the United States".

The extension of US sanctions comes days ahead of a visit to Zimbabwe next week by South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa.

Ramaphosa has led calls by African leader for the lifting of sanctions imposed by Western powers over rights abuse under Mugabe's regime. AFP



US President Donald Trump has prolonged sanctions on more than 100 individuals and entities from Zimbabwe

## R Kelly detained over child support

Musician R. Kelly was taken into custody Wednesday afternoon after failing to comply with a judge's order that he pay more than \$161,000 in back child support.

More than an hour after Kelly entered a closed court hearing in the Daley Center, he walked out accompanied by Cook County sheriff's deputies. "He's in our custody," said Sophia Ansari, a spokeswoman for the sheriff's office. The hearing was held by Judge Lori Rosen, who last month warned Kelly that he faced jail time unless he paid the child support and interest. During Wednesday's hearing, Kelly was found in contempt and ordered into custody, according to Cara Smith, chief policy officer at the sheriff's office.

Kelly must pay \$161,663 to be released from jail, she said. His next court date is March 13. The arrest comes less than two weeks after Kelly put up \$100,000 to be released from custody on



criminal sexual abuse charges.

Records connected to Kelly's divorce case have been kept secret and out of public view. But paperwork on the back child support was made public in Kelly's criminal court file. Kelly and his ex-wife have three children together.

Kelly's publicist, Darryll Johnson, said the musician showed up with \$50,000 or \$60,000 but the judge wanted the full amount paid. "As you know, he hasn't worked in a long time," Johnson said.

When asked how Kelly can still live in the Trump Tower, he replied that Kelly "has some money." Kelly was "happy" when he arrived for the hearing, not thinking he would be jailed, Johnson said. But now he is "depressed, deflated and upset."

## Senators renew push to have more powers

Senators have renewed the push to have more powers so as to make the Senate superior to the National Assembly, as the debate on Constitutional changes gains momentum.

Speaking on the third day of the devolution conference in Kirinyaga County, Makeni Senator Mutula Kilonzo Jr said senators would support the referendum on condition that

the Senate is strengthened.

"If we give counties more, you must make the Senate the Upper House. That is not negotiable because there is the possibility of creating counties that will become monsters as a result of increased funding," he said.

He argued that devolution can be strengthened only through increased funding, and with greater oversight by

the Senate.

### MCA's AUTONOMY

Senate Speaker Kenneth Lusaka also insisted that the Senate must be given more powers.

"The referendum should focus on directing more resources to the counties. But as we strengthen devolution, we must also strengthen the Senate because it is the institution with the mandate to oversee devolution," he said. In a similar manner, county assembly members revived also their push for financial autonomy to increase their capacity to oversee governors.

County Assemblies Forum chairperson Johnson Osoi asked the Senate to enact legislation that would allow ward representatives to make financial decisions independently, citing delays in release of funds to county assemblies. AUDIT

County assemblies have been pushing to control their own budgets and not have the money channelled through the county executives.



A general view shows the Parliament Buildings in Nairobi, Kenya

"Assemblies cannot, six years down the line, still rely on county executives to access their funds. The autonomy of county assemblies must be taken seriously since it is a very important issue," Mr Osoi said.

"We are open to the referendum debate, as long as it will strengthen the counties. The citizens of this country are already enjoying the benefits of devolution and we can only add value to this," he said.

Meanwhile, governors were accused of defying summons by the Senate to answer audit queries. CORRUPTION

Mr Kilonzo told the meeting that governors are often reluctant to appear before the

Senate's Public Accounts Committee to answer questions pertaining to financial management.

At the same time, Ethics and Anti-Corruption Chairman Eliud Wabukala said no one involved in corruption would be spared.

"We shall not relent in the battle against this vice. We are working jointly with the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and Directorate of Criminal Investigation to slay corruption," he said.

And Auditor-General Edward Ouko praised the governors for showing a keen interest in implementing recommendations he made to counties. AFP

# EDITORIAL

## Mathew J. Innis' death raises too many questions

CIRCUMSTANCES THAT LED to the death of the Central Bank of Liberia Deputy Director for Micro-finance, Matthew J. Innis, on Saturday, 2 March in an alleged hit and run accident along the Samuel Kanyon Doe Boulevard near his residence in 72nd community, barely three days after the release of findings into investigations of the alleged missing 16 billion Liberian banknotes and the US\$25 million infused in the economy to mop up excess liquidity raise more questions than answers.

THE LATE INNIS, who directly served in the Regulation and Supervision Department of the CBL, was poised to testify as a witness in ongoing investigation of several staff of the Central Bank, including former Executive Governor Milton Weeks, Deputy Governor for Operations, Charles Sirleaf, who is son of ex-President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, and Director of Banking, Dorbor Hagba, among others in perhaps the biggest scandal ever in Liberia.

ACCORDING TO INITIAL reports from family sources, he left home on Saturday, strangely for work, something that was viewed as uncommon and did not respond to calls from his family at home the entire day. Suddenly at about 2:00 early Sunday morning, the family was hit with news of his death in a hit and run car accident not too far from his residence.

THE BODY OF the late Innis was reportedly discovered near his car with bruises on his face and arm, dressed in a pair of shorts and a muscle t-shirt, without any damage to his vehicle. Police then turned over his personal effects such as a laptop, mobile phone and others to the family, reports detailed.

ACCORDING TO REPORT, the police had immediately taken the body to ELWA Hospital along the Robertsfield highway before the family was contacted by unidentified group of men believed to be community residents.

SUSPICIONS AROUND PARTICULARLY among members of the family how Matthew Innis died, with some suspecting he may have been murdered elsewhere and his body dumped by his car near his residence, indicating he was involved in an accident, purportedly a hit and run, as the alleged vehicle involved is reportedly on the run.

SOME QUESTIONS BEING raised in the public are: Why would Matthew, poised to testify in a major financial scandal involving his past and current senior bosses from his place of work, be reported killed in a hit and run accident, especially at an odd hour (2:00 A.M.) Sunday, having left for work a day earlier? Why he did not respond to phone calls the entire day before, even up to news of his death the next day? Why is own car not damaged or why would he had disembarked from his car at such hour, being alone to become victim of a hit and run accident? Is it that he knew more about the LRD16 billion and the US\$25 million saga and suspected culprits wanted him silenced before the actual trial starts? Did he in fact, report for work on Saturday, 2 March at the CBL, and when did he leave for home? Are files in his office at the CBL still intact? What was the last call he made or received, and who was involved? These are just but few of the questions in the public regarding Matthew Innis' death amid a major criminal investigation.

REPORTS SAY POLICE are reluctant to speak on the situation since the alleged 'hit and run' accident occurred on the SKD Boulevard early Sunday. Family members are being prevented from taking possession of the body, pending an autopsy.

MATTHEW INNIS' DEATH reminds us of two suspicious deaths of high profile individuals during the administration of Ex-president Ellen Johnson Sirleaf - the late Harry A. Greaves, Jr. and the late Cllr. Michael Allison. Greaves, who suddenly became a bitter critic of Madam Sirleaf after having served in her administration as Managing Director of the Liberia Petroleum Refining Company, was found dead off the shores of Monrovia early Sunday, 31 January 2016 behind the former Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs, while Cllr. Allison's body was "discovered on the beach on 4th Street on Thursday February 12, 2015", according to the Liberia National Police.

THE LATE CLLR. ALLISON reportedly blew the whistle that led to a corruption investigation by the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission or LACC, involving former Speaker J. Alex Tyler and Montserrado County Representative Adolph Lawrence, among others about funds from the National Oil Company of Liberia or NOCAL.

AS INVESTIGATIONS ON the newly printed 16 billion Liberian Dollars and the US\$25 million kick off in Monrovia, we can but only hope the suspicious death of Matthew J. Innis, a staff of the Central Bank of Liberia, who was reportedly set to testify in court, has no connection whatsoever with the financial trial, as this could open a fresh can of worms.

# COMMENTARY

By Joseph S. Nye

## Rules of the Cyber Road for America and Russia

*In the cyber realm, the difference between a weapon and a non-weapon may come down to a single line of code, or simply the intent of a computer program's user. While this makes negotiating cyber arms-control treaties problematic, it does not make diplomacy impossible.*

CAMBRIDGE - The United States responded weakly after Russian cyber operations disrupted the 2016 presidential election. US President Barack Obama had warned his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, of repercussions, but an effective reply became entangled in the domestic politics of Donald Trump's election. That could be about to change.

Recently, American officials anonymously acknowledged that US offensive cyber operations prevented a Kremlin troll farm from disrupting the 2018 Congressional elections. Such offensive cyber operations are rarely discussed, but they suggest ways to deter disruption of the US presidential election in 2020. Attacking a troll farm will not be enough.

Deterrence by threat of retaliation remains a crucial but underused tactic for preventing cyber attacks. There has been no attack on US electrical systems, despite the reported presence of Chinese and Russians on the grid. Pentagon doctrine is to respond to damage with any weapon officials choose, and deterrence seems to be working at that level.

Presumably, it could also work in the gray zone of hybrid warfare, such as Russia's disruption of democratic elections. Given that US intelligence agencies are reported to carry out espionage in Russian and Chinese networks, one can imagine that they discover embarrassing facts about foreign leaders' hidden assets, which they could threaten to disclose or freeze. Similarly, the US could go further in applying economic and travel sanctions against authoritarians' inner circles. The diplomatic expulsions and indictments since 2016, and the recent offensive actions, were only first steps toward strengthening America's deterrent threat of retaliation.

But deterrence will not be enough. The US will also need diplomacy. Negotiating cyber arms-control treaties is problematic, but this does not make diplomacy impossible. In the cyber realm, the difference between a weapon and a non-weapon may come down to a single line of code, or simply the intent of a computer program's user. Thus, it will be difficult to prohibit the design, possession, or even implantation for espionage of particular programs. In that sense, cyber arms control cannot be like the nuclear arms control that developed during the Cold War. Verification of weapons stockpiles would be virtually impossible, and even if it were assured, stockpiles could quickly be re-created.

But if traditional arms-control treaties are unworkable, it may still be possible to set limits on certain types of civilian targets, and to negotiate rough rules of the road that minimize conflict. For example, the US and the Soviet Union negotiated an Incidents at Sea Agreement in 1972 to limit naval behavior that might lead to escalation. The US and Russia might negotiate limits to their behavior regarding each other's domestic political processes. Even if there is no agreement on precise definitions, they could exchange

unilateral statements about areas of self-restraint and establish a consultative process to contain conflict. Such a procedure could protect democratic non-governmental organizations' right to criticize authoritarians while at the same time creating a framework that limits governmental escalation.

Skeptics object that such an arrangement is impossible, owing to the differences between American and Russian values. But even greater ideological differences did not prevent agreements related to prudence during the Cold War. Skeptics also say that Russia would have no incentive to agree, because elections are meaningless there. But this ignores the potential threat of retaliation discussed above: democratic openness means the US has more to lose in the current situation, which should encourage it not to hold back from pursuing its self-interest in developing a norm of restraint in this gray area.

Jack Goldsmith of Harvard Law School has argued that the US needs to draw a principled line and defend it. That defense would acknowledge that the US has itself interfered in elections, renounce such behavior, and pledge not to engage in it again. The US should also acknowledge that it continues to engage in forms of computer network exploitation for purposes it deems legitimate. And officials should "state precisely the norm that the United States pledges to stand by and that the Russians have violated."

This would not be unilateral disarmament on America's part; rather, it would draw a line between the permitted soft power of open persuasion and the hard power of covert information warfare. Overt programs and broadcasts would continue to be allowed. The US would not object to the content of Russia's open political speech, including their propagandistic RT television network. But it would object when Russia promotes its views through covert coordinated behavior such as the 2016 manipulation of social media, or dumping hacked e-mails.

Non-state actors often act as state proxies in varying degrees, but the rules would require their open identification. And because the rules will never be perfect, they must be accompanied by a consultative process that establishes a framework for warning and negotiation. Such a process, together with stronger deterrent threats, is unlikely to fully stop Russian interference, but if it reduces the level, it could enhance America's defense of its democracy.

Given the poor state of US-Russian relations, with Putin boasting about new nuclear weapons, the climate for an agreement is not promising, though there have been some hints of Russian interest. At the same time, the partisan divisions in US politics over the legitimacy of Trump's relationship with Russia also make negotiations difficult. If both sides want to avoid dangerous escalation, perhaps the possibilities can be explored in the context of a professional or military-to-military dialogue. Or the idea may just have to wait until after the 2020 election.

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## Lord, was our man wrong for saying he will build road from here to Charlie land?

Dear Father,

Kpoo, what all the noise around here for. The Footballer says he will fix the road from here to Charlie land and everybody on the internet laughing. Yor wait ya, yor don't know that we even need road from here to Uncle Sam's village.

My son what are you talking?

Father, let the people leave that thing ya. Our man was speaking jargons-our village jargons. The only thing they should tell me is that people from other villages who have never live in our village before will not understand what the Footballer was saying.

For example, eh when we want to get to somebody we can ask one of our friends who knows that person to make way or clear the road for us or in some of our traditional villages we can say come clear the road or connect my wire.

So, I can't understand why people will be making noise here and there for- the Footballer was right for saying he will build road from here to Charlie land- for all you know he could have been talking about friendship.

The man gat to speak our traditional language. All the Footballer was saying is that he want the road between us and our neighboring villages to be clear for us to have that good relationship.

Hmmm, my son you na turned to the man spokesman na to explain what he says and what he means?

No, Father am just saying the man is from our village so before people start saying here and there that he did not know what he was saying, let them look at the way we talk here. Common phrases like burn my wire, come clear the road, you need to build the bridge-all talks about connection and relation in our village.

But the man was not talking to the people in yor village alone.

Father, da one let them come ask us we will explain to them what our man meant when he said that. Ehn when they ready they can say their own too and sometimes we understand it differently-now we equal.

In fact, if I were one of the Footballer's speech writers, I will be putting Kru and Bassa all in the speech, whether they understand or not we going.

Hmmm, any way they say what is happening at the Traditional Counsel at the upper end?

Hayaka, it not easy there oo. They say the Elders from the Palaver Hut na carry their woman business there oo-my name ooo. Tell me something my son!

Oh, Father, all the noise we are hearing especially between those two people who acting like cat and dog, am told da one lay geh business. Somebody told me that one lay geh play game with the two papay them and now they can't see eyebolt to eyebolt. Na, the Chiefs at the Traditional Counsel has presented the two men them the perfect theater to fight their silent war.

But the one I hear that true?  
About what na Father?

They say the Footballer na move to Chugbor, one of the Fiefdom in yor village?

Father my name ooh, that other geez too heavy for my mouth oo. I can't feel talk that one sef. The people who get mattress on their back can go for it oo.

Hmm but did you hear this other one they say the Paramount Chief at the Traditional Council has asked the Footballer to beg his girlfriend for him because the girl has refused to marry him. So the Footballer is begging the geh and is putting the place the people can keep their retirement money there as a reward if she agrees to marry the Paramount Chief.

They say the geh na start asking around about the place but she doesn't seem interested because they say she na like my man but don't want to make our big man shame that he begged her in vain.  
Um, water don't pass gari! We inside proper.



## MANO RIVER UNION UNION DU FLEUVE MANO

CELEBRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY - March 8th 2019

STATEMENT FROM THE MANO RIVER UNION

Office of the  
Secretary-General

The day March 8th has become known around the world as International Women's Day. It is with great honour and pleasure that the Mano River Union Secretariat is proud to join in solidarity again with all women globally but most especially the women of Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea and La Cote D'ivoire and throughout the world to celebrate international women's Day under the theme: **Think Equal, Build Smart, and Innovative for change.**

The theme for this year focus is significant as it seeks to take the challenge Of equality to "brain power" for which both women and men are endowed with and must make use of to build and innovate and help bring about the change we desire in our societies and countries.

The theme for this year International Women's Day seeks innovative ways in which we can advance gender equality and the empowerment of women, particularly in the areas of social protection, access to public services, and sustainable infrastructure. Innovation and technology create great opportunities, for women in the new digital world and create positive focus for women to strive in the field of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and design. Innovative approaches that shuns the "business as usual" and advance to removing structural barriers and ensuring that no woman and no girl is left behind in the new digital world economy.

We at the MRU are mindful that we will not do all in one day. It is however an imperative to realize there is still more to be done, but it is important to note that humanity and the global system of the UN, as the world government, has worked very hard to ensure that the gaps between women and men are reduced and women have been given the opportunities to play some important roles on the world's stage; especially in sustainable development through the strong contribution in the area of Peace and Security.

It is a clearly demonstrated fact that without peace and security, there can be no development. This can be validated by the United Nations Resolution 1325 adopted in 2000, which affirmed women participations in Peace and Security, equal access to decent work, and to national decision-making. The Mano River Union sub-region is a testimony of women's role in bringing peace, through the firmness and persistent involvement of the Mano River Union Women Peace Network-(MARWOPNET) during the civil crisis in Liberia and Sierra Leone. This CSO group has been recognized and certified by the United Nations for its vital role in the peace process in the sub-region.

In this same view, the MRU Strategic Plan (2010-2020), has a pillar that deals with gender related issues on the engagement of women in Peace and Security, democratic governance, and the promotion of women empowerment.

Today, in the area of Peace, Security and Democratic Governance, MRU continues to work with MARWOPNET and other women's groups in each of the four countries, for the monitoring of elections; for example in 2017 election in Liberia and 2018 election in Sierra Leone, and such involvement added value to the credibility of a peaceful transfer of power in the two countries.

Additionally the MRU with Support from partners has implemented projects with the objectives to empower women financially; especially at the border communities and provide support through the building of structures at the border communities for women engaged in cross border trade.

The perspectives of the MRU are to ensure the continued promotion of women; specifically at political level in Member States as well as their participation in national decision-making. In this case, MRU wants to strengthen its collaboration with women groups throughout the sub region through advocacy to encourage them To participate into politics and governance issues that will put them in areas of decision-making which can change their lives and further reduce the inequality between men and women in our society. It is only women that can fight to promote the innovation in all the domains to actually improve their lives.

As we celebrate this day, we call on our four Member States to reaffirm their commitment to the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) which deals with women, peace and security; equal access to decent work and to decision-making, and the involvement of rural women and girls. Additionally, to support the women of the Mano River Union Sub-region in programs that promotes gender mainstreaming in national development issues. This the MRU believe is the right way to **Think Equal, Build Smart, and Innovate for change!! I thank you all.**  
**END!!**

# SPECIAL FEATURE

## Old Nation but No 'Library', Proxy in Shamble!

*Liberia declared independence in 1847 and is considered Africa's oldest Republic. Its national flag and constitution are replicated after those of the U.S. Founded by repatriated Black Americans, who ruled the country for more than a century; Liberia was once viewed by her neighbors and visitors as an American Colony in Africa. The country is blessed with abundant mineral resources like Iron ore, gold, diamonds, and timber, but in spite of such accomplishments and blessing, the nation counts among the world's poorest countries, and with not a single national library to boast of. A proxy 'national' library, remains in shamble—a case of total neglect!*

By: James Kokulo Fasuekoi | A special contributor in Minneapolis, MN.

Liberia, the oldest nation on the continent of Africa does not own a national library and it has been so for over a century and half in spite of possessing abundant mineral resources. Interesting as it seems, many of Liberia's early presidents, born in the U.S. and educated there, prior to their migration to Liberia, West Africa, never considered the erection of a national library as part of their political agendas.

And the same is also true for succeeding administrations led by indigenous themselves, following the overthrow of the TWP oligarchy, April 12, 1980, beginning with Samuel Doe, through Charles Taylor, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, (a so-called 'Harvard University trained economist'), and current President George Manneh Weah. In the meantime, a proxy "national" library stands in total shamble at the heart of Monrovia, with no one willing to revive it.

Next July, Liberia will turn 172 years old but sadly, there's barely a significant development to show to match her age. Basic social services like computer labs, national libraries, for instance, essential for research works as well as enhance the learning capacity of locals, remain practically non-existence. And things have been so before the war broke out.

Most find this rather ironic, especially for a country this old and with strong ties to the United States. The story, however, seems totally different with Liberia's close and distanced African neighbors like Guinea, Ivory Coast and Ghana—all of whom gained independence in the 50s and 60s. They have modern roads, hospitals, universities, as well as modern libraries and computer labs.

### Understatement

When Rev. Dr. Francis Tabla first raised the issue of the country's lack of national library in 2013, in Minnesota during a fundraising rally for the construction of a library project in Kakata, Liberia, some gnashed their teeth in disbelief while others weighted his remark as an understatement. But an investigation by this writer proved Dr. Tabla was right and that there isn't a single public, or a national library in the entire country.

As of late 2018, a few universities and colleges in Liberia ran some type of makeshift library and with a few maintaining a computer lab. Even so, these institutions restrict use of such facilities to only their students, prohibiting the public and out-of-campus users from using them.

Such situation has left many in serious dilemma and with practically no hope in sight. Some educational experts attribute it to be largely the cause of mass failure entrance exams offered by colleges and universities in the country, an example being the 2017 UL exams during which only 1,901 passed out of 10, 837 students who sat for it nationwide.



But for Dr. Tabla who now owns a mega African immigrant church in Minnesota, there's hope that his Kakata library—a resource center for the community—when finished, would help alleviate some of the headaches long faced by teachers and students in Margibi region.

### Paradox

It may sound paradoxical but it's clear from a historical perspective that close to a dozen of Liberia's twenty-three former presidents were freed black Americans who were born to slave parents in America.

Take for instance, Joseph Jenkins Roberts who was first president and a descendent of slave, was born in Norfolk, VA, as were presidents Edward James Roye, Newark, OH; James S. Smith, Charleston, SC; James S. Payne, Richmond, VA and Stephen A. Benson, Cambridge, MD. Daniel B. Warner, the 3rd president, originated from Baltimore, MD, while Alfred Russell and William D. Coleman, came from Kentucky.

Except for a few, most received their secondary and higher education in the U.S. before their migration to Liberia which started 1822 with the help of the American Colonization Society (ACS). But in spite of their rich educational background, not a single one erected a public library.

### Neglect

During the eras of both Presidents Williams V.S. Tubman and William R. Tolbert, periods in which economists said Liberia experienced "surplus" in goods and heavily exported gold, diamonds, timber, rubber and iron ore at excellent rates, nothing much changed in terms of national development and no one could dare press them for accountability. Both were descendants of freed slaves.

Mr. Tolbert undertook the Rally Time project with the motive to improve the standard of living among ordinary citizens. But his dream ended a decade later when he was overthrown April 12, 1980 by a group of soldiers who charged him and his cabinet officials for engaging in rampant corruption before executing them. Mr. Tubman, on

the other hand, initiated some "development," including building a library in his hometown of Harper, Maryland in Liberia.

Though some credit Tubman as the "Father" of "Modern Liberia," yet, historians remain critical of his administration, an era of "surplus", where they argued that developments undertaken by Tubman didn't commensurate with the revenues intake from the booming mining industries at the time.

### Substitute

In the absence of a national library, the Law Library located in the heart of Monrovia and operated by the local lawyers' committee has managed to fill in the gape all these years.

Although this library itself, falls short of functional equipments and academic researched materials, needed to run a modern library, yet journalists, visiting scholars, teachers, and students, across Monrovia and beyond, have found it resourceful and far better than having none.

Like every institution in Liberia, the two civil wars of 1989-1996 and 1999-2003, took heavy toll on the Law Library when the fighting reached downtown, Monrovia. Looters broke into properties including this library and looted them each time there was a lull in fighting.

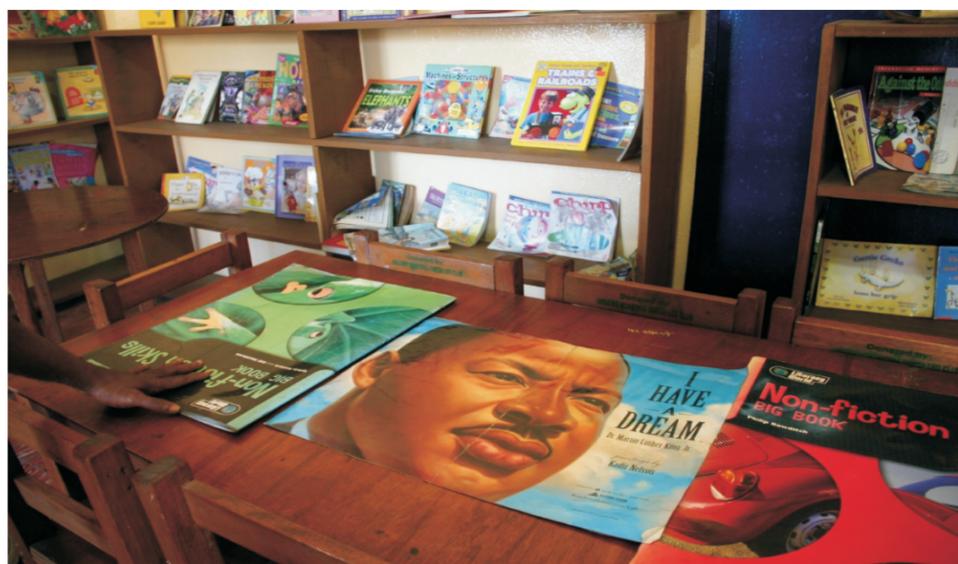
### Remnants

When the wars ended, the library staff went in and recovered whatever had been left there after looters. And it soon became obvious that this recordkeeping center stands badly in need of rehabilitation and donation in order to keep it alive after its assistant manager Petar Doryen Wreh, took me on a tour of the facility early last March.

On its partly emptied dusty shelves, are books on religion, Liberian and world histories, as well as US encyclopedia, literature, science, math, chemistry and physics. Among its treasured collections are braille on Harry Potter and the sorcerer's stone, the history and life style of Braille Francis, the inventor of the Braille. Its oldest book is a World's Atlas, printed in 1972. Most appeared worn out, something Wreh attributed to the books' extensive usage and lack of ventilation.

Unlike most modern libraries, the Law Library lacks functional equipment like computers (desk and laptop) and photocopy machines. The most valuable equipment found is a 2020 Microfilm projector—though obsolete—that sits on a table in the corner.

TO BE CONT'D



## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

**Don't steal public money**

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Bishop Dr. Stephen T.Y. Benda of the Sinkor United Pentecostal Church of Liberia/Guinea says being a bishop or a pastor of a church or head of a government institution does not give a person right to steal institutional money.

He stresses that leaders should use only money that belongs to them, while being satisfied with their income and put interest of the people first in everything they do.

Speaking Wednesday, 6 March in Monrovia at an honoring program, Bishop Binda notes, "What I can say to all Liberians is for them to be sincere because when they are sincere, they would improve their country; the fact that they are Christians, sincerity is required at every sector from the church, political, and economic level, sincerity must prevail."

A local body, Smart Media Group, honors Dr. Benda as "Bishop of the Year 2018/2019" for his dedication and commitment to the Church and the Country.

He urges the media in Liberia to always remain factual adding, people depend on the media for factual and credible information.

Bishop Dr. Benda notes that people in the world, including

Liberians live in a world of ingratitude, and ingratitude is part of human nature.

He challenges church leaders and government officials to serve with faithfulness because people are monitoring their activities.

and also any church or organization without young people that church or organization is without a future generation."

He expresses that young people are his heart beat, so they are being sponsored in

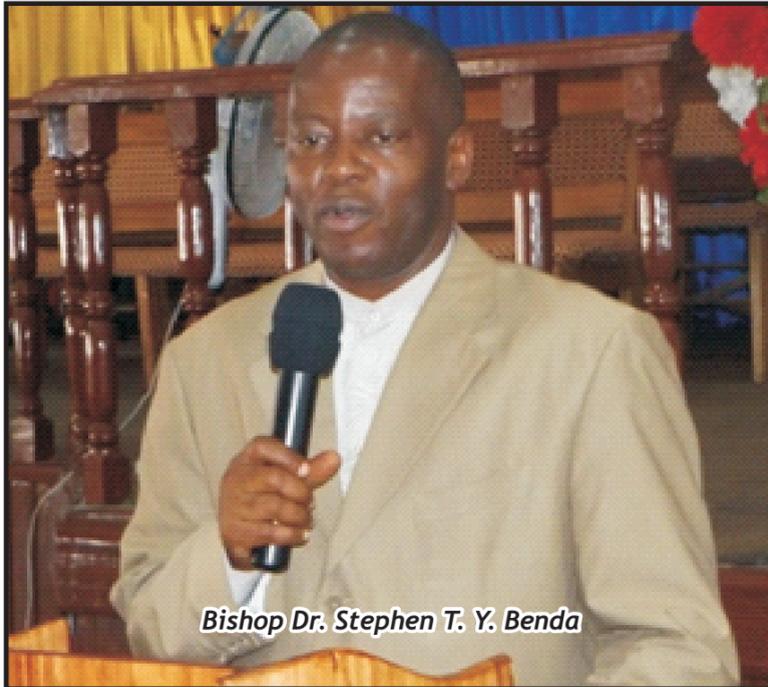
their education and uphold moral values.

Presenting the certificate of honor to Bishop Dr. Benda, Smart Media Group Head of Operations Samuel Coleman, says Dr. Benda was selected after carefully monitoring his performances, personalities and institutions.

The Group notes Bishop Dr. Benda's tremendous preaching of God's words in bringing non-

believers closer to God, acknowledging the Bishop's unique work, which has positively impacted spiritual lives of every member of the Sinkor United Pentecostal Church.

The ceremony was graced by senior officials of the Church in Liberia, including students. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*



Bishop Dr. Stephen T. Y. Benda

According to him, if he were not faithful to his calling, Smart Media Group would not have bestowed honor on him.

"I am a lover of young people based on my philosophy which says that any church without old people that church is without a history

schools to make sure they become future generation who will break the generational gap.

He urges young people in Liberia to get away from immorality and vices that could cripple the Country's future and instead, pay attention to

**Call to probe GVL**

By Bridgett Milton

Grand Kru County District #1 Rep. Nathaniel N. Bahway, wants full plenary of the House of Representatives to invite the General Manager of Golden Veroleum Liberia (GVL) to give reason why he should not be held responsible for alleged unfair treatment meted out against employees of the company.

In a communication addressed to the House, Rep. Bahway laments that the action of the company is in contradiction of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between communities and the GVL in Electoral District #1, Grand Kru.

indicates that the company had agreed also to build and equip schools, construct housing units and employ teaching and support staffs to enable their children to go to school.

In spite of the locals' appeals with the company on several occasions, Rep. Bahway narrates that GVL has allegedly refused to do what it had promised to do.

In relation to a case of the company's alleged unfair treatment against its employees, Rep. Bahway recalls how GVL allegedly dismissed a truck driver transporting palm oil from Grand Kru to the company's factory in Sinoe County

**Census faces big financial gap**

Liberia's Institute for Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS), Deputy Director General Alex Williams says government has secured an allotment of US\$3 million in the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 for the conduct of census this year. The amount he said, is USD16.377 million shy of the

requested commitment of US\$19,377,838.31 to jumpstart the census activities.

Despite the huge gap in the allotment, Mr. Williams told a press conference Thursday, 7 March at the Ministry of Information, plans for the conduct of the 2019 National census is well on course.

The LISGIS Deputy Director General for Statics and Data Processing says his outfit anticipates the realization of government and its partners' commitment timely, revealing that the timeline for the actual date of enumeration is scheduled for 8-14 December 2019, while census night is planned for December 8, 2019.

According to Mr. Williams, the planned census should have been undertaken last year as require by the constitution.

He says Chapter 5, Article 39 of the Liberian Constitution requires the Legislature to cause a census of the country to be undertaken every ten years.

He recalls that Liberia conducted its last census in 2008, which depicts that the next census was due in 2018.

Mr. Williams stresses that the conduct of the census this year is cardinal to the growth and development of Liberia.

He concludes that the importance of the 2019 national census here cannot be overemphasized. *--Edited by Winston W. Parley*



**GVL** GOLDEN VEROLEUM LIBERIA

According to him, the MOU sets a ratio of one employment for community residents to every six hectares of their land.

He explains that this means that any citizen, who is employed under such arrangement, and is not able to continue the work, he or she should be replaced by any other person recommended by the community.

But Rep. Bahway complains that GVL has disagreed to such replacement, ignoring the alleged MOU signed with the community.

Further, Rep. Bahway

without first informing the Liberia National Police to investigate the matter.

Additionally, he complains that the driver was dismissed by GVL without any compensation when the truck that was involved in the accident was not allegedly damaged.

Meanwhile, the House of Representatives has forwarded the communication to its Committee on Labor and Judiciary to report in two weeks. *--Edited by Winston W. Parley*

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**Weah makes appointments in government**

President George Manneh Weah has made additional appointments in government affecting Grand Gedeh County Community College, National Housing Authority and the Liberia Airport Authority.

According to an Executive Mansion release issued Thursday, 7 March, those appointed at the Grand Gedeh County Community College Board include Mr. Philip Dwuyee, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, representing Konobo District; Mr. Allen Lincoln, Vice Chairman, representing Gbarzon District and Mr. E. Gandy Dweh, Member, representing Tchien District.

Others appointed at the Grand Gedeh County Community College Board of Trustees are Dr. Solomon X. Y. Jallayu, Secretary, Board of Trustees; Madam Felicia Duncan, Member, representing Civil Society Organizations; Sen. G. Alphonso Gaye, Member, Senator of Grand Gedeh County; and Mr. Alex Chersia Grant, Member, Chairman, Grand Gedeh Legislative Caucus.

Further, the National Commission on Higher



Education is named as Ex-Officio; Ministry of Education, Ex-Officio; Mr. Youbothy Tarley, Member, President, Alumni, Grand Gedeh County Community College.

On the National Housing Authority Statutory Board, President Weah has appointed the Minister of Public Works as a member; the Minister of Finance as member; Minister of Mines and Energy as member; Civil Service Agency

Director General as member; and the Managing Director of the National Housing Authority as Executive Secretary.

At the Liberia Airport Authority, President Weah has further appointed Bishop J. Allan Klayee as Acting Managing Director.

The Executive Mansion says these appointments are subject to confirmation by the Liberian Senate where applicable.--Press release

**Temporary office announced for Margibi District Five**

By Ramsey N. Singbeh, Jr. Margibi

Following numerous complaints from people of Margibi County District#5, decrying lack of office for their lawmaker, a local phone charging booth has been identified as temporary office for Representative Clarence G. Gahr of district#5, pending construction for a district office.

The facility belongs to an office staff of the lawmaker, identified as Alex Fortune (Fat Boy).

The disclosure was made recently on two community radio stations in the district by the Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Clarence and Friends Association (CFA) Karimu Fahnbulleh, while clarifying why Representative Gahr currently does not have

and that's the place."

"Fat Boy is responsible for that; I want to tell you that if you have a letter, just drop it there then it will reach to the Honorable man; that's all."

However, he assures that an office will soon be built for the lawmaker, containing various headquarters adding, "Whorn we will have some sub-headquarters there, Weala will be the main headquarter in the Cinta Belt."

Asked how the lawmaker has been interacting with citizens without a district office in one and half year, he answered: "You know this is a pro poor government and you know the man is just coming into office, so we are working out modality."

Mr. Fahnbulleh reiterates if



Representative Clarence G. Gahr of Margibi District Five

**Lawmaker identifies with fire victims**

By Ramsey N. Singbeh, Jr. in Margibi

Margibi County District Four Representative, Ben A. Fofana, donates construction materials and food to victims of a recent fire disaster in his district that left several residents homeless.

Rep. Fofana presents 20

including women and children in whatever way to restart their lives.

He describes the gesture as an initial contribution, promising to do more.

Receiving the items on behalf of the affected residents, Chief Binda Sackie, thanks Representative Fofana and assures him they will be

retrieved during the incident, which started when a two-year lad reportedly left alone in a kitchen, inadvertently set ablaze one of the thatched kitchens, which was very closed to several houses thus, spreading the flame. No casualty was reported.

The incident left over nine rice kitchens burnt without



Burnt Kcor Town and Rep Ben A. Fofana

bundles of zinc, 10 bags of 25-Kg bags of rice and 20 boxes of zinc nails, amongst others recently to the people of Kcor Town in Weala Clan, Electoral District Four, Margibi County.

The lawmaker expresses sorrow for the misfortune and promises to help the victims,

delivered to intended beneficiaries and used for the intended purpose.

Meanwhile, Kor-ta which has over 30 houses, suffered a recent fire disaster that burnt about 15 houses and several rice kitchens.

Not a single item was

villagers taking out anything in a disaster that occurred at about 2:00 P.M. on Wednesday, February 13th. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

an office in his district.

The CFA is the group that brought the lawmaker to prominence and led campaign for his election in 2017.

Representative Clarence G. Gahr, who succeeds former Speaker James Emmanuel Nuquay, has led the district for more than a year without an office much to the displeasure of citizens.

Though Mr. Fahnbulleh initially struggled in denying that they are not using the charging booth as an office, he eventually conceded to local that the booth is being used temporarily as district office.

Fahnbulleh: "I just want to make something clear; we are not using Fat Boy's booth as the office, but in case you have a letter in your hand and you want this letter to reach the Hon. Man, that's the best place

there is an emergency or a communication, it should be taken to Fat Boy's Booth because he is responsible for that instead of going from one place to another in search of an office for Representative Gahr.

But many citizens say it is demeaning for an elected lawmaker who has been in at the Capitol for more than a year to not have an office in his district to interact with his constituents, suggesting that it would have been rather dignifying to even use his residence in the district as a temporary office than a charging booth, something which they consider an insult to the entire district#5. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

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# Français

## L'opposition veut la peau du ministre Tweah et du gouverneur Patray

Quatre partis politiques alliés de l'opposition demandent au président George Manneh Weah d'ordonner immédiatement l'arrestation du ministre des Finances, Samuel Tweah, et du gouverneur exécutif de la Banque centrale du Libéria (CBL), Nathaniel Patray, dans le cadre de l'affaires des 25 millions de dollars américains injectés dans l'économie.

Les partis politiques de l'opposition, dont le parti de l'unité (ancien parti au pouvoir), ont lancé cet appel à la suite de l'arrestation et de l'inculpation de plusieurs cadres (anciens comme actuels) de la banque centrale du Libéria, dont M. Charles E. Sirleaf, fils de l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf.

Les quatre partis de l'opposition qui ont noué une alliance politique contre le régime actuel exigent que le ministre Tweah et l'actuel gouverneur de la banque centrale soient arrêtés, car l'équipe d'investigation présidentielle (PIT) mise en place par le président Weah se montre très critique de la méthode retenue par

l'administration Weah pour cette injection dans l'économie, de juillet à octobre 2018, de 25 millions de dollars américains, estimant qu'elle a "augmenté le niveau de risque" de malversations et recommandant des vérifications supplémentaires.

Les 4 et 5 mars dernier, M. Sirleaf, gouverneur adjoint de CBL, M. Milton Weeks, ancien gouverneur exécutif, et Dorbor Hagba, directeur des opérations bancaires de la CBL,

Richard H. Walker, directeur des opérations, et Joseph Dennis, directeur adjoint de l'audit interne, ont été incarcérés à la prison centrale de Monrovia après n'avoir pas payé la caution pour leur libération sous caution.

Ils ont été inculpés de multiples chefs d'accusation, dont sabotage économique, association de malfaiteurs et facilitation pénale pour leur rôle présumé dans l'affaire de la disparition présumée des 16

milliards de dollars libériens.

Les responsables ainsi mis en accusation devraient rendre compte d'un excédent de 2 645 000 000 LRD, dont on ne retrouve pas les traces.

Dans une déclaration commune lue le mercredi 6 mars tôt le matin au siège de l'ALP (All the Liberians Party) à Old Road par le président national du parti Theodore Momoh, les quatre partis politiques alliés ont demandé au gouvernement d'agir rapidement contre M. Tweah, M. Patray et d'autres membres de l'équipe technique de gestion économique (TEMT), outre les arrestations déjà effectuées.

« Cet appel fait suite aux conclusions de l'enquête selon lesquelles le ministre des Finances et de la Planification du développement et le gouverneur de la banque centrale, en qualité respectivement de président et de co-président de l'équipe de gestion technique et économique (TEMT), ont adopté une méthode contraire aux normes dans la gestion des 25 dollars américains débloqués pour soi-disant nettoyer l'économie en 2018 », a déclaré le président Momoh.

Momoh accuse également le ministre Tweah et le gouverneur Patray d'avoir induit les Libériens en erreur en 2018 en déclarant qu'il ne manquait pas d'argent. Cette action, selon l'opposition, avait créé de la confusion. Elle pense que c'était une tentative criminelle de leur part de faire obstruction à l'enquête autorisée par le président de la république.

L'opposition se réjouit cependant de l'arrestation des responsables de la banque centrale, mais elle demande au gouvernement d'aller plus loin en mettant la main sur le ministre des finances et l'actuel gouverneur de la CBL.

« Nous nous félicitons de l'acte posé par le gouvernement. Mais, vu la gravité de la situation et compte tenu du fait que certains hauts responsables de cette administration sont impliqués dans ce qui est sans aucun doute le plus grand scandale financier jamais enregistré au Libéria, cette action n'est encore totalement suffisante », a ajouté M. Momoh.

L'opposition met donc le président Weah en garde contre toute tentative de protéger les responsables de

son administration dont les noms ont été mentionnés dans les rapports, comme quoi ils ont contribué à la situation monétaire désordonnée du pays, tandis que les autres croupissent en prison.

Les deux rapports, selon l'opposition, ne contiennent aucune ambiguïté quant aux rôles joués par l'administration actuelle de la CBL, qui n'a pas pleinement coopéré avec Kroll Associates, encore moins avec l'équipe d'enquête présidentielle mise en place par le président de la république pour faire la lumière dans cette affaire.

Ils accusent le gouvernement du président Weah d'être responsable de la mal gérance des 25 millions de dollars US (environ quatre milliards de dollars libériens) dont l'objectif était d'éponger l'excès de liquidités.

L'opposition s'en prend en outre au chef de l'Etat en qualifiant de grossière sa déclaration et en l'accusant de tentative délibérée de saper la justice et de mal informer le peuple libérien. Elle reproche au président d'avoir déclaré à son retour d'Israël que son gouvernement avait été blanchi par les rapports des deux groupes d'enquêteurs.

« Comment le président Weah peut-il dire au monde que son gouvernement a été blanchi alors que le sous-gouverneur actuel et d'autres membres de la direction de la Banque centrale du Libéria sont poursuivis en justice pour utilisation abusive des fonds publics et sabotage économique et que les deux rapports d'enquête font état d'une déficience flagrante dans le système de contrôle interne de la CBL ? » s'interroge l'opposition.

Elle continue en disant que les rapports font clairement apparaître des actes frauduleux et suspects de la part des autorités fiscales et monétaires actuelles.

L'opposition s'insurge contre la tentative du président Weah et de son administration de faire semblant de ne pas savoir que les 25 millions en question ont été gérés de manière peu orthodoxe.

Les partis de l'opposition se disent fermement convaincus que les principaux membres de l'équipe de gestion économique du président Weah, comme le révèlent les rapports, ont conçus, commandités des stratagèmes pour exploiter la situation monétaire de l'année dernière pour commettre le crime de blanchiment d'argent.



## Côte d'Ivoire : Amadou Soumahoro prend la tête de l'Assemblée nationale

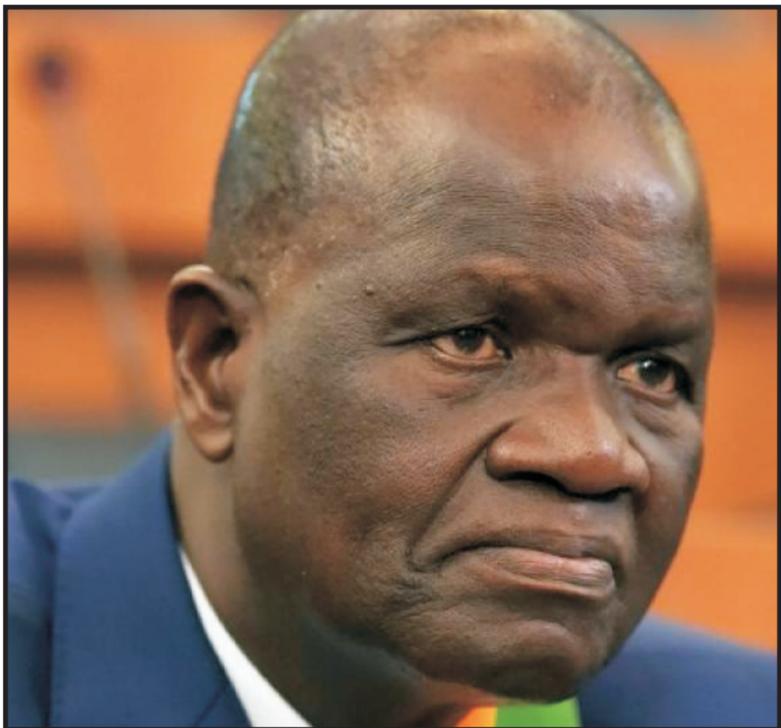
Un nouvel élu au perchoir en Côte d'Ivoire. Les députés, réunis en session extraordinaire, ont élu Amadou Soumahoro pour succéder à Guillaume Soro à la tête de l'Assemblée nationale.

Le suspense n'a pas duré longtemps en Côte d'Ivoire. En effet, la présidence de l'Assemblée nationale semblait déjà acquise au Rassemblement des houpouëtistes pour la démocratie et la paix (RHDP), le parti au pouvoir. Et dès

l'ouverture de la séance, l'issue ne faisait plus aucun doute puisque les députés de l'opposition ont choisi de boycotter.

Ils remettent en cause le mode de scrutin décidé par le président par intérim. Un scrutin à bulletins multiples au lieu d'un bulletin unique qui garantit le secret du vote de chaque député. C'est un détail très important, car le candidat du pouvoir, Amadou Soumahoro, ne faisait pas l'unanimité au sein même des députés RHDP. Un vote tenu secret, pour voter contre ou voter blanc, aurait donc été très utile pour les députés RHDP afin d'éviter le courroux de leur collègue et éventuellement de l'exécutif.

Amadou Soumahoro est donc désormais le nouveau président de l'Assemblée nationale. Il succède ainsi à Guillaume Soro, qui a basculé depuis dans l'opposition et qui a dû démissionner du perchoir le mois dernier. Guillaume Soro qui, avec le Parti démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI), faisait partie des grands absents pour ce scrutin.



# Français

## Un projet de construction d'une route de 50 millions US au Liberia adopté

La Banque d'Investissement et de Développement de la CEDEAO (BIDC) a tenu la 61<sup>ème</sup> réunion de son conseil d'administration le mardi 5 mars à Lomé.

Les travaux ont réuni les représentants des quinze pays de la Communauté des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO) initiatrice de cette institution financière internationale. Ils ont été consacrés à l'adoption et à l'examen de deux projets, jugés importants pour le développement des communautés, en faveur de deux pays membres. Le premier d'un montant de 50 millions de dollars porte sur la construction d'une infrastructure routière au Libéria. Le deuxième concerne le financement d'un projet dans le domaine de l'énergie en faveur de la Sierra Leone pour un montant de 5 millions de dollars.

La réunion a également abordé la question de la mobilisation des ressources financières pour

européens et à des partenariats bilatéraux comme la Chine et l'Inde dans la stratégie de mobilisation de fonds pour le financement des projets en Afrique de l'ouest.

Le président Ifo a évoqué le Programme National de Développement (PND) lancé au cours de la semaine par le chef de l'Etat Faure Gnassingbé et précisé que la banque va identifier avec les autorités les projets dans lesquels elle accompagnera le Togo.

Dans une motion lue par le représentant du Mali, M. Souahibou Diaby, le conseil d'administration de la BIDC a témoigné sa gratitude au président Gnassingbé, au gouvernement et au peuple togolais pour l'accueil réservé aux différentes délégations.

Bras financier des quinze pays de la CEDEAO, la BIDC est issue de la transformation, en 1999 du Fonds de coopération, de compensation et de développement de la CEDEAO. Elle sert environ 340 millions



le financement des projets dans la sous-région. Sur ce plan, les participants ont examiné des propositions faites par des financiers internationaux. Ils ont reçu des instructions du conseil d'administration pour poursuivre les discussions en vue de la mobilisation effective des ressources.

La rencontre a été présidée par le président du conseil d'administration de la BIDC, Bashir Mamman Ifo. Celui-ci a affirmé que l'institution financière travaille sur diverses questions relatives au développement des populations de la sous-région ouest-africaine à travers le financement de projets vitaux. Parlant de la mobilisation des fonds, M. Bashir a indiqué que les responsables de la BIDC travaillent sur le marché de l'UEMOA pour la mobilisation de 25 milliards de FCFA à investir dans les projets de développement. Il a dit avoir également recours aux pays

de citoyens de la communauté avec un accent sur les projets régionaux. Ceux-ci sont entre autres, les infrastructures énergétiques et de transport, la construction d'une base industrielle diversifiée et compétitive ou le renforcement d'un commerce intra régional dynamique et prospère.

La BIDC intervient aussi bien dans le secteur public que privé. L'institution est actionnaire fondatrice de Ecobank Transnational et de la compagnie aérienne ASKY Airlines. Elle est aussi partenaire et gestionnaire du Fonds de Garantie des Industries Culturelles (FGIC), initiatrice du Fonds africain des biocarburants et des énergies renouvelables (FABER) devenu SABER avec des décennies d'expérience dans le financement des projets au sein et entre les Etats de la CEDEAO.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Joseph S. Nye

### Fixer des règles dans le cyberconflit entre Amérique et Russie

CAMBRIDGE - La réponse des États-Unis face aux cyberopérations russes venues perturber la campagne présidentielle de 2016 n'a pas été très ferme. Le président Barack Obama avait mis en garde son homologue russe Vladimir Poutine sur les répercussions à venir, mais l'efficacité de la riposte avait été entravée par les considérations de politique nationale autour de l'élection de Donald Trump. Les choses pourraient bientôt changer.

Dernièrement, plusieurs responsables publics américains ont anonymement reconnu que des cyberopérations offensives de la part des États-Unis avaient permis d'empêcher une ferme à trolls du Kremlin d'interférer avec les élections du Congrès de 2018. Bien que rarement évoquées, les cyberopérations offensives de ce type fournissent une piste parmi d'autres dans la lutte contre les ingérences dans l'élection présidentielle de 2020. Car la neutralisation d'une ferme à trolls ne suffira pas.

La dissuasion par la menace de représailles demeure une tactique essentielle, pourtant insuffisamment exploitée, dans la prévention des cyberattaques. Aucune attaque n'a été constatée sur les systèmes électriques aux États-Unis, malgré la présence rapportée de Chinois et de Russes sur le réseau. La doctrine du Pentagone consiste à répondre par les armes, choisies par le gouvernement, quelles qu'elles soient, et la dissuasion semble fonctionner à ce niveau.

Cette dissuasion pourrait également opérer dans la zone grise des guerres hybrides, telles que l'ingérence de la Russie dans les élections démocratiques. Étant rapporté que les agences du renseignement américain espionnent les réseaux russes et chinois, elles sont sans doute amenées à découvrir des informations embarrassantes concernant les actifs dissimulés de dirigeants étrangers, que ces agences pourraient menacer de révéler ou de geler. De même, les États-Unis pourraient aller encore plus loin en appliquant des sanctions économiques et de déplacement contre les cercles proches des dirigeants autoritaires. Les expulsions diplomatiques et les mises en accusation actées depuis 2016, ainsi que les récentes démarches offensives, constituent seulement les premiers pas du renforcement de la dissuasion américaine par la menace de représailles.

Mais la dissuasion ne suffira pas. L'Amérique doit également employer la diplomatie. Bien que la négociation de traités sur le contrôle des armes cybernétiques soit problématique, cette difficulté ne rend pas la diplomatie impossible. Dans le domaine cybernétique, la différence entre ce qui est une arme et ce qui ne l'est pas se limite parfois à une simple ligne de code, ou seulement à l'intention de l'utilisateur d'un programme informatique. Il sera par conséquent difficile d'interdire la conception, la possession, voire l'implantation de programmes spécifiques à des fins d'espionnage. En ce sens, le contrôle des cyberarmes ne peut ressembler à celui des armes nucléaires pendant la guerre froide. Les vérifications de stocks d'armes seraient quasiment impossibles, et même si elles étaient effectuées, les stocks pourraient très rapidement être reconstitués.

Mais bien que les formes traditionnelles de traités sur le contrôle des armes soient peu praticables, il pourrait demeurer possible de fixer des limites sur certains types de cibles civiles, et de négocier des règles strictes destinées à minimiser le conflit. Les États-Unis et l'Union soviétique ont par exemple négocié en 1972 un accord sur les incidents maritimes, afin de limiter les comportements navals susceptibles d'engendrer une escalade. Amérique et Russie pourraient de la même manière négocier certaines limites de comportement dans les processus politiques domestiques. Même sans

accord sur les définitions précises, les deux pays pourraient échanger des déclarations unilatérales concernant les domaines exigeant de la retenue, ainsi qu'établir un processus consultatif de maîtrise du conflit. Une telle procédure pourrait préserver le droit démocratique des ONG de critiquer les dirigeants autoritaires, tout en créant un cadre qui limite l'escalade entre gouvernements.

Les plus sceptiques considèrent ce type d'entente comme impossible, faisant valoir les différences entre les valeurs américaines et russes. Or, les divergences idéologiques même les plus significatives n'ont pas empêché la conclusion d'accords de prudence pendant la guerre froide. Les sceptiques affirment également que la Russie n'aurait aucun intérêt à trouver un accord, dans la mesure où les élections ne revêtent pas de véritable valeur dans le pays. Or, cette conception néglige la menace potentielle de représailles évoquée précédemment : l'ouverture démocratique signifie que les États-Unis ont davantage à perdre dans la situation actuelle, ce qui devrait les encourager à ne pas renoncer à la poursuite de leurs intérêts dans le développement d'une norme de retenue au sein de cette zone grise.

Jack Goldsmith, de la Harvard Law School, considère que les États-Unis devraient tracer une ligne de principe, et la défendre. Cette défense impliquerait de concéder que l'Amérique a déjà interféré avec des élections, qu'elle renonce à ce comportement, et qu'elle s'engage à ne plus s'y livrer. Le pays devrait également reconnaître qu'il continue de mener une forme d'exploitation du réseau informatique à des fins qu'il juge légitimes. Les responsables publics devraient par ailleurs « formuler précisément la norme que les États-Unis s'engagent à respecter, et que les Russes ont enfreinte ».

Il ne s'agirait pas d'un désarmement unilatéral de la part des États-Unis, mais plutôt de la détermination d'une ligne entre d'un côté ce qui est autorisé comme un soft power de persuasion ouverte, et de l'autre le hard power de la guerre secrète de l'information. Les diffusions et programmes ouvertement orientés demeureraient autorisés. Les États-Unis ne s'opposeraient pas au contenu du discours politique officiel de la Russie, formulé notamment via son réseau télévisuel de propagande RT. En revanche, l'Amérique s'opposerait aux démarches consistant pour la Russie à promouvoir ses idées via des manœuvres coordonnées secrètes, telles que la manipulation des réseaux sociaux en 2016, ou les envois massifs d'emails piratés.

Les acteurs non étatiques font souvent office d'intermédiaires entre les États à des degrés divers. Les règles exigeraient désormais la pleine identification de ces acteurs. Et dans la mesure où ces règles ne seront jamais parfaites, elles doivent s'accompagner d'un processus consultatif qui établisse un cadre de mise en garde et de négociation. Un tel processus, combiné à de plus fortes menaces dissuasives, ne permettrait sans doute pas de stopper totalement l'ingérence russe, mais s'il en réduisait le degré, il permettrait de renforcer la défense de la démocratie américaine.

Compte tenu de l'état déplorable des relations entre les États-Unis et la Russie, à l'heure où Poutine vante l'essai d'un nouveau missile nucléaire, le climat n'est pas propice à un accord, bien que plusieurs signaux révèlent un intérêt de la part de la Russie. Dans le même temps, les divisions partisans dans la politique américaine autour de la légitimité des relations entre Trump et la Russie compliquent les possibilités de négociation. Si les deux camps entendent éviter une escalade dangereuse, peut-être faudrait-il explorer des pistes dans le contexte d'un dialogue entre professionnels, ou de militaire à militaire. Ou peut-être cette idée devra-t-elle attendre jusqu'à l'issue de l'élection de 2020.

# CULTURE & ENTERTAINMENT



With Ben Polee Wesee

## 7-year-old Pretty Savior, an upcoming star

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and producer of MI Records, Moses N. Dorley, sounds an SOS call to philanthropists in Liberia and other parts of the world for financial assistance to upkeep Liberia's youngest female artist, 7 years old Savior M. Youwah, popularly known as "Pretty Sylvia."

In an exclusive interview with Culture & Entertainment during the week, the manager appealed to meaningful Liberians, including Djs, bloggers, promoters and foreign nationals to rally support for little Sylvia, endowed with huge talents.

Moses explains he spotted Pretty Sylvia in New Georgia Estate, a Monrovia suburb where he operated a studio under the banner "MI Records" and noticed that she is talented.

According to him, he then started developing Sylvia's voice, which is most important in the musical industrial until she realizes her own voice.

The artist manager notes that he



recorded a song for Pretty Sylvia titled: "The Game" and the music went wide in communities, prompting him to send the song to CEO of Tune Liberia and also received huge download from music lovers in and out of Liberia.

MI King continues that he is doing everything humanly possible through the assistance of goodwill individuals to keep Pretty Savior's dream of becoming a big star in Liberia's entertainment industry.

The young manager indicates that under his watchful eyes, Pretty Sylvia has produced and released two songs, and is working two more songs that are expected shortly.

Pretty Sylvia is a 1st Grader at the E.S. Samuel United Methodist School in New Georgia Estate, Gardnerville Township, outside Monrovia.

Moses laments that financial support to Pretty has not been forthcoming, adding that everything she does comes from him, which is not sufficient to take her where she aspires to be.

MI King reveals that in order to expose Pretty Sylvia in Liberia and the world at large, he usually host street jam or take her on local artists' shows to perform and the video-tape her performance upload on social media.

He maintains that Sylvia M. Youwah is the first young female underground artist he has spotted and is doing everything possible to develop her talent that would enable her have a successful musical career.

For her part, Pretty Sylvia says she is grateful to her manager for his professional guidance, which encourages her to put in more time in developing her talent, including lyrical skills.

The young artist says while she appreciates everyone for their love, she also appeals for the assistance to



produce more wonderful songs, adding that she loves all those who play her two singles: "The Game and

Patience."

According to young Sylvia, she and her management team met with Liberia Movie Union president Frank Artus, who has promised to seek collaboration with well-meaning people interested in child development to assist her.

She calls on owners of radio stations and other entertainment platforms in the country to help play her music, noting that right now, she does not have money to underwrite cost some radio Djs are asking for before playing her songs.

She also disclosed her new project coming out soon, which she is collaborating with Liberian artist based in Nigeria J Max (the merry me man) and hopes to collaborate with other artists.

## CIC is Artist of the Year again

The TunesLiberia Music Awards 2019 have been held at the Monrovia City Hall in Monrovia. The night recently saw big achievers in the entertainment industry take home awards in various categories, including music, comedy, disc jockey, radio and others.

Bucky Raw took home three awards for Best Trapco Artist, Fan Army (Bucky Nation) and Album of the Year. SOG Record, CIC took home the award for Artist of the Year and Song of the Year.

In the Media Personalities category, Grace Weah, popularly known as Master Queen won the award for her numerous contributions made to the industry. Sheikh Mohammed, "Diamond Online" won the award for Best Online Blog.

Full list below:

International Diaspora - D12  
 Best Dj Singles - Dj Blue - BAE  
 Online/Media Personality - Master Queen  
 Best Fan Army - Bucky Nation  
 Best Collaboration Of The Year - JaRedo Ft Stunna - Nobody  
 Breakthrough Producer of The Year - Lil Jay  
 Most Promising Act To Watch - Mr. Parbai  
 Album/Mixtape Compilation - Bucky Raw - CS2  
 Best Online Blog - DiamondOnline  
 TrapCo Artist - Bucky Raw  
 Best Female Artist - Da Vero  
 Best Radio Dj - Dj McGrady  
 Best HipHop Artist - C-Note  
 RnB/Soul Artist - Kizzy W  
 Best Raggae/Dancehall Artist - CanC  
 Best Club Dj - Dj Theo  
 Best Producer Of The Year - Kizzy W  
 Traditional/Gbema Artist Of The Year - CasiMoney  
 Best Video Of The Year - Stunna - Balance  
 Best Video Director Of The Year - Jackie Russ  
 Best Comedian Of The Year - Angel Michael  
 Best New Artist - J Slught  
 Best Song Of The Year - CIC - Weekend  
 Best Group/Duo Of The Year - PCK & L'Frankie  
 AfroPop Artist Of The Year - Kobazzie  
 Gospel Artist Of The Year - Semah G Weifur  
 HipCo Artist Of The Year - Christoph  
 Best Artist Of The Year - CIC  
 Lifetime Achievement Awards - Miatta Fahnbulleh  
 Legendary Awards - Takun J  
 -Credit- asempi



## Entertainment update

Female sensation, Mai Myers, set to drop the video for her hit single "Done".

Floyd Nation signed artist, Pious, up next with his single, "If", which is coming with a video.

Gbema artist, Fullest 4, set to drop a single next month called, "My Way", featuring a popular Hipco artist.

Trapco artist, Sotee Nasty, set to shoot two videos for "Flowers To Them" and "Ur Leave Me" from his recently dropped mixtape "Missing Wallet".

Ballerz Inc key vocalist, Dickson, set to drop the video for his song, "Marry

Me" on Friday.

Trapco artist, Tito Gee, set to start his tour on May 11.

"In The Raggah" hitmaker, Boifatty, set to drop a new song on the 10th of March. Title? "Shut Up".

Newest sensation, Mic Killer, is upnext with a video for his single, "Money", featuring Teddyride.

Fireworks collaboration to watch out for: Qlee X Pascal

Talented painter and musician, Awindas set to drop a new song on the 13th of March featuring TK Will. Title? "Da Nathin"

*The Liberia influence*

# Weah's headache

Following days of persistent pressure both from the public and four collaborating opposition parties here, President George Manneh Weah finally orders an investigative audit into how US\$25 million earmarked to mop - up excess Liberian Dollars was expended.

The Executive Mansion says in a press release issued Thursday night, 7 March that President Weah mandates the General Auditing Commission (GAC) to come up with findings within two weeks.

Liberia's Finance Minister, Samuel Tweah, chaired a Technical Economic Management Team (TEMT) that spearheaded the controversial US\$25m mop - up exercise, with the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) Executive Governor Nathaniel Patray as co-chair.

Since the arrests, indictments and detentions of five central bank officials, including former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf's son Charles E. Sirleaf, for printing



excess billion Liberian Dollars, pressure has been mounting here for President Weah to ensure that other suspects, including Minister Tweah and Executive Governor Patray are questioned how the US\$25m was used in the mop-up exercise, which was conducted outside the banking

system.

The calls for their investigation result from report by a Presidential Investigative Team (PIT) which determines that the TEMT and CBL deviated from the conventional best practice, which calls for the use of legitimate banking institutions

and licensed foreign exchange bureaus or sale auction.

The PIT finds that the TEMT and CBL carried out direct mop - up process by engaging some foreign exchange bureaus and some local businesses other than the commercial banks.

According to the PIT, the TEMT and CBL sold a total of US\$14m in exchange for a total of L\$2,151,363,898.00 between the periods July 17, 2018 to September 18, 2018.

"Growing out of the Presidential Investigative Team's report, which calls for a 'forensic investigation' of the entire mop-up exercise carried out by the Central Bank of Liberia, and the report done by Kroll - an institution of

international reputé which was commissioned by the U.S. Government - that calls for 'further understanding' of how the exercise was conducted, the Ministry of Justice, by directive of President George Manneh Weah, has requested the General Auditing Commission to conduct an investigative audit into how the U.S.\$25 million earmarked for the mopping exercise was expended," the release says.

In July 2018, the government approved the infusion of U.S. \$25 million into the Liberian economy in order to bring about stability in the market.

Between Monday and Tuesday, 4 to 5 March, prosecutors here incarcerated CBL's Deputy Governor Mr. Sirleaf, former Executive Governor Milton Weeks, CBL Director of Banking Dorbor Hagba, Director for Operations Richard H. Walker and the Deputy Director for Internal Audit Joseph Dennis upon their failures to secure criminal appearance bonds in billions of Liberian Dollars.

They have been indicted for multiple charges, including economic sabotage, criminal conspiracy and criminal facilitation following their arrests for their alleged roles in the "missing 16 billion" Liberian banknotes case.

The indicted officials are expected to give account for an excess amount of 2,645,000,000, which is yet to be fully accounted for.--**Press release**

## Lawyer drops from Ja'neh's trial

By Ethel A. Tweh

Liberia's Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor, Sr. has removed from the ongoing impeachment trial of Associate Justice Kabineh M. Ja'neh Attorney -At - Law Bob Leewa, saying he is unqualified to plead case before the Chief Justice.

Taking the decision Thursday, 7 March to eject Atty. Leewa from the legal representation of the House of Representatives prosecuting Justice Ja'neh at the Liberian Senate, Chief Justice Korkpor notes Atty. Leewa could not proceed because he is not a Counsellor - At - Law to plead a case while he (Korkpor) presides.

A rather dejected Atty. Bob Leewa was seen leaving the chambers of the Senate

shamefully after the Chief Justice drove him out of his presence.

Chief Justice Korkpor indicates that he just noticed Atty. Leewa is an Attorney -At - Law, saying he can't plead case at the Supreme Court.

Further, Chief Justice Korkpor also disallows the rules and regulations introduced by the House of Representatives on Wednesday in the trial of Justice Ja'neh.

The introduction of the instrument on Wednesday, 6 March sparked tension in the trial after lawyers representing Justice Ja'neh complained that the documents were not part of the discoveries they received from lawyers representing the House of Representatives.

Justice Ja'neh is standing

impeachment trial at the Liberian Senate for alleged proved misconduct, abuse of public office, wanton abuse of judicial discretion, frauds, misuse of power and corruption.

One of the cases which triggered his impeachment trial relates to a land dispute involving the embattled Justice and a private citizen, Madam Annie Yancy Constance.

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

But during hearing on Thursday, Justice Ja'neh's defense team says in 1996 when he bought the disputed land from Mr. J. Nyema Constance Jr, he (Justice Ja'neh) was then an employee of the Freeport of Monrovia.

Ten years after he bought the land, the defense team recalls that in 2006 Justice

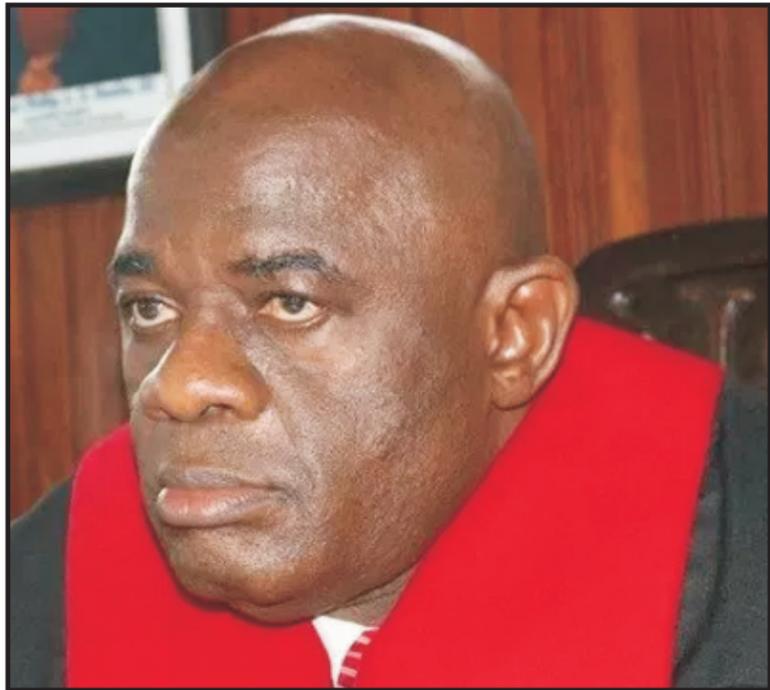
Ja'neh got on the Supreme Court Bench as an Associate Justice.

The defense team informs the presiding officer, Chief Justice Korkpor that Mr. Constance, Sr., legitimized his son Constance, Jr. at the age of four because the latter was born out of wedlock.

When Mr. Constance, Jr. reached the age of 40 years, the defense team says his father Constance, Sr. gave him (Jr.) the property rights.

The defense team says it

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was after Constance, Jr. got the property rights from his father that he then went ahead to sell the land in question to Justice Ja'neh.

But in his testimony, prosecutors' first witness Montserrado County Rep. Acarous Gray says, the wedded wife of Mr. Constance, Sr. told him (Rep. Gray) that she was not in the know of her husband legitimizing the son he had outside.

Further, Rep. Gray says Mrs. Constance also told him that she was not in the know that the land was given to Constance, Jr.

However, Rep. Gray says in his capacity as a lawmaker, he

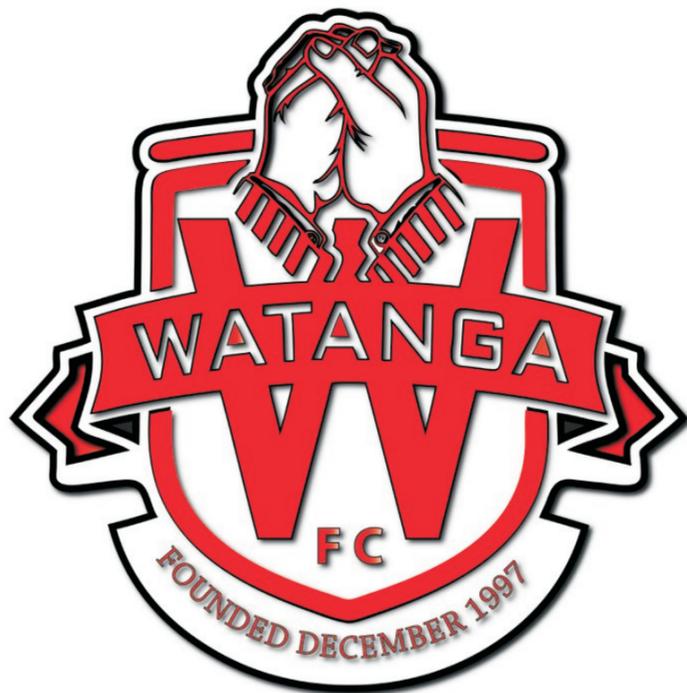
tried to negotiate with Justice Ja'neh to pay back his (Ja'neh's) US\$3,000 so that he (Ja'neh) could give back the land to Mrs. Constance.

But Justice Ja'neh's lawyer Cllr. Arthur T. Johnson maintains that the lawmakers have no evidence to justify their quest to remove his client from the Bench of the Supreme Court.

Cllr. Johnson adds that laws are meant for lawyers to interpret, not someone, who is misunderstanding the law.

He notes that Rep. Gray was not answering questions rightly because he has no idea on the law.--**Edited by**

# Watanga FC tops FA league table



By Sally Gaye

**W**atanga FC is leading the ongoing Liberia Football Association (LFA) First Division national league

table, following a match on Wednesday.

Watanga FC Coach Matthew Julutweh came on the top of the newest league leader after a win

over Keitrace FC at the Dorris Williams Sports Stadium in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County.

Watanga FC has won its first three games in the 2019/2020 LFA first division league, putting it over the champions of the association.

Watanga FC Coach Julutweh says he is happy for the three points so far and the way his team has kicked off the league.

In other games in and outside Monrovia, the champions of the national league BYC drew with Nimba United 1-1 at the blue field down PHP.

NPA settled with a 3-3 draw against Jubilee in Kakata.

Further, Small Town got its first win against Nimba FC.



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# Zidane & Mourinho on Real Madrid's four-man shortlist

**R**eal Madrid have drawn up a four-man managerial shortlist as they look to appoint a successor to underfire Santiago Solari, Goal understands.

As reported by Goal on Wednesday, Madrid's shocking Champions League exit at the hands of Ajax

proved to be the final straw for the Blancos' directors when it comes to Solari's future.

The 4-1 home defeat to the Eredivisie outfit followed hot on the heels of two defeats to Barcelona in the space of four days at Santiago Bernabeu, and now the club must decide whether to dismiss Solari now or keep him in situ until the

end of the campaign.

Either way, his time as coach of the 13-time European champions is set to end, and a quartet of potential replacements are now being considered as Madrid look to avoid the issues that befell them at the end of last season.



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