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Associated Justice Ja'neh



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Ja'neh, lawmmakers in final battle



ECC calls for amendment





Continental News

Shooting sparks anger in Uganda

Now totally orphaned, children of Ronald Ssebulime headed home in the hands of relatives, ostensibly for a function. That is what Hana Nantaayi and Grace Nabulime, in Senior Three and One, respectively, were told while leaving St Andrews SS Kabimbiri in Kayunga District where they study. There was no detail.

The children dressed in their colourful blue uniforms and walked sprightly home, welling with the pleasant possibility of a family reunion and a catch-up with their father Ssebulime whom they waited for in vain to visit them on Sunday. Unknown to them, obviously until yesterday, Ssebulime, who on Sunday had spoken with a sister who was already with the children at school, did not reach there because a bullet allegedly fired by a policeman abruptly ended his life. It was not the mechanical fault with the motorbike, which had delayed him during the trip that stopped him.

As the children approached home, emotionally drained

relatives could no longer hold back the tragic story. They broke the heart-breaking news to the students; their father was dead, reportedly shot by a police officer for allegedly trailing ICT State minister Idah Nantaba. The daughters broke down, wailing uncontrollably and their chest thick with pain. The agony was

palpable in Nakabugo, a backwater hamlet in Wakiso District that belts the capital, Kampala.

Mourners had filed in droves and emotions inundated.

The sight of wobbling Nantaayi and Nabulime, held in swaying clasp of aunties, provoked wild wailing and rage.



Photo-Ugandan riot police patrol on the streets of the Kamwokya neighborhood

Words of fury and calls for justice echoed, rising and falling with emotional turbulence. "Stop cold blood killings!" one mourner bellowed. Another shouted: "Ssebulime's killers should be charged with murder." "Minister Nantaba should resign," a third added. If the clarion call by these mourners angered one, the children's words summed their tragedy.

"We are now fatherless, motherless. Perhaps that is what God planned for us. We hope God will guide us through the longest [suffering] and a parentless journey," Nantaayi cried. Their mother died of post-natal complications in 2013. Tears streamed down cheeks of several mourners.

Many sat transfixed, among them Ssebulime's mother, Sarah Nattabi, who was her youngest grandchild and the deceased's last born. She stared pensively. "It is a puzzle for me taking care of these tender children yet personally, it [was] my son who had been caring for me," Ms Nattabi said as the body of Ssebulime lay motionless in a wooden coffin.

The body was driven here for an overnight stay, a vigil during which neighbours will bid goodbye before it is transported for burial today in Kyabarenga, Mubende District.

Single parent

He had toiled in life as a single parent to raise the four children. AFP

Refugees 'dying in camp in Libya'

In Libya, refugees at a camp run by the UN's refugee agency, the UNHCR, are dying of tuberculosis and other illnesses, an Eritrean refugee has told BBC Tigrinya.

Yonas Mehari said four people had died at the camp in north-western Zintan town in February and March, and nine had died earlier from treatable diseases.

The UNHCR in Libya could not be reached by BBC Tigrinya for comment.

Mr Yonas said many of the sick refugees were not treated quickly enough, and doctors sometimes visited the camp only once in three weeks.

"The medical centre [at the camp] is unhygienic and the facilities and medical equipment are scarce," he said.

Another Eritrea refugee, Kidane Mengesteab, said he



got tuberculosis in September 2018, and had been isolated with other patients in a section of the camp.

Doctors gave him medicine, but then "disappeared" leaving him without medication for a month.

Then the doctors came back and gave him medicine for three months. He has not seen the doctors since, even though he has run out of medication, Mr Kidane said. BBC

Supreme judge fights graft claims

Supreme Court Judge Mohammed Ibrahim has dismissed bribery allegations levelled against him in a petition filed before the Judicial Service Commission.

In response filed on Tuesday, the Judge denied claims of corruption and bribery, made by Mr Jared Onger, adding that the petitioner will be strictly

asked to prove them.

The judge defended the decision rendered by the majority judges in the Wajir gubernatorial election, saying he made it "consciously, independently and without bad faith or undue influence whatsoever".

Mr Onger filed a petition against four judges of the apex court, including Justice Ibrahim, Jackton Ojwang,

Smokin Wanjala and Njoki Ndungu, following their decision to allow an appeal by Wajir Governor Mohammed Abdi Mohamud.

Chief Justice David Maraga and Justice Isaac Lenaola wrote dissenting opinions, saying they would have dismissed the appeal.

After filing the complaint, JSC directed the judges to file their responses within two weeks. And on Tuesday, Justice Ibrahim said the complaint against him no longer has a basis after Mr Onger wrote a letter to JSC withdrawing references made to him on allegations of improper conduct.

"Having withdrawn allegations against the respondent touching on improper communication between the judge and a Cabinet secretary, the petition has no factual basis," he said, adding that the petition against him does not disclose any gross misconduct or breach of judicial code of conduct.

Another petitioner, Mr Mohamed Mohamud Sheikh, withdrew his case against all the four judges.

Mr Sheikh had filed the suit alongside 600 residents of

Wajir County.

Mr Onger was the first to petition JSC to investigate the four judges, citing allegations of bribery and misconduct. But he later wrote to JSC regarding Justice Ibrahim.

"We withdraw the allegations made vide our letter dated March 11, 2019 against Cabinet secretary... Any reference to the CS should thus be deemed withdrawn," he said through Nchogu, Omwanza and Nyasimi Advocates. In the five allegations levelled against Justice Ibrahim, Mr Onger had alleged that the CS was to influence the judge to join the

three other judges in rendering a majority decision in the Wajir gubernatorial petition.

He complained that the actions of the judges, upholding the election Governor Mohamud, cannot be explained away as judicial fallibility or mistakes.

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Mr Onger said that the judges have, between them, more than 135 years of post-admission experience as advocates, "Two PhDs in Law, masters in law (LLM) and 48 years' worth of service on the Kenyan bench". AFP



EDITORIAL

NaFAA's gaffe

WHATEVER DISCUSSIONS THAT were held at the World Bank Headquarters in Washington, DC, between the Director General of the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA) and the World Bank, may have been fruitful, but the outcome, as released to the Liberian populace through a NaFAA's press release, particularly a reported commitment of US\$21 million to Liberia for a fisheries project underway which was promptly denied by the latter poses a serious image embarrassment not only for the government, but the entire country.

WHATEVER WENT WRONG with the dissemination of the information that clearly boomeranged, NaFAA Director General Emma Glassco, should learn some lessons from there to guide herself in future engagement with international partners, specifically multilateral financial institutions such as the World Bank.

NAFAA HAD REPORTED in Monrovia that Director General Glassco paid a follow up visit to the WB headquarters on a US\$21 million fisheries project in Liberia under the West Africa Regional Fisheries Project or WARFP.

THE RELEASE DETAILS that the money will be used to construct state of the art fishing and processing facilities and establish landing jetties in targeted five coastal counties, including Montserrado.

BUT THE WORLD Bank says it has made no commitment to fund a US\$21 million fisheries project in Liberia, contrary to the NaFAA's release. The Bank clarifies that whether Liberia will have a new project with focus on fisheries will be determined after its new Director for Regional Integration comes on board on May 1, 2019, and a strategic decision will be made to fit the country's priority needs.

NOW, THE PUBLIC relations package from NaFAA perhaps was not properly timed or strategic, disclosing financial commitment that has not been finalized. And this is where Madam Glassco should take cue from.

IT IS NOT outcome of all discussions held with bilateral partners that should be hurriedly brought to the public, particularly in matters that concern funding.

WE KNOW THE NaFAA boss may have out of anxiety, been unable to restrain herself in breaking a success story by being very circumspect. Perhaps it was in her strong quest to gain approval from the highest authority of the land.

HOWEVER, WE CAUTION Madam Glassco that when engaging bilateral and multilateral partners, bordering on financial commitments, make sure that all sides are in concert with any public statement on the outcome before running with it to avoid such embarrassment.

THE INTENTION OF the press release may have been good, particularly after the follow up meeting in Washington DC, but perhaps partners' reaction was not given a second thought, specifically if no written and signed commitment were made, which presupposes that negotiations could be still ongoing hence, issue about exact amount of money was not necessary at this time.

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

COMMENTARY

By Jeffrey D. Sachs, Bandy X. Lee & Ruth Ben-Ghiat

The Trump Contagion

US President Donald Trump's growing rages may partly be the result of cognitive decline, suggested, for example, by his deteriorating ability to form complete sentences, use complex words, and maintain a coherent train of thought. What is certain is that Trump is putting the world at risk.

NEW YORK - Mental health professionals and others have been trying to warn the public about the dangers of US President Donald Trump since his election. Trump's extreme narcissism, sadism, lack of empathy, and admiration for despots are on daily display. Some may wish to see him as a self-absorbed clown, but he is a clear and present danger to the world who must be prevented from leading (or misleading) it to disaster.

With the release of special counsel Robert Mueller's report, the dangers have greatly multiplied. While we have not seen the actual text - only a version of it rendered by the president's political ally, US Attorney General William Barr - Mueller's purported conclusion that Trump did not collude with Russian President Vladimir Putin will likely embolden Trump to attack. What makes the Mueller claim especially disastrous is the reality of tacit collusion staring us in the face. Trump ran his 2016 campaign while secretly trying to score a real-estate mega-deal in Moscow (and, as usual, lying about it to the public). He publicly opined on canceling sanctions against Russia while pursuing this deal.

Trump will feel enabled in his vindictiveness and delusions of grandeur. In recent weeks, Trump repeatedly taunted a dead US senator and uttered not a word of regret for the 50 Muslim worshipers slaughtered in New Zealand by a white supremacist who referred specifically to him in a manifesto justifying the massacre. When criticized, Trump spends days raging against his foes on Twitter. He uses rallies and other public occasions to model a politics that regards humanitarianism and compassion as weaknesses rather than fundamental human values.

Trump's growing rages may partly be the result of cognitive decline. Over time, for example, his ability to form complete sentences, use complex words, and maintain a coherent train of thought appears to have eroded. There is documented history of his father's dementia.

What is certain is that Trump is putting the world at risk. He has now withdrawn from two nuclear treaties, one with Iran that was agreed to by the entire UN Security Council, and the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty with Russia, in place since 1988. His absurdly incompetent diplomacy with North Korea lies in tatters, with that country now warning of a new round of nuclear tests.

Under Trump, the US government, alone among all 193 United Nations member countries, has repudiated the global effort to combat climate change, leaving Americans without sane leadership as climate crises grow in intensity. His response to Hurricane Maria, which left more than 3,000 dead in Puerto Rico, was one of contempt for and neglect of the victims, as was his response to the mega-fires that ravaged California last year, claiming dozens of lives, and to the mega-floods now causing catastrophic losses throughout the Midwest.

Trump's worldview is echoed by white extremists around the world. Data show a surge in hate crimes in the US since the day after his election, including a doubling in the number of killings by white supremacists, as well as widespread schoolyard bullying in his name and a record number of mass shootings and gun murders. The mass murderer in the Pittsburgh synagogue, the "pipe bomber" who sought to assassinate major Democrats, and the

recent mosque shooter in Christchurch, New Zealand, are all examples of the influence of Trump's echo chamber of violence. During his campaign, he famously boasted that he could "stand in the middle of Fifth Avenue and shoot somebody" and not "lose any voters." Since then, he has repeatedly endorsed violent behavior through taunts, incitement, and, most recently, a warning that his armed followers could spring into action upon his command.

This type of sadistic leader-follower relationship has cost millions of lives in the past and plunged countries into war and ruin. But it has never before played out in a country with thousands of nuclear weapons and troops in more than 100 countries around the world. Yet, even now, many continue to mistake Trump's attraction to violence as mere political tactics, rather than the product of a deranged mind.

Since the start of his administration, Trump has followed the authoritarian playbook by attempting to rule by decree, most recently through his reckless declaration of emergency powers to build a wall on the US border with Mexico. He must be stopped before he launches a war, perhaps with Venezuela or with Iran, or before his armed backers step up violence against his political opponents. The 2020 campaign could easily devolve into street violence at Trump's instigation.

This assessment - and Trump's own behavior - implies five steps that should be taken without delay.

First, the House of Representatives should start impeachment hearings. Trump is responsible for the same campaign finance illegalities that are sending his erstwhile lawyer, Michael Cohen, to prison. He has repeatedly and recklessly broken finance and tax laws through money laundering, the false valuations of assets, and chronic underpayment of taxes. The public release of the full Mueller report may add further grounds for impeachment.

Second, Congress should urgently reclaim the clear and unambiguous constitutional right to declare war. Sadly, Congress has effectively ceded this authority to the executive branch. Yet the authority to launch a war, especially in the case of a nuclear-armed power, must never be entrusted to only one person. That would be true even if the US had a sane president.

Third, mental health experts must fulfill their responsibility to protect society's health and safety by explain publicly, where necessary, that Trump is not just a conniving politician, or a forceful leader, but a mentally unstable individual capable of creating widespread harm. It is both their right and their professional obligation to bring critical information that enables lawmakers to protect the country.

Fourth, the media need to go beyond covering Trump's mood of the day to covering his mental instability. The real story is not just that Trump lies relentlessly, or that he is cruel and bigoted, but that he is a threat to others.

Lastly, Americans need to organize politically to prevent another election debacle in 2020, perhaps one that Trump will try to stoke through cries of fraud and calls to his followers to violate the rules of democracy. If Trump is not impeached (as he should be), every effort must be made to preserve democracy and protect society from his destructiveness.

O-PED

By Hans-Werner Sinn

Let the People Decide on Brexit

MUNICH - For a while, it seemed that British Prime Minister Theresa May and her government's supporters in Parliament could decide on Brexit by themselves. Through a long series of tactical votes on all manner of trivialities, and with the alternative of a hard "no deal" Brexit hanging over MPs' heads like the sword of Damocles, May's government tried to manipulate the Brexit endgame. And for a long time, her approach fooled the people of the United Kingdom and Europe.

But now the tide has turned. The speaker of the UK House of Commons, John Bercow, and the other 27 European Union member states have put an end to the undignified goings-on, forcing the government and Parliament to decide.

According to the speaker's ruling on March 18, the government cannot bring the UK's current EU withdrawal agreement back to Parliament again with a hard Brexit as the alternative. And, although the EU has extended the original Brexit deadline of March 29, it is not willing to amend this agreement.

As a result, Parliament now has until April 12 to choose among three options. It could accept the Brexit deal currently on the table, in which case the UK would leave the EU on May 22, one day before the European Parliament elections begin. Alternatively, the UK could decide to take part in the European elections and suggest a new plan of action, such as a second referendum on EU membership. In this scenario, the EU would grant a further, lengthy extension of the Brexit deadline, to allow time to prepare for what comes next. If Parliament chooses neither of these options, it will default to the third: a hard, no-deal Brexit on April 12.

Because May has been unable to secure any changes to the withdrawal agreement from the EU, Parliament cannot vote again between this deal and a hard Brexit if Bercow stays firm. And if the EU stands firm on the current withdrawal agreement, the alternatives in any new parliamentary vote would have to be either an orderly Brexit under the agreement's terms or a second referendum. And if there were a new referendum, British voters would probably have to decide between an orderly Brexit and remaining in the EU, because nobody will dare to offer a hard Brexit as an alternative.

Until recently, a reversal of British voters' 2016 decision to leave the EU had seemed unlikely. But the interventions by Bercow and the EU have opened up a whole new game, dramatically increasing the chance that Brexit may not happen. This would foil financial-market speculators who were betting on a withdrawal, and is good news for both the UK and the EU.

Nearly three years ago, British voters did not really know what they were doing when they decided by a narrow majority to leave the EU. Few had clear ideas about what Brexit would mean, aside from some romantic notions about reviving the Commonwealth. But the situation today, after two years of negotiations on the UK's exit agreement, is very different.

For example, the withdrawal agreement implies a customs barrier in the Irish Sea - and thus within the UK - for people, services, and capital. Only goods may pass this barrier without controls. In Northern Ireland, however, all four of the EU's fundamental freedoms would continue to apply (with only a few exceptions): capital, services, people, and goods may move free of customs, duties, and controls.

This threatens the integrity not only of the UK, but also of Great Britain. After all, it cannot be ruled out that Scotland will hold another independence referendum in the medium term, once it realizes that Northern Ireland, which remains closely tied to the EU, got the better deal.

The British people are far better informed about Brexit and its possible consequences than they were at the time of the 2016 referendum. Given the narrow majority for Brexit back then, and the impasse at which UK institutions find themselves now, holding a new referendum is both appropriate and necessary.

For months, the British government has used the threat of a hard Brexit to play parliamentary games on an issue of huge national and European importance. This cannot continue. In a true democracy, political leaders must recognize the limits of their authority and capacity. That is why Parliament must submit to the people the decision whether to remain in the EU or accept the withdrawal agreement.

OPINION

By Elizabeth Drew

The Mueller Bait and Switch

WASHINGTON, DC - The American people should have known that something was awry when President Donald Trump's attorney general, William Barr, announced on Friday, March 22, that he had received special counsel Robert Mueller's report and would provide a summary of its findings to certain congressional leaders over the weekend.

We should have asked: Why Barr's summary and not Mueller's? Presumably, Mueller had attached one to his report. It turned out there was a propagandistic reason for this unusual arrangement: Barr issued the best possible interpretation of Mueller's report - from the president's standpoint - including perhaps even a twist on what Mueller had said and intended. This allowed the president and his backers to propagate and celebrate what Mueller didn't say: that the report's conclusions were a "total exoneration" of Trump. In fact, even Barr's brief summary, quoting Mueller's report, said, "While this report does not conclude that the President committed a crime, it also does not exonerate him."

A version of Mueller's report for release is supposedly in the works - scrubbed of classified material, grand jury testimony (which is always supposed to remain secret), or information on ongoing investigations. No one knows when it will appear (indeed, no one outside the Justice Department even knows how long the Mueller report is). But on March 25, six House committee chairs wrote to Barr demanding that he produce the report by April 2. Meanwhile, Trump and his boosters, including most of the Republican Party, get to carry on about the president's supposed total exoneration, implanting the idea in the mind of much of the public. As is often the case with Trump's presidency, the truth will have a hard time catching up.

Barr's independence had already been in question. Last November, Trump finally rid himself of his first attorney general, Jeff Sessions, with whom he'd been furious for (properly) recusing himself from the special counsel's investigation into Russia's interference in the 2016 election, whether the Trump campaign had cooperated with Russia, and whether Trump had obstructed justice by impeding the investigation. Months earlier, in June 2018, Barr appeared to apply for the job by sending a long, unsolicited document to the Justice Department criticizing Mueller's inquiry into whether Trump had obstructed justice as "grossly irresponsible," "fatally misconceived," and "potentially disastrous."

Democrats, journalists, and others are anxious to see Mueller's actual report so that they can read what Mueller weighed as reasons for saying that the president obstructed justice, even if in the end he decided to not charge him for it. And they want to see, if it's in the report, why Mueller decided not to be the one to decide whether or not to charge Trump - a prosecutor's job. Most legal observers assume that Mueller was leaving the decision to Congress, not to the attorney general.

Several experts speculated that Mueller made this choice because of a Justice Department rule - more weakly grounded than is generally believed - that a sitting president cannot be indicted. (This creates a strong incentive for a president to remain in office as long as possible.) Barr's letter said that "most" of Trump's attempts to obstruct justice were publicly known - thus fueling intense curiosity about what unknown attempts there might be. In any event, US law sets a high bar for prosecuting obstruction of justice: the person has to be known to have had "criminal intent," and, as in any conviction, to have done so "beyond a reasonable doubt."

Barr may well have used another formulation - possibly the same one as Mueller - in sparing Trump and his aides a charge of conspiring with Russia to help them win the 2016 election: they hadn't cooperated or collaborated with the Russian "government" (something the Mueller report did confirm). The problem is that the numerous known contacts between campaign officials and Russian intelligence agents and oligarchs (who owe their wealth to the Kremlin) - 102 in at least 28 meetings, by one count - might not count as cooperation with Russia's "government."

Further doubt about this distinction stems from the fact that various Trump aides have been convicted of lying about such contacts. These include Trump's former national security adviser, Michael Flynn, who lied about his conversations with the Russian ambassador during the transition (probably about lifting sanctions that President Barack Obama had imposed on Russian businesses). Moreover, the president's son, Donald Trump, Jr., along with other top campaign officials, met in Trump Tower with a Russian intelligence agent with ties to the Kremlin who had promised "dirt" on Clinton.

It had been widely expected that Trump's son would face indictment as well - even Donald, Jr., had said so - but Barr's announcement ruled out further prosecutions. Another prominent escapee from the special counsel's hammer was Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, who is widely believed to have used his White House role, especially in foreign policy (in which he'd had no experience), to attend to his family's need for funds to pay off a huge real-estate debt.

Trump himself is still vulnerable to investigations initiated by or handed off to federal and state prosecutors outside of Washington. The US Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York and the New York state attorney general, for example, are investigating the collection and distribution of unusually large funds for the presidential inauguration, the Trump family business and foundation (which has been forced to shut down), the payment of hush money before the election to keep a porn star quiet about an affair with Trump, Trump's taxes, and other issues. There can be little doubt from his own behavior that Trump has somehow been compromised by Putin, in part because of Trump's eagerness to build a hugely lucrative Trump Tower in Moscow. Discussions about the project were ongoing during his election campaign, even as Trump was telling the public that he had no business with Russia.

Rather than simply exult in his ostensible vindication, Trump has been playing the victim and vowing vengeance. He has called for an investigation into what he calls "an illegal takedown that failed," by "the other side," which should be "looked at." The Trump reelection campaign sent a memo to television producers advising caution about booking certain lawmakers and others who had said that the Trump campaign had colluded with Russia. Journalists, too, were targeted for revenge. And Hillary Clinton, about whom Trump still obsesses, will continue to be a target. Trump's base loves that, and the base is critical for Trump's reelection, which now does not seem as out of the question as it did before.

LIBERIAN DEBATE

With Sally Gaye

Tragedy hits Liberia Monday, 25 March when a member of the 54th Legislature Montesrado County District#15 Representative Adolph Lawrence, died instantly in a car crash on the Robertsfield highway, a day after celebrating his 50th birthday. As the nation mourns his passing, Liberians in Monrovia criticize quality of vehicles plying roads in the country and threats to travelers.



Yanpu Flomo

“This is very outrageous to have unsafe vehicles driving all over the country and killing innocent people. What type of [country] is this on earth! How many people will have to die daily before taking action? Please ban those dangerous cars off the roads. Liberia has become a lawless country. Where is Liberia heading? On the other side, five people died [recently] from another

lawmaker from generator smoke, yet they will not learn and try to make good laws for the benefit of all.”



Soon Prestige Noring

“This should be a wakeup call for our officials of government, to ensure that safety measures are put into effect; every vehicle plying on our roads should meet safety standards. Stop all the [wasteful] spending on travels, and focus on the little things that matter in the country; if possible, partner with foreign safety vehicles inspectors to collaborate with few of [our] very serious police officers and the Ministry of

Transport, so that funds generated should be used for roads and highways development to save our nation from preventable deaths.”

Mohammed Abdullah Foboi

“If the legislature doesn't do something about LEC and trucks plying the streets without reflectors and lights, then I think we need to visit the constitution. Liberia is becoming a lawless country every minute and the Justice Ministry does nothing about it. The police and other security apparatus are only concern about collecting bribe from drivers, and harassing



citizens and residents at checkpoints especially, on highways, while their core functions are left undone. The National Legislature that should put up some checks, is only after diverting public resources to personal benefit. Our society needs serious political and administrative cleansing. Maybe, the youth will help; but again, they themselves are being indoctrinated.

Who do we look up to? I still believe the youth, because for them, they can be shamed and we can easily ruin their future if they don't change.”

Kadiatu Bah

“They are all stealing from the Liberian people, but they are sitting there putting everything on the President. [As] lawmakers, they are responsible for passing bills, and they have everything in their possession!! They earn thousands of dollars each month for themselves, while others suffer!! God is watching!!!!!! Anyone who accuses the government falsely, trying to gain



relevance from the Liberian people by spoiling other people's names are going to perish!!!”

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Weah visits Koon over relatives' death

President George Manneh Weah on Wednesday, 27 March paid a consolation visit to the home of Montserrado County District #11 Rep. Richard Koon who lost five family members in three days.

Those who died from Rep. Koon include his mother Ma Lucky, his three sisters and a junior brother from toxic generator smoke (carbon monoxide) between March 16 and 18.

The Executive Mansion says in a press release that President Weah used the visit to comfort Rep. Koon and relatives.

He invokes God's blessing upon the family and encourages them to remain strong as they mourn their loved ones.

President Weah also expressed condolences on behalf of his government for the tragic loss sustained.

He was accompanied to the

home of the lawmaker by some government officials including Speaker Bhofal Chambers and Finance Minister Samuel Tweah, Jr., among others.

On Monday, 25 March,

President Weah paid similar visit to the home of the late Rep. Adolph A. Lawrence and consoled his wife, Senator Nyonblee-Karnga Lawrence and the family.--*Press release*



Montserrado County District #11 Rep. Richard Koon

States urged to recognize women's vulnerabilities

The 63rd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at the UN has served as a platform for a call to action for States to recognize gaps and vulnerabilities women and girls face and act on all spheres of social protections to ensure the full realization of rights of women and girls in all sectors. The CSW was

held under the theme: "Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls."

The Commission on the Status of Women is the yearly largest convening of women from around the world, that embodies a global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality

equality and the rights of women and girls in Liberia.

Ms. Harris who also coordinates the activities of Paramount Young Women Initiative in Liberia and serves as a member of the African Women Leadership Network, Young Women Caucus is an ardent advocate for the protection of young women and girls from sexual violence, their access to sexual health and rights, young women leadership and women's human rights.

Speaking to this paper, Ms. Harris says the discussions and various engagements at the CSW serve as an opportunity to assess prevailing challenges, opportunities on how national governments and global actors / institutions and communities can prioritize engaging and supporting young women and

Sinoe Lawmaker rejects appointments

By Bridgett Milton

Sinoe County District #2 Rep. Jay Nagbe Sloh has rejected all assignments on statutory committees given him at the House of Representatives, in protest against Speaker Bhofal Chambers alleged dictatorial rule of the House of

A number of lawmakers that are part of this legislative bloc continue to complain on a daily basis that their communications to the House of Representatives are often allegedly downplayed by Speaker Chambers, particularly when they seek to have officials of the executive

(dictatorship and autocracy).

Rep. Sloh claims that Speaker Chambers' dictatorship and autocratic leadership will not permit him (Sloh) to be effective.

He notes that in the 54 years that God has spared his life so far, he has never accepted to work under dictatorship and autocracy.

Rep. Sloh was appointed on various committees including Chairman on Information, Broadcasting, Cultural Affairs and Tourism; Human and Civil Rights; Committee on Resettlement, Repatriation, Repatriation, Relief and Adjustment; Peace, Religious and National Reconciliation and the Delegation to the African Caribbean Pacific-European.

On Thursday 21 March, the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives Mildred N. Sayon, read to Plenary the Speaker's final listing of the leadership, Statutory and Standing Committees of the 54th Legislature

of the Republic of Liberia.

According to Rep. Sloh, his people elected him to represent their interest in the House, and he pledges to do so.

He adds that his people did not send him to wear nominal titles.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



Sinoe County District #2 Rep. Jay Nagbe Sloh

Representatives.

Rep. Sloh is a member of a newly formed Independent Legislative Bloc that has been pressuring Speaker Chambers and the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) - led government to respect others' views, even if they differed with the ruling establishment.

branch address lawmakers on issues of national concern.

In a communication addressed to Speaker Chambers on 22 March, Rep. Sloh notes that he declines all of the five appointments he had on statutory committees at the House because of ... the Speaker's leadership style



Ms. Facia Harris

and the empowerment of women.

The Commission, established in June 1946 by UN Resolution 11, is a functional body of the Economic and Social Council, (ECOSOC) that continues to be instrumental in promoting women's rights, documenting the reality of women's lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Facia Harris, a member of the Liberia Feminist Forum attending the 63rd CSW at the UN says her participation at this year's meeting was important to join the on-going global conversation.

She particularly stresses bringing the local perspective to the advocacy for gender responsive social protection system that promotes gender

girls.

She calls for building or strengthening systems and policies to support access to decent and quality healthcare, education, housing, community recreational spaces, and decent and violence freed employment, among others.

Ms. Harris adds that in order to build a vibrant social protection system that is inclusive, especially in Liberia, the Government must consider the outcome document from the 63rd Commission on the Status of Women Agreed Conclusions.

She makes specific emphasis on the the provisions that call for access to sexual and reproductive services and reproductive rights and reaffirmation of women's rights as human rights.



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Tweah underscores human capital development

The Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Samuel D. Tweah Jr., says human capital development is a major priority under the government's Pro Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development, stressing that this will be reflected in the Ministry's new strategic plan.

According to a press release, he made the observation at official launch of process leading to the formulation of the Ministry's Strategic Plan for 2019-2023 in Monrovia on Tuesday, 26 March, expressing delight with the conceptual framework and target objectives of the plan.

Minister Tweah notes that under the new strategic plan, he looks forward to seeing the Ministry working with the entire government and various development partners in meeting set benchmarks.

He says a cardinal aspiration of the new strategic plan is to turn the Ministry into most efficient and effective service delivery government

entity. "Human capital development is a major priority under the PAPD, including quality education and health. The World Bank has committed to providing additional financing in the amount of \$50 million United

States dollars to address challenges in the education sector," he says.

The Finance boss indicates that under the PAPD, government focus is on improving road infrastructure across the country, because without roads, Liberia's

growth outlook will continue to remain a challenge.

Additionally, he names electricity and ports as other priorities well articulated in the PAPD, which the Ministry's Strategic Plan for 2019 to 2023 will seek to address.

He says discussions are ongoing with investors to expand capacity of the Liberia Electricity Corporation where over 2,000 transformers and transmitters will be brought into the country, instead of the targeted 300 pieces.

Electricity infrastructure, Tweah notes, is a challenge for the country and a priority under the PAPD, explaining that the CLSG lines will be fully operational by 2020 and government will be able to import and export power to

neighboring countries.

He expresses optimism the mode of delivery will have to be effective and efficient in the midst of enormous challenges government is faced with, saying it was important to look at what entities were doing from a logical point and to have it tied to the PAPD. Doing so, he reveals will enable government to look at what problem it can solve, and to be able to solve the critical ones, subject to resource limitation.

The launch was attended by development partners and representatives of Ministries and Agencies of government, including officials and technicians of the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning. -Press Release



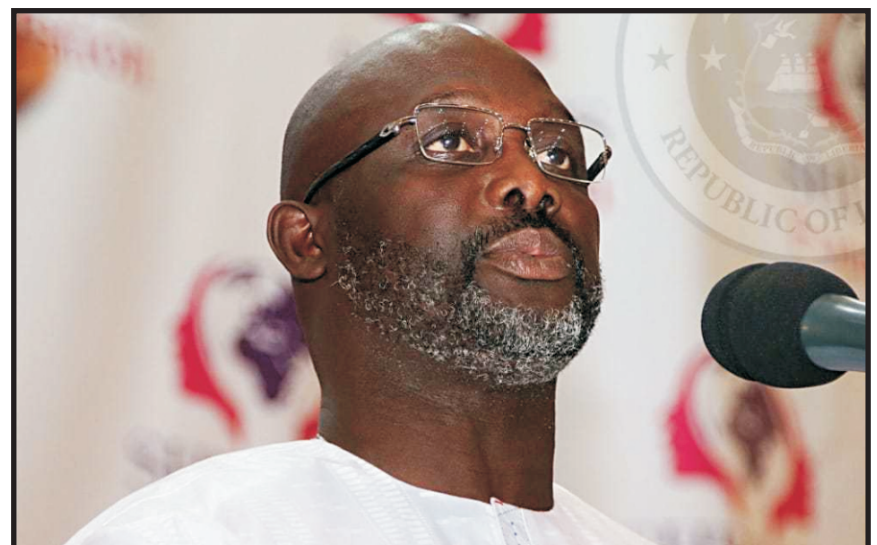
Weah consoles Zimbabwe, Mozambique

President George Manneh Weah sent two separate condolence messages over the weekend to the Republics of Zimbabwe and Mozambique following tragic flooding and heavy downpour which resulted to the deaths of dozens of people and injured scores of others in the two east African countries respectively.

According to a Foreign Ministry release dated 26 March, President Weah expressed profound sadness

In his condolence message to President Emmerson Mnangagwa of Zimbabwe, President Weah on behalf of the Government and people of Liberia, and in his own name, extended heartfelt condolences to President Emmerson Mnangagwa, and through him, to the Government and people of Zimbabwe for the irreparable loss sustained.

To the Government and people of Mozambique, President George Manneh



and deep sorrow over the deaths of more than 259 persons and injury of many more in Zimbabwe.

The release said the president is saddened by the deaths of at least 1000 persons with more than 750 others injured in Mozambique as a result of flooding and heavy rainfall due to an unusual storm which hit the Port City of Biera, in Mozambique and neighboring countries respectively.

Weah, on behalf of Liberia, conveyed heartfelt condolences to President Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, and through him, to the Government and people of Mozambique for the irreparable loss sustained.

President Weah then prayed that the people of Zimbabwe and Mozambique will find comfort, fortitude and endurance during this difficult period of mourning.--Press release

Man with swollen hand appeals to Pres. Weah

By Lewis S. Teh

32-year-old Romeo A. Sheriff, who is suffering an enlarge growth of one of his hands, is appealing to President George Manneh Weah, philanthropists and humanitarian organizations here for assistance to enable him seek medication abroad.

A former motorcyclist, Romeo hails from Bo Waterside, Grand Cape Mount County in western Liberia. He claims to have suffered a fractured arm in 2017 while campaigning for the now ruling Congress for Democratic Change (CDC).

He walks into the offices of

the New Dawn on Crown Hill Broad Street in Monrovia and narrates his ordeal.

"I'm a motorcyclist from Cape Mount; I had this accident during the 2017 election while campaigning for the CDC' Initially, I overlooked it, thinking that it was just another normal accident that motorcyclists normally encounter why riding", he recalls.

He continues after the 2017 election, he noticed his hand began to swell, which claimed attention of his family and other people in the county.

According to him, he later went to traditional herbalists to find out what was

happening to him, noting lots of misinformation were given him by various herbalists.

He says some herbalists told him his condition could not be attributed to a natural motorcycle accident, rather they suspected spiritual manipulation or African science, something that got him frustrated and left him with no hope of recovery.

Asked what help he received from county officials, Romeo says officials in the county are not interested in their people, noting since the accident, no one had identified with him, adding that lawmakers and other officials in the county are only concerned about themselves and their families.

Romeo says this has prompted him to come to the public about his health condition "for the President, and other people to come to my aid, because all of the hospitals I have visited said they can't do anything about my situation except I travel abroad to seek further treatment."

"I went to JFK and the Indian doctor told me that hand problem is blood clog. It has eaten up the hand and if I do not hurry to seek further treatment out of the country, it could destroy my entire body and at the end, I might not live. I want people to really come to my aid and help me because it is very urgent."



Français

Procès en destitution : l'accusation banalise le témoignage du juge Banks

Les avocats de la Chambre des Représentants promettent de présenter un témoin expert qui contredirait l'ancien juge adjoint de la Cour Suprême Philip A.Z. Banks, III qui a témoigné en tant que témoin expert pour la défense du juge associé Kabineh M. Ja'neh.

Le juge Ja'neh est en procès au Sénat libérien pour inconduite présumée, abus de pouvoir discrétionnaire, fraudes et corruption.

L'une des affaires ayant déclenché son procès en destitution concerne un litige foncier qui l'opposait à une certaine Madame Annie Yancy Constance.

Le parlement l'accuse d'avoir usé de son pouvoir en tant que juge adjoint de la cour suprême pour influencer un jugement en sa faveur devant la Cour suprême afin de prendre possession de manière frauduleuse du terrain qui faisait l'objet de conflit.

Son seul témoin dans le procès en destitution, le juge Banks qui est maintenant à la



retraite, a clairement dit à l'audience que la procédure suivie par la Chambre des représentants pour commencer le processus de destitution du juge Jah'net sans l'accord du Sénat et le non-respect de la procédure légale constituent une violation de la constitution et des droits fondamentaux de l'accusé.

Apportant plus de clarté aux sénateurs, le juge Banks a déclaré que depuis que la nouvelle constitution a été écrite en 1984 et qu'elle est entrée en vigueur le 6 janvier 1986, la procédure de destitution est passée de l'aspect politique à l'aspect légal.

Le juge à la retraite a

précisé que si le processus mis en place par la Chambre des représentants est en soi illégal, alors l'on peut s'en prendre à toute la procédure entreprise par le Sénat pour juger le juge Ja'neh pour cause d'inconstitutionnalité.

D'après lui, la démarche de la Chambre des représentants, c'est-à-dire le fait d'avoir entrepris la procédure de destitution sans l'accord du Sénat, et la non-conformité au principe de procédure régulière sont inconstitutionnelles.

Au témoin d'expliquer qu'en vertu de la loi, avant que l'Assemblée législative entame une procédure d'impeachment, les règles qui doivent régir toutes les procédures relatives à la destitution doivent être mises en place.

L'article 43 de la Constitution du Libéria stipule que "Le législateur doit définir la procédure de destitution qui doit être conforme aux exigences de la régularité de la procédure."

Mais le juge Banks a fait savoir que si la procédure n'est pas légale et n'est pas menée en bonne et due forme en amont, alors tout le reste du processus n'a aucune base

légale.

Il a ajouté que si le comité spécial mis en place par la Chambre des représentants pour enquêter sur la question n'a pas convoqué le juge Ja'neh pour l'interroger, c'est parce que de prime abord, il n'existait aucune règle régissant le processus de destitution. Il n'y a donc aucun moyen de procéder à la destitution en l'absence de règles uniformes au sens de la Constitution, a-t-il fait savoir.

Mais les avocats de la Chambre des représentants estiment que le témoignage du juge à la retraite n'a aucune base juridique et demandent au juge en chef et juge président, Francis S. Korkpor, de le rejeter.

Ils veulent que la déposition du témoin expert soit rejetée comme s'il n'avait jamais existé. Motifs : « le juge Banks n'est pas qualifié pour témoigner car il n'est pas diplômé en droit constitutionnel ». Selon les avocats de la chambre des représentants, le fait que le juge Banks enseigne le droit constitutionnel à la faculté de droit ne lui donne pas le droit de donner un avis d'expert, « car il n'a jamais écrit de livre sur le droit constitutionnel ».

Par ailleurs, maître Albert Sims a laissé entendre que le témoin expert aurait dû donner son avis d'expert car c'était bien pour cela qu'il avait été appelé pour témoigner et laisser le reste à l'appréciation du sénat, mais il s'est livré à des commentaires qui n'avaient rien à voir avec son rôle.

Mais le Juge en chef a rejeté la requête des avocats de la Chambre des représentants de rejeter le témoignage du juge Banks à la retraite, déclarant que c'est aux sénateurs de décider de la nature pertinente ou non du témoignage car ce sont eux qui jugent et disposent du pouvoir de décision finale en ce qui concerne cette procédure.

Mali : 170 milliards de fcfa nécessaires pour faire face aux besoins humanitaires, selon Ocha

Les taux de malnutrition aiguë restent plus sévères dans le nord du Mali où 25% des centres de santé ne fonctionnent pas, selon OCHA. Le Bureau de la Coordination des Affaires Humanitaires indique que Ménaka, Kidal et Mopti enregistrent les taux d'écoles fermées les plus élevés et le nombre de personnes déplacées internes dans le pays ne cesse

d'augmenter. C'est qui ressort du rapport d'OCHA sur la situation humanitaire au Mali, de janvier à février 2019.

Plus de 2 millions de Maliens sont ciblées cette année par les organisations humanitaires. Cela représente 70% des trois millions et deux cent mille personnes qui ont besoin d'une assistance pour accéder aux services sociaux de base. Et pour faire face à cette

urgence, les humanitaires ont besoin de près de 300 millions de dollars soit plus de 170 milliards de franc CFA.

Ce nouveau rapport indique que 40% des personnes ciblées vivent dans la région de Mopti. Cependant il souligne que le taux de malnutrition aiguë reste plus sévère au nord du pays où 25% des centres de santé sont non fonctionnels.

Dans ce rapport, on note également que de nombreuses écoles restent fermées à cause de l'insécurité dans les régions de Ménaka, Kidal et Mopti. OCHA affirme aussi que le nombre de personnes déplacées ne cessent d'augmenter et une victime d'engins explosifs sur trois est un civil. Toutefois le Plan de Réponse Humanitaire 2019 indique que le nombre de personnes dans le besoin a diminué au Mali. En janvier 2018, environ quatre millions et cent mille personnes avaient besoin d'assistance et un million et cent mille d'entre elles étaient ciblées. Cette réduction globale du nombre de personnes dans le besoin s'explique selon le rapport par les résultats positifs de la campagne agricole et l'impact



Articles traduits
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de l'assistance humanitaire fournie en 2018.

Selon les organisations humanitaires de la région de Mopti, les conflits intercommunautaires et l'insécurité grandissante augmentent les risques

humanitaires. Ces ONG soulignent que les besoins en vivre, en eau potable et en abri des populations du centre surtout celle récemment victimes de pillages et d'attaques ont considérablement augmenté.

Français

Éditorial

La gaffe de NaFAA

Les discussions qui ont eu lieu entre la direction générale de l'Autorité nationale des pêches et de l'aquaculture (NaFAA) du Libéria et la Banque mondiale à Washington, ont pu être fructueuses et nous n'en disons rien. Mais faire une annonce selon laquelle la banque mondiale a promis d'investir 21 millions de dollars américains dans le domaine de la pêche alors qu'il n'en est rien est tant honteux que gênant, d'autant plus que la banque mondiale a infirmé l'information.

Dans un communiqué de presse, la NaFAA avait informé le peuple du Libéria que la banque mondiale aurait accepté de financer un projet de pêche à hauteur de 21 millions de dollars américains. Mais l'information a été immédiatement infirmée par cette dernière à la surprise générale de tout le monde.

La directrice générale de NaFAA, Emma Glassco, doit tirer les leçons de cet incident afin de se comporter comme il se doit avec les partenaires internationaux, en particulier les institutions financières multilatérales telle que la Banque mondiale.

La NaFAA a indiqué à Monrovia que la Directrice générale Glassco s'était rendue au siège de la Banque mondiale pour discuter du projet de pêche dont le coût total s'élève à 21 millions de dollars américains, lequel projet s'inscrit dans le cadre du Projet de pêche régionale de l'Afrique de l'Ouest.

Le communiqué avait précisé que l'argent aurait servi à construire des infrastructures de pêche et de traitement de pointe et à établir des jetées de débarquement dans cinq comtés côtiers ciblés, dont Montserrado.

Mais la Banque mondiale a déclaré ne pas s'être engagée à financer un projet de pêche d'une valeur de 21 millions de dollars américains au Libéria, contrairement à la publication de la NaFAA. La Banque a précisé qu'un nouveau projet axé sur la pêche serait monté au Libéria après l'arrivée de son nouveau directeur de l'intégration régionale, le 1er mai 2019, et une décision stratégique serait prise pour répondre aux besoins prioritaires du pays.

Tout porte à croire que la direction des relations publiques de NaFAA était vite allée en besogne en divulguant une information portant sur un financement dont les modalités n'avaient pas encore été finalisées. Il est donc temps que Mme Glassco s'inspire de cet incident. Ce ne sont pas toutes les conclusions des discussions qu'on a eues avec les partenaires bilatéraux qu'on rend publique à la hâte, surtout quand il s'agit d'une question de financement.

Apparemment, la patronne de la NaFAA avait du mal à se retenir. Elle avait peut-être hâte de faire connaître son succès. Ou alors c'était peut-être par souci ardent d'obtenir les faveurs de la plus haute autorité du pays ?

Quoi qu'il en soit, nous estimons que Mme Glassco a intérêt à faire preuve de retenue quand il s'agit de traiter avec des partenaires bilatéraux et multilatéraux. Elle a intérêt à veiller à ce que toutes les parties s'associent à toute déclaration publique en ce qui concerne les conclusions d'une rencontre avant d'agir pour éviter un tel embarras.

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COMMENTAIRE

Par Jeffrey D. Sachs, Bandy X. Lee & Ruth Ben-Ghiat

La contagion Trump

NEW YORK - Les professionnels de la santé mentale ainsi que d'autres ont tenté d'avertir l'opinion publique sur les dangers du Président américain Donald Trump depuis son élection. Trump fait chaque jour étalage de son narcissisme extrême, de son sadisme, de son manque d'empathie et de son admiration envers les despotes. Certains souhaitent peut-être le considérer comme un clown égocentrique, mais il est un danger évident et réel, qu'il faut empêcher de mener (par tromperie) le monde à la catastrophe.

Depuis la sortie du rapport du conseiller spécial Robert Mueller, les dangers se sont considérablement multipliés. Bien que nous n'ayons pas vu le texte authentique - mais seulement une version de celui-ci rendue par l'allié politique du président, le procureur général des États-Unis William Barr - la conclusion prétendue de Mueller selon laquelle Trump n'a pas conspiré avec le Président russe Vladimir Poutine va probablement encourager Trump à attaquer. Ce qui rend la déclaration de Mueller particulièrement désastreuse, c'est la réalité d'une conspiration qui nous crève les yeux. Trump a mené sa campagne de 2016 tout en essayant de conclure secrètement un méga-deal immobilier à Moscou (et comme d'habitude, a menti à ce sujet au public). Il a publiquement accepté d'avoir levé les sanctions contre la Russie tout en menant cette affaire.

Trump va se sentir autorisé dans son esprit de vengeance et sa folie des grandeurs. Ces dernières semaines, Trump a à plusieurs reprises raillé un sénateur américain décédé et n'a pas proféré pas un mot de regret pour les 50 fidèles musulmans abattus en Nouvelle-Zélande par un blanc suprémaciste qui l'a mentionné explicitement dans un manifeste justifiant le massacre. Quand il subit des critiques, Trump passe des jours à proférer des attaques violentes contre ses ennemis sur Twitter. Il utilise des rassemblements et d'autres apparitions publiques pour modéliser une politique qui considère l'humanitarisme et la compassion comme des faiblesses plutôt que comme des valeurs humaines fondamentales.

La fureur grandissante de Trump peut être en partie le résultat d'un déclin cognitif. Au fil du temps, par exemple, sa capacité à former des phrases complètes, à utiliser des mots complexes et à suivre clairement le fil de sa pensée cohérent semble s'être affaiblie. Il existe des preuves avérées de la démence de son père.

Ce qui est certain, c'est que Trump met le monde en danger. Il s'est retiré de deux traités nucléaires, l'un avec l'Iran, convenu par l'ensemble du Conseil de sécurité des Nations Unies et du Traité sur les forces nucléaires intermédiaires avec la Russie, en vigueur depuis 1988. Sa diplomatie absurde et incompétente avec la Corée du Nord est en lambeaux, à l'heure où ce pays prévient à présent qu'il va procéder à une nouvelle série d'essais nucléaires.

Sous Trump, le gouvernement des États-Unis, seul parmi les 193 pays membres des Nations Unies, a rejeté l'effort mondial de lutte contre le changement climatique, en laissant les Américains dépourvus de leadership sensé face à une montée en intensité des crises climatiques. Sa réponse à l'ouragan Maria, qui a fait plus de 3 000 morts à Porto Rico, n'a exprimé que son mépris et sa négligence envers les victimes, tout comme sa réponse aux méga-incendies qui ont ravagé la Californie l'an dernier, qui ont causé des dizaines de morts et aux méga-inondations qui causent à présent des pertes catastrophiques dans le Midwest.

La vision du monde de Trump est reprise par les extrémistes blancs à travers le monde. Les chiffres montrent une hausse des crimes de haine aux États-Unis depuis le lendemain de son élection, notamment une multiplication par deux du nombre de meurtres commis par des suprémacistes blancs, ainsi que le harcèlement généralisé dans les cours d'école en son nom et un nombre record de fouillades de masse et de meurtres par armes à feu. Le tueur de masse de la synagogue de Pittsburgh, le « porteur de la bombe artisanale » qui a

cherché à assassiner des dirigeants démocrates et le récent tireur de la mosquée de Christchurch en Nouvelle-Zélande, sont autant d'exemples de l'influence de la chambre d'écho de la violence de Trump. Au cours de sa campagne, il s'est notamment vanté qu'il pourrait « se tenir au milieu de la Cinquième Avenue et tirer sur quelqu'un » sans « perdre d'électeurs. » Depuis lors, il a approuvé à plusieurs reprises un comportement violent par des railleries, des provocations et, plus récemment, par un avertissement d'après lequel ses partisans armés pourraient passer à l'action sur son ordre.

Ce type de relation sadique entre un leader et ses partisans/followers a coûté des millions de vies dans le passé et a plongé des pays dans la guerre et la ruine. Mais cela ne s'est jamais produit dans un pays doté de milliers d'armes nucléaires et de troupes dans plus de 100 pays à travers le monde. Pourtant, aujourd'hui encore, de nombreuses personnes continuent à considérer l'attraction de Trump pour la violence comme une simple tactique politique, plutôt que comme le produit d'un esprit dérangé.

Depuis le début de son mandat, Trump a suivi son manuel autoritaire en essayant de gouverner par décret, plus récemment par sa déclaration irréfléchie de l'état d'urgence pour construire un mur à la frontière avec le Mexique. Il faut l'arrêter avant qu'il ne déclenche une guerre, peut-être avec le Venezuela ou avec l'Iran ou avant que ses bailleurs de fonds armés n'intensifient la violence contre ses adversaires politiques. La campagne de 2020 pourrait facilement dégénérer en violence dans les rues à l'instigation de Trump.

Cette évaluation - et le propre comportement de Trump - implique cinq étapes qu'il faut prendre sans délai.

Tout d'abord, la Chambre des représentants doit commencer les audiences d'impeachment. Trump est responsable des mêmes faits d'illégalités dans le financement des campagnes électorales qui ont envoyé son ancien avocat Michael Cohen en prison. Il a à plusieurs reprises et imprudemment enfreint les lois de financement et les lois fiscales par du blanchiment d'argent sale, de fausses évaluations des actifs et par un sous-paiement chronique de ses impôts. La divulgation publique de l'intégralité du rapport de Mueller risque d'ajouter de nouveaux motifs à sa mise en accusation.

En second lieu, le Congrès doit urgemment conserver le droit constitutionnel clair et sans ambiguïté de déclarer la guerre. Malheureusement, le Congrès a effectivement cédé ce pouvoir à la branche exécutive. Pourtant, le pouvoir de lancer une guerre, en particulier dans le cas d'une puissance nucléaire, ne doit jamais être confié à une seule personne. Cela serait vrai même si les États-Unis avaient un Président sain d'esprit.

Troisièmement, les experts en santé mentale doivent exercer leur responsabilité de protéger la santé et la sécurité de la société en expliquant publiquement, le cas échéant, que Trump n'est pas seulement un homme politique fourbe, ou un dirigeant déterminé, mais une personne mentalement instable capable de causer des dommages à grande échelle. C'est à la fois leur droit et leur devoir professionnel d'apporter des informations essentielles qui permettent aux législateurs de protéger le pays.

Quatrièmement, les médias doivent aller au-delà de la couverture de l'humeur du jour de Trump, pour couvrir son instabilité mentale. La vraie histoire n'est pas seulement que Trump ment sans relâche, ou qu'il est cruel et intolérant, mais qu'il est une menace envers les autres.

Enfin, les Américains doivent s'organiser politiquement pour empêcher une autre débâcle électorale en 2020, peut-être celle que Trump va tenter de raviver par des cris de fraude et des appels à ses partisans d'enfreindre les règles de la démocratie. Si Trump n'est pas mis en accusation (comme cela devrait être le cas), tous les efforts doivent être faits pour préserver la démocratie et pour protéger la société de son pouvoir destructeur.

ECC calls for constitutional amendment

By Emmanuel Mondaye

The Chair of the Elections Coordinating Committee (ECC) Oscar Bloh says Article 83 (C) of the Constitution of Liberia, which confers judicial powers to the National Elections Commission, places additional and unnecessary burden on the NEC besides its original mandate of organizing and conducting elections in Liberia thus, a need for an amendment.

Chairman Bloh made the observation during one-day stakeholder conference on Wednesday, 27 March in Monrovia.

The conference held under the theme: "Strengthening Liberia's Democracy through Electoral Reform" brought together political parties, civic organizations, government, local and international partners to critically look at some portions of the electoral laws of the country.

The ECC Chair argues no matter how much changes are made within the New Elections Laws in terms of rules and responsibilities of Magistrates, Hearing Officers, Chief Hearing Officer and Board of Commissioners on electoral disputes, the NEC remains the court of first instance for all electoral petitions, adding that this means the

Commission has to investigate allegations, hear witnesses, study the evidence, allow legal arguments and so forth before handing down ruling, which poses delay.

He notes that because of this, there will be persistent issue of conflict of interest in

Constitution reads, "The returns of the elections shall be declared by the Elections Commission not later than fifteen days after the casting of ballots. Any party or candidate who complains about the manner in which the elections were conducted or

shall, within thirty days of receipt of the complaint, conduct an impartial investigation and render a decision which may involve a dismissal of the complaint or a nullification of the election of a candidate. Any political party or independent candidate

period.

Bloh suggests addressing this problem, the provision should be removed from the Constitution and instead, inserted in the New Electoral Law to allow some levels of flexibility that would enable the NEC to make adjustments in the conduct of elections.

He stresses that in order to increase the number of young voters, eligible voters who can demonstrate that they will be 18 years or more on the day of election should be allowed to register, not necessarily those who will turn 18 on the day of registration as voters.

He suggests that voter registration should start far advance at least one year before the date for general elections in order to meet procurement requirements and allow enough time for voters to register and to make any necessary corrections to the Election Roll where required.

He further observes that given human errors, inadequate laws and infrastructural challenges, it is difficult to organize and conduct perfect electoral process in the country, noting that every election creates opportunity for electoral stakeholders to reflect on the electoral process and to review the laws in order to identify challenges and take appropriate measures to address them.

Chairman Bloh: Elections do not guarantee democracy. At the same time, they are a fundamental requirement to give legitimacy to any democratic government.

He says while it is true that elections are grounded in laws, they are equally about perception, and that is why it is important at all times that electoral processes are perceived by voters to be impartial, inclusive, transparent and marked by integrity.

The ECC position is drawn from the 2017 Presidential Election, which results from the first round were heavily contested by one of the candidates, Cllr. Charles Walker Brumskine of the Liberty Party, and supported by other parties. From the NEC, the issues went before the Supreme Court of Liberia thus, delaying the runoff poll up to 26 December.

Meanwhile, several other speakers including ECOWAS representative, heads of civic organization, leaders of political parties, women and youth groups also call for repeal of election laws that are problematic to the conduct of free, fair, and credible elections in the country. - **Editing by Jonathan Browne**



the adjudication of electoral petitions, including time for appeal process, adding that the appeal process in Chapter 6 of the New Elections Law cannot be changed until Article 83(C) of the Constitution of Liberia is amended.

Article 83 (C) of the

who challenges the results thereof shall have the right to file a complaint with the Elections Commission. Such complaint must be filed not later than seven days after the announcement of the results of the elections.

The Elections Commission

affected by such decision shall not later than seven days appeal against it to the Supreme Court.

The Elections Commission shall within seven days of receipt of the notice of appeal, forward all the records in the case to the Supreme Court, which not later than seven days thereafter, shall hear and make its determination. If the Supreme Court nullifies or sustains the nullification of the election of any candidate, for whatever reasons, the Elections Commission shall within sixty days of the decision of the Court conduct new elections to fill the vacancy. If the Court sustains the election of a candidate, the Elections Commission shall act to effectuate the mandate of the Court."

Chairman Bloh notes that in the wake of weak political institutions and limited knowledge among Magistrates and Hearing Officers on the substantive and procedural aspects of the law, some consideration should be given for the establishment of an ad hoc body of judicial officials to hear complaints and determinations on presidential and legislative elections.

He points out that Articles 83 (A) mandates the NEC to hold general elections on the second Tuesday in October of each election year, observing that this time is at the peak of the rainy season, and given the country's weak infrastructural, this provision poses serious logistical challenges for the NEC and financial burden on the political parties and candidates during campaign

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States urged to recognize

In particular, Section 48 (i) of the 63rd CSW Agreed Conclusions calls for governments to "Eliminate harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriage, which may have long-term effects on girls' and women's lives, health and bodies,

including increased vulnerability to violence and sexually transmitted diseases..."

The provision notes that [these vices] continue to persist in all regions of the world despite the increase in national, regional and international efforts, including by empowering all women and girls, working with local communities to combat negative social norms that

condone such practices.

Ms. Harris urges the need to empower parents and communities to abandon such practices, by confronting family poverty and social exclusion, and ensuring that girls and women at risk or affected by these practices have access to social protection and public services, including education and health care.

She notes that this reemphasizes the clarion call by the Liberian Feminist Forum, women groups, and national activists for the passage of the Domestic Violence Bill with the Female Genital Mutilation component.

Key among the recommendations in the Agreed Conclusions of the sixty-third commission on the

status of women includes investment in social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure to support the productivity of women's work, including in the informal economy.

Further, it urges the need to ensure that progress in women's access to social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure are not undermined by budget cuts and austerity measures, among others.

Ms. Harris furthers that during CSW engagements, her focus was drawn to the contributions of unpaid care work and the valuable services and contributions women make to the economy but unrecognized in economic policies, plans and even social protection systems.

She says there's critical need to elevate this conversation as a priority in Liberia, given the high rate of poverty and the vulnerabilities of women and girls in Liberia and the impact of unpaid care work on women's ability to earn more income, attain quality education, take care of themselves and families.-- **Press release**

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Ja'neh, lawmakers in final battle

By Ethel A. Tweh

Final arguments are due to be heard at the Liberian Senate in the ongoing impeachment trial of Associate Justice Kabineh M. Ja'neh this Thursday, 28 March.

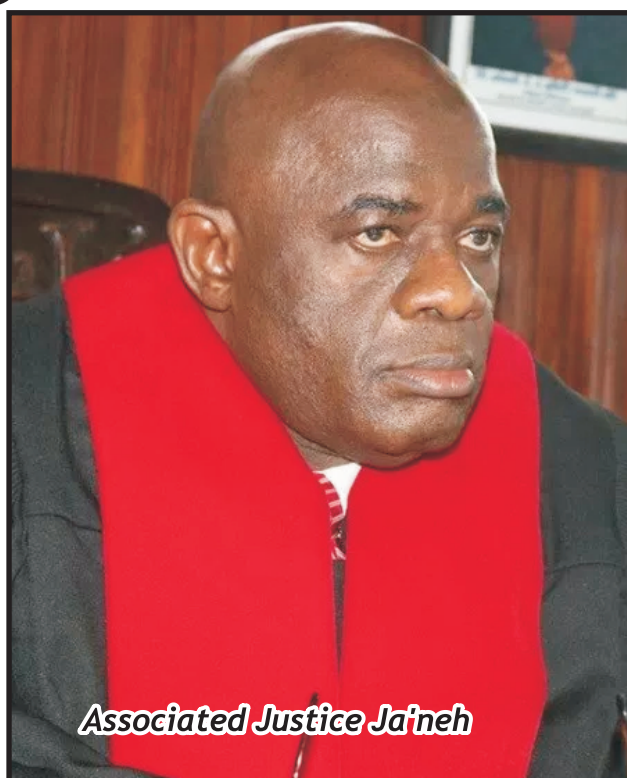
Liberia's Chief Justice and presiding officer Francis S. Korkpor, Sr announced Wednesday, 27 March that lawyers representing the House of Representatives and defendant Justice Ja'neh will start arguments on Thursday since both sides have rested in to with the production of oral and documentary evidences.

When final arguments are concluded by both parties, Senators will be expected to vote whether or not, to impeach Justice Ja'neh, and this final action at the Senate is based on when the trial of facts will be scheduled to vote.

Justice Ja'neh is on trial following accusations by lawmakers that he blocked government access to a road fund, and using his influence as Associate Justice to secure a ruling in his favor at the Supreme Court to take possession of a land being claimed by 94-year-old Madam Annie Yancy Constance, among other charges. But he denies all the accusations.

The final arguments are scheduled to commence at 11AM this Thursday, when lawyers from both sides will be fighting to convince Senators to vote in ways that either approve or disapprove Justice Ja'neh's removal from the Supreme Court Bench.

According to Chief Justice Korkpor, all instruments relied upon and testified to by witnesses have been submitted into evidences to



Associated Justice Ja'neh



Pro-Temp Chie

form part of the trial proceedings.

The Chief Justice says Wednesday was not used to commence the arguments so as to allow lawyers on both sides to adequately prepare themselves.

Meanwhile, the Chief Justice on Wednesday expressed frustration over senators' delinquency in the impeachment hearing.

He says most of the time the senators are late and sometimes some of them do not attend the trial.

The Senators are serving as trial of facts in the case, and they will vote either to impeach or trash the impeachment against Justice Ja'neh.

Chief Justice Korkpor indicates that it is important that the Senators be present during hearings to listen to the testimony, arguments of lawyers and also listen to the facts in the case so that they can be able to make an

informed decision.

"We will not be tight on the rules as we apply it at the Court when it comes to juries; we take them to be the honorable men that they are so they need to go by the rules," Justice Korkpor notes.

Meanwhile the House of Representatives which submitted the Bill of Impeachment against Justice Ja'neh has withdrawn its notice of rebuttal against an expert witness' testimony.

Following the testimony by Justice Ja'neh's lone witness retired Justice Philip A.Z. Banks, the lawyers representing the House announced that they were to produce an expert witness to rebut all the testimonies of

Justice Banks.

Justice Ja'neh's lone witness in the impeachment trial, retired Justice Banks bluntly told the hearing that the actions taken by the House of Representatives to carry on the impeachment without concurrence with the Senate, and by not respecting due process are unconstitutional.

Justice Banks said when the new Constitution was written in 1984 and came to use on January 6, 1986, impeachment proceedings was removed from political to legal, clarifying lawmakers' claim that the

impeachment is political.

The expert witness testified if what the House of Representatives did in the impeachment is illegal, any action taken by the Senate which serves as trial of facts can be challenged legally on constitutional grounds.

Retired Justice Banks said the Legislature comprises of two Houses, noting that the allegations contained in the Bill of Impeachment should be defined by both houses rather than a single house. He testified that if the House of Representatives wanted to impeach any official, the Senate should be aware.

The witness explained that because there was no rules to govern the impeachment process, the ad-hoc committee set by the House to investigate the matter did not issue out any writ of summon to Justice Ja'neh to have him appear for investigation.

According to the witness, there is no way to proceed with impeachment if there are no uniformed rules as directed by the Constitution.

Counsels for the House have contested the testimony, but they failed to convince Chief Justice Korkpor to dismiss Justice Banks' testimonies.--

Edited by Winston W. Parley

Millennium Challenge

Starts from back page


projects," said MCA-L Gender Specialist, Mardea Martin-Wiles during the turning over of the items.

The LEC Gender Department will help reinforce management efforts to effectively respond to gender-based issues in the field, institute gender disaggregated data collection and reporting system, and develop policies and plans to address gender and social inclusion barriers to electricity access for poor households, including women and disadvantage people and

businesses.

"LEC Management and Board have approved the establishment of the LEC GSI department, believing that disadvantaged people, mainly women benefit from LEC services," said LEC Director of Human Resource, Johan Du Lessis after he received the donated items from the MCA-L.


MCA-L recognizes that inequality and social exclusion can undermine poverty reduction and economic growth. -Press Release



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Addendum #1

To

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

For

Supply and Delivery of Three (3) Sport Utility Vehicles (SUVs) for Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission (LERC)

Background and Context

The United States of America, acting through the Millennium Challenge Corporation ("MCC") and the Government of Liberia (the "Government" or "GoL") have entered a Millennium Challenge Compact for Millennium Challenge Account assistance to help facilitate poverty reduction through economic growth in Liberia (the "Compact") in the amount of approximately 256,726,000 USD ("MCC Funding"). The Government, acting through Millennium Challenge Account - Liberia (the "MCA Entity"), intends to apply a portion of the MCC Funding to eligible payments under a contract for which this RFQ is issued.

MCA-Liberia now invites Quotations from legally constituted suppliers to provide the required goods. More details may be found in the Request for Quotation (RFQ) which is available free of charge at the email address below. This RFQ is open to all eligible suppliers who wish to submit their quotations.

This RFQ is for:

Supply and Delivery of Three (3) Sport Utility Vehicles (SUVs) for Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission (LERC)

How to Participate in the Process:

Interested manufacturers/suppliers should send an email to MCALiberiaPA@cardno.com requesting a copy of the complete RFQ with Specifications, which is free of charge.

Important activities and dates:

No.	Activity	Dates
1	Release of RFQ	March 22, 2019
2	Deadline for Submission	March 28, 2019 by 3:00 pm

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Welcome To The New World

Millennium Challenge Account donates to LEC



The Gender Department of the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) is now equipped with over \$8,000 worth of office furniture, computers, air conditioners and office tools provided by Millennium Challenge Account-Liberia (MCA-L) under the Millennium Challenge Compact between Liberia and the United States.


According to a press release, the furniture and equipment will strengthen the capacity of the Department to promote gender and social

equality within the public utility and in the delivery of services.

The support is part of MCA-L strategic assistance to establish, strengthen and capacitate Gender and Social Inclusion Units in compact implementing agencies of the Government of Liberia, including the Liberia Electricity Corporation and the Ministries of Mines and Energy (MME) and Public Works (MPW).

The MCA-L support to the ministries and agencies will create opportunities for

marginalized groups, including poor women, disadvantaged youths, micro, small and medium enterprises, among others, to participate in and benefit from the Compact's Energy and Roads projects.

"It is vital that gender is mainstreamed across the functionalities of the LEC in line with the National Gender policy and the Social and Gender Integration Plan (SGIP) so that vulnerable people are empowered to benefit from Millennium Challenge Compact 

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Adebayor considering international retirement

Emmanuel Adebayor is considering retirement from international duty after Togo failed to qualify for the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations.

On Sunday, the Istanbul Basaksehir striker scored the Squirrels' only goal in a 2-1 defeat to Benin Republic that ensured they finish bottom of Group D, thus, missing out on the tournament scheduled to

hold in Egypt.

The 35-year-old, who has severely made the decision to hang his boots internationally - most notably in 2010 after an attack on the Togo team bus heading for the Afcon in Angola - has admitted that he might pull a final halt.

"I'll think about what the near future has in store for me," Adebayor told reporters, per BBC.

"I will make sure to keep in

mind today's nice moments and if this is the end of all then so be it.

"I started playing for the national team in 2000 and we are now in 2019. There have been some ups and downs - there were some regrets as well as some unforgettable moments."

His jersey from Sunday's game will be kept so as to fulfil a promise he made to his daughter, in case Benin loss



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