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The New Dawn

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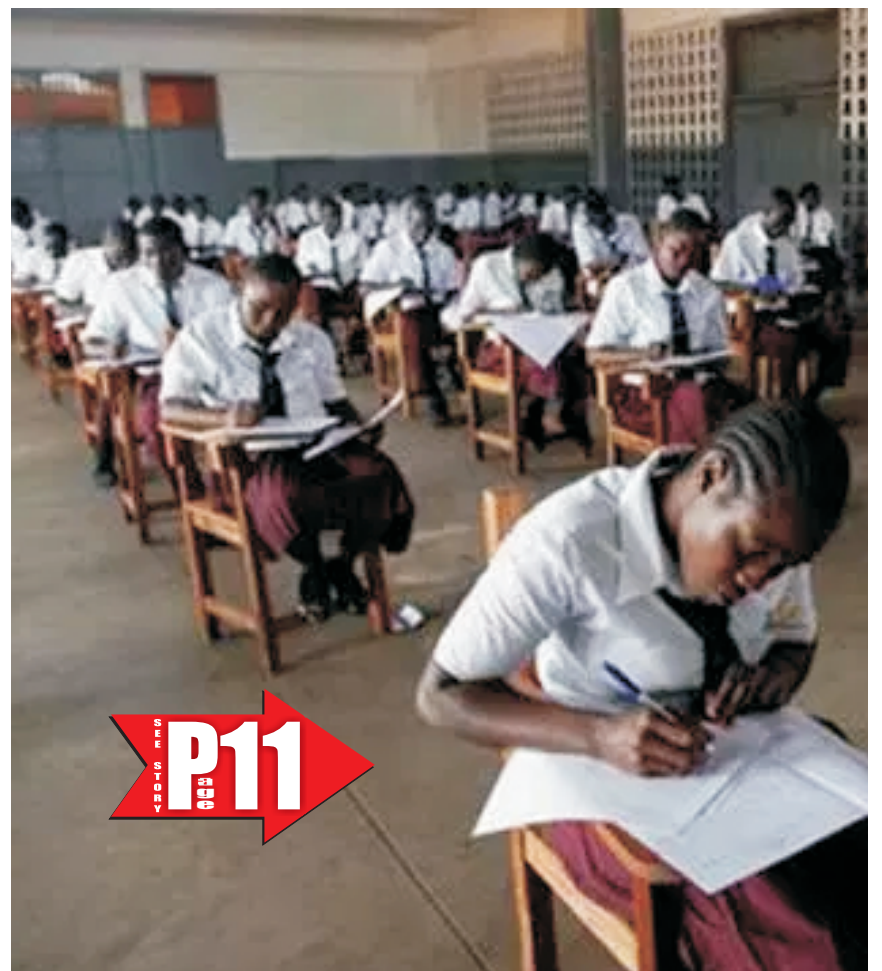
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Dethroned Cllr. Kabineh M. Ja'neh

Mission accomplished!

-What next?-

WAEC Liberia releases 2019 exams timetable



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Flashback: Senior students sitting exam



Continental News

Mnangagwa vows to crush demos

The GOVERNMENT is mulling new laws to crush demonstrations before they turn violent, President Emmerson Mnangagwa said yesterday.

Addressing the 111th Zanu PF central committee meeting in Harare yesterday, Mnangagwa said his government was gearing to ensure that protests which rocked the country in mid-January would never happen again.

"I am assuring the party that government is putting in place measures to ensure that the illegal, criminal and divisive elements of January 14 to 16 disguised as protesters will never happen again," he declared.

"Government will take stern measures against any violence in this country. We will not tolerate any violence at all. Those who want to demonstrate must do it peacefully and that is allowed by the Constitution."

Mnangagwa's chilling statement comes just a month after he warned the opposition, labour movements and civil society that his government

would not hesitate to send in soldiers to thwart any future demonstrations against his government. He told the meeting that his team was efficient in dealing with dissenting voices.

"Those who become violent and destructive, destroying property and the lives of our

people, government says no and it is no and we know how to implement no," Mnangagwa said.

The European Union, Britain and the United States, among other countries, have condemned Mnangagwa's regime for deploying the military, which killed 17

unarmed protesters in cold blood, according to human rights groups.

The West decried the violence and said Mnangagwa's efforts to promote investment and to deepen international partnerships could only be successful if his administration pursued reforms that included "freedom of assembly, association and expression". The EU ambassador to Zimbabwe, Timo Olkkonen, on Monday said the bloc would not ignore the human rights violations and warned that further violations were destroying goodwill and a setback to the country's recovery efforts. Early this month, the United States extended sanctions against Zimbabwe by a year.

A defiant Mnangagwa said his actions were in line with the law, which provides for the protection of property and rights of Zimbabweans.

"My government remains committed to guaranteeing the safety of all its citizens and ensuring that any democratic

rights are enjoyed within the strict confines of the law. That's why there is a government in the country. That's why there are laws in the country," he said.

"Laws must be enforced. Law and order must be enforced so that our government will not fall short in making sure the country lives in peace. Individuals should enjoy their democratic rights of association, of movement and of information."

Mnangagwa noted that his party members could have unleashed chaos and massive damage if they had reacted to the violence.

"I commend the party members for showing sober restraint against immense provocation and attack during that unfortunate incident," he said. "We showed maturity as Zanu PF because had we reacted violently, because we are the majority, we could have wreaked havoc in the entire country. But we said no, if other people have chosen to be terrorists and vandals, we cannot imitate them. We should remain civilised and in peace and peaceful and ask them to emulate us." NewsDay



Photo-Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa addresses a crowd in an area hit days earlier by Cyclone Idai

Al-Shabab claims killing 4 spies

NAIROBI, Kenya – Somalia's al-Shabab Islamic extremist group says it has executed four men accused of spying for the British, Djibouti and Somali intelligence agencies.

Al-Shabab announced the killings on its Andalus radio station on Sunday, saying they were carried out by a firing squad in a public square in Kamsuma, a town in the Lower Jubba region.

The group's spokesman said its recent spate of attacks on

hotels in the capital, Mogadishu, have been part of its drive against Somali intelligence agents and other government officials who he said were staying at the hotels.

"We don't attack every hotel in Mogadishu, but those specific ones (hotels) attacked by Mujahideen fighters have got specific features meriting them for attacks," said Sheikh Ali Mohamud Rage, on the rebels' radio station.

"A standard public hotel that civilians stay in is not protected

by blast walls and soldiers. These apostates have got no distinct offices, and most of those men were killed at hotels they use as their offices," he said, apparently referring to Somali government officials.

Mogadishu has seen series of attacks by al-Shabab in recent weeks, highlighting challenges facing the Somali government, which said recently that it is considering imposing a state of emergency in Mogadishu to try to contain the attacks.

Rage also said that the recent withdrawal of Kenyan forces, who are part of the multinational African Union forces in Somalia, from villages were made as result of increased attacks and deaths and budget constraints faced by the Kenyan government.

Al-Shabab, which is al-Qaida's East Africa affiliate, has fought for years to impose a strict version of Islam in the Horn of Africa nation. Despite losing territory in recent years, the extremist group continues to carry out deadly attacks in many parts of the country, especially in Mogadishu. A truck bomb there in October 2017 killed more than 500 people. AP



Somali soldiers in a file photo

Delayed Congo legislative vote begins in Ebola areas



photo: A woman in a polling booth in DR Congo

BENI, Congo – Long-awaited legislative elections are underway in three towns in Congo after authorities postponed them because of Ebola and violence.

In the town of Beni on Sunday, voters were washing their hands before entering polling centers as a protection against Ebola, which is transmitted by the bodily fluids of sick people.

Voters in Beni, Butembo and Yumbi were not allowed to vote in January when

Congo chose a new president. Officials said the Ebola virus posed too great a threat at the time in the eastern cities of Beni and Butembo.

Elections were delayed in Yumbi because of intercommunal violence.

Voting turnout was expected to be low. Albert Somo, a teacher in Beni, said people were disappointed and discouraged because they were not permitted to participate in the presidential vote. AP

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 thru 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 Christopher R. Hill

The Transatlantic Continental Drift

The American national-security establishment has long harbored disdain for Europeans' approach to policymaking and geopolitics. But the tenacity with which US President Donald Trump has attacked European allies shows that transatlantic relations have entered into dangerous new territory, and at precisely the worst time.

DENVER - The Earth's continental plates broke apart and first began to shift hundreds of millions of years ago. But anyone visiting European capitals or following events in President Donald Trump's Washington can be forgiven for thinking that another tectonic divergence is underway.

Of course, transatlantic mistrust is not new. In the run-up to the 2003 Iraq War, then-US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld sparked controversy by drawing a line between "old Europe" and "new Europe," the latter comprising the ex-communist states that were more enthusiastic about following the US into war. In the eyes of many Europeans, Rumsfeld's goal was to sow division within Europe.

Now Europe must deal with another difficult American named Donald. The Trump administration has pursued an even more aggressive approach to Europe, deeming the European Union a strategic competitor and raising doubts about America's long-term commitment to European security. In keeping with the Trumpian worldview, the US now views Europe as a freeloader that has taken advantage of American largesse.

Demonstrating his tenuous grasp of US interests, Trump seems intent on weakening the forces of European integration. He also has tried to drive wedges between Europeans, and not just between "old" and "new" (among whom he has a number of cheerleaders). For example, Trump makes no secret of his sympathy for the Brexiteers, even as they continue to discredit themselves in the eyes of most Europeans, and perhaps even among a majority in the United Kingdom, too.

Trump's "America First" worldview makes no room for a partnership between the US and Europe, or for any allies who do not automatically throw their support behind US policies. US Vice President Mike Pence made this all too clear at the Munich Security Conference in February, where he scolded Europeans for undermining US sanctions against Iran, and rather resembled a teacher reciting a list of overdue assignments.

American paternalism toward Europe will not necessarily end with Trump. As we have seen, it reflects a longstanding attitude within the US national-security establishment, including among neoconservatives, many of whom have openly refused ever to work for Trump. On issues ranging from the Balkans to the Russian threat against Ukraine, the prevailing American view is that Europeans are weak. Or, as a popular 2003 foreign-policy book put it, "Americans are from Mars, Europeans are from Venus."

To be sure, Europe also bears some of the blame for transatlantic tensions. When the EU began its expansion process some 20 years ago, Poland and other EU applicants complained to US diplomats about being told by European envoys to choose between America and the EU, as if there were two different sets of values and

interests. Europeans' supposedly more evolved views on climate change, the death penalty, the uses of soft power, and many other issues were marshaled in support of a single European identity, with interests distinct from those of the US.

Of course, much has changed since then, and some Europeans have come to realize that they must do more to strengthen transatlanticism, not least by increasing their defense spending, streamlining EU decision-making processes, and settling economic disputes. (One major holdout is Germany, whose defense spending as a share of GDP remains well below the 2% target set by NATO.)

But an even more fundamental challenge for Europe is internal. Across a wide array of issues, Europe's leaders need to do a better job of explaining to their constituents what the European project is really about. To earlier generations, the answer was obvious: European integration is necessary to prevent another world war. But while that was true 70 years ago, it is clear that the project's *raison d'être* needs to be updated to address European voters' current concerns.

Europeans originally thought they were joining together in a civilizational undertaking. But with the deepening of the bloc's structural integration and the inclusion of a unified Germany, many Europeans started to feel like they had been forced into the world's most onerous bureaucracy. And as social and economic pressures from immigration have increased, more Europeans have begun to feel as though they have lost their national identities. Their minds are not likely to be changed by lectures about moral responsibility and the needs of the less fortunate.

Hence, for some member states - including some that have benefited tremendously from EU membership - the instinct now is to shut the door and roll out the barbed wire. But as any serious European leader knows, migrant and refugee crises - and immigration policy more generally - must be addressed comprehensively at the EU level, including with a robust foreign policy focused on addressing the root causes of the problem.

As Europeans grapple with fundamental issues of identity, bureaucracy, and sovereignty, US policymakers, whatever their political pedigree, need to take a deep breath and reflect on the causes of the current transatlantic rift. Specifically, they should consider whether high-handed paternalism is really the best approach to a continent whose values and interests so overwhelmingly overlap with their own.

At the risk of stating the obvious, the rising threat to democracy - and even to civilization itself - demands that the US and Europe demonstrate more mutual respect and cooperation. There is no reason to expect anything to change under the current US administration, but we still need all hands on deck to prepare for a better future for transatlantic relations. It's time to push the continental plates back together.

O-PED

By Chris Patten

The Brexit Hour Has Come

LONDON - Do you want to know what is happening in British politics today in the great debate about the United Kingdom's departure from the European Union?

Join the club. With Brexit possibly just two weeks away, most British voters are in the dark. So are members of Parliament. So are the million people, including three of my daughters and three of my older grandchildren, who recently marched in London to protest against Brexit. And so are the six million who have signed a petition calling on the government to remain in the EU.

It's not surprising, therefore, that during my travels this month from the United States to Ireland to Southeast Asia and then Tokyo, everyone seemed so bemused about how Britain had plunged itself into such a damaging crisis.

Britain has always had a fractious relationship with the EU. We were a reluctant joiner, yet we have thrived as a member. We stayed out of the things we did not like, such as the euro and the Schengen area of border-free travel. We championed the single market, as well as EU enlargement to Central and Eastern Europe after the collapse of the Warsaw Pact. We were usually a leading advocate for more liberal economic and trade policies, and we have a more flexible labor market than any other member state except the Netherlands.

Despite these successes, opposition to the EU grew and festered on the right of British politics. David Cameron, Britain's previous Conservative prime minister, thought that he could manage the right-wing English nationalists in his party by offering a referendum on EU membership. It was a reckless roll of the dice.

Cameron lost by a small margin, partly because of voters' worries about immigration - even though most long-term immigrants to the UK come from outside Europe. The referendum campaign was characterized by delusion and mendacity: delusion that it would be easy to disentangle ourselves from the EU without any damage, and mendacity about the alleged benefits that would cascade down on us once we left.

First, large parts of the Conservative Party have embraced English nationalism. As Conservative activists have become fewer and older, so, like the Republicans in the US, they have become more extreme. As a former chairman of the party, I watch with horror as vengeful zealots hunt down moderate Conservative MPs in the manner of the Republican Tea Party ideologues. If the Conservative Party loses its moderates, it will lose elections.

Second, referendums are a direct challenge to Britain's traditional democratic system. They are a binary and divisive deviation from a constitution that rests on the belief that MPs owe their constituents their best judgment of the national interest. Their informed consciences are not owned lock, stock, and barrel by those who vote for them. Plebiscitary democracy is different from parliamentary democracy. Yet a narrow vote for "leave" almost three years ago trumps whatever Parliament thinks now, even though recent polls show that a growing majority of voters want to remain in the EU.

Third, Prime Minister Theresa May's government set the UK's date of departure from the EU before it had tried to develop a consensus for what our future relationship with Europe should be. Remember, whereas the UK sends almost half of its exports to the EU, less than 10% of the EU27's exports go to the UK.

May then tried twice to ram her own flawed withdrawal agreement through Parliament, and was soundly defeated on both occasions. With only weeks to spare, Parliament is now trying to find a compromise deal that would satisfy a majority of MPs and the other 27 EU members, whose patience is not limitless.

If MPs do approve an alternative plan, the question will be whether May is prepared to accept such a deal and present it to the EU. If she is not, this would provoke a major constitutional crisis, and perhaps trigger a general election.

May has become weaker by the day, and her authority has drained away. On March 27, in a final bid to win support for her withdrawal agreement, May promised to resign if Parliament approved it. But even this did not seem to persuade May's right-wing Conservative critics to come to her aid, while Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party, on which her government depends for its parliamentary majority, continues to oppose her deal. The national interest has taken a back seat to ideological obsession and the leadership ambitions of some of May's cabinet colleagues.

Time is short. Britain needs principled and courageous leadership. There is an old English proverb that says, "Cometh the hour, cometh the man" - or, of course, the woman. Let's hope that is still true today.

OPINION

By Simon Johnson

The American Populist Reckoning

WASHINGTON, DC - Populism is an approach to government that relies on lavish promises that ultimately cannot be met. The most prominent historical cases since 1945 were, for a long while, mostly found in Latin America. There are always apologists who claim that a new source of economic miracle has been discovered. But the ending is always the same: some form of crisis and disaster. Populism today is again in the ascendancy, but now one of the most virulent forms is in the United States - and with the credibility of the central bank very much on the line.

Argentina under Juan Perón (1946-1955 and 1973-1974) and his successors is often held out as the canonical example of populist misrule. Each iteration of populism has its special features, but the general pattern is this: unsustainable wage increases, an overvalued exchange rate, and massive foreign borrowing (enabled by local recklessness and foreign short-sightedness). Critics are persecuted, experts disparaged, and ridicule piled onto anyone with any kind of reasonable concern. Central banks and other independent governmental bodies, such as courts, are always subverted through personnel changes and other pressures.

Then the reckoning comes, with some combination of inflation, significant exchange-rate devaluation, and a deep recession (or worse). All too often, the cycle then starts again with another round of promises that cannot possibly be met. The central bank's credibility, once dismantled, does not easily return.

Looking around the world today, Venezuela is an obvious Latin American example that experienced a recent version of populism (though sustained by oil revenues for longer than usual). With Venezuela now experiencing a classic populist collapse, who else is displaying obvious symptoms today?

The United Kingdom is one prominent potential case. It is entirely possible that Britain can still avoid the disaster of leaving the European Union in a way that avoids a massive disruption of trade. The worry, of course, is that the path to a soft landing remains unclear - and it is very late in the day, relative to the politically established deadlines (for the EU and for the UK).

Some British political leaders, mostly on the right, continue to play the populist card to a disconcerting degree. It remains to be seen whether they need to cause a collapse before the hollowness of their promises becomes self-evident.

The good news is that key UK institutions, including the Bank of England, remain strong and reasonably independent. Let's hope that this remains the case, regardless of what happens within the Conservative Party and to Prime Minister Theresa May's government.

A much bigger problem looms in the US, where President Donald Trump has combined disregard for the fiscal impact of tax cuts with an apparent desire to start trade wars. Now comes his most dangerous move to date: increased pressure on the Federal Reserve to stimulate the economy.

The pressure on the Fed is understandable in political terms, because the temporary sugar high of the tax cuts enacted at the end of 2017 is wearing off, and there is insufficient congressional support to cut taxes further. Expanding deficits already stretch as far as the eye can see. Although US economic growth is satisfactory, it is naturally slowing as the country reaches full employment. As a true populist, Trump has promised growth rates that are unattainable except through extraordinary and unsustainable measures - such as significant easing of monetary policy.

The Fed is weak politically today because it has had a bad 15 years. First, it not only oversaw but actually cheered on the breakdown in consumer protection that made rapacious real-estate lending possible in the run up to 2008. Then the Fed completely failed to understand how the structure of derivatives could amplify risks, so that what should have been a mild downward correction in house prices became a system-wide (and global disaster). Subsequently, the Fed attempted to make amends by easing credit to an unprecedented degree. Unfortunately, "cleaning up" in this fashion proved difficult and the damage to millions of lives remains all too tangible.

The defense mounted by Fed leaders at the time was that crises happen and nothing can be done about it. That view is entirely wrong. The US avoided serious financial crises from the 1940s to the early 2000s because good enough regulation remained in place.

Leading congressional Republicans spent a decade aiming their rhetorical fire at the wrong target within the Fed's sphere of activities, claiming that its post-crisis policies were "too loose" and would cause inflation. The Republican critique proved entirely without merit: inflation remained low. But the political damage was done, and now Trump's pressure for much looser monetary policy is being supported by members of Congress who previously argued for the exact opposite.

Now the Fed is weak, and Trump is clutching at straws, desperate to jack up growth by any means until the 2020 presidential election. He is packing the Fed's Board of Governors with people who want to say yes to him and will mobilize his base against Fed staff and regional bank presidents if they resist easing monetary conditions.

Could pumping up the economy in this fashion clear Trump's path to reelection? Trump has been lucky before, and the global economy looks relatively benign (unless Brexit brings bad surprises). And while all of Trump's macroeconomic promises will prove as ephemeral and fleeting as those of Perón, populism always lasts longer than most people think possible.

The reckoning, when it comes, will likely be different from that in Argentina or Venezuela. The US has a stronger, more diversified underlying economy with a better track record over the past century. And the dollar is used widely around the world, as reserves for central banks, as a private-sector store of value, and to invoice most international trade. The most likely outcome will be slower growth, further increases in inequality, and erosion of public services. And America's ability to out-innovate others, including China, will absorb another blow.

Trump will leave the scene soon enough. Will his legacy be even more populism, made possible by the destruction of the Fed's political legitimacy? Such an outcome looks entirely possible.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Democratic Governance and National Development in Post-war Liberia: A Lesson for Nigeria

By: Josephus Moses Gray

Assistant Professor of International Relations

As touch-bearers of democracy in Africa, the founding fathers of Liberia were successful in building three (3) political institutions, sometime called Systems: The state....sheltered by internal and external sovereignty; rule of law (established Constitution) and democratic governance (accountability and inclusiveness). Since then, Liberia has been judged by international system and actors of the world to be practicing democracy in Africa in line with international best practice. The promise of democratic governance in a contemporary Liberia is more positive than before; even though there are still several obstacles that require practical actions to be overcome in order to enhance progress in the current Liberia's democratic space.

What are some of these challenges?

The Liberian democracy, just like other democracies across the globe, has its own trials and interferences which include having free and fair elections in which all participants and stakeholders have confidence; leveling the playing field for political parties and other activities; toleration of opinions of both in the opposition and critical voices and public. Other areas are respectability for constitutionalism and rule of law, justice; that all elected officials be accountable to the constituency and counties; people in offices of public trust should discipline their words; extermination of all forms of corruption, leaders lead by examples and encouragement and respect for democratic values and competitions by all political actors.

Our democratic governance system should show cherish respect for a democratic system based on the rule by the poor and disadvantaged, a system of decision-making based on the principle of majority rule; a society based on equal opportunity and individual merit; a structure of rule that protects the rights of minorities and majority and a government that serves the interests of the people.

Under our democratic governance system, democracy in Liberia is practiced limited and indirect democracy with respect to constitutional values in which the citizens elect officials to make political decisions, formulate laws, and administer programs for the public goods. Democracy is limited in the sense that popular participation in government is temporary and occasional, while it is indirect in that the public do not exercise power themselves, instead they merely select those who will govern on their behalf.

Kindly bear with me to briefly discuss the principles of modern democratic rule, which in a contemporary Liberia's period are sometime called: The pillars, doctrines, or values of democratic rule. Democracy globe be measured on the basis of the principles include: citizen participation which means that citizens are part and parcel of what happens in their country, citizens are part of the decision-making process and policies formulation Start from the bottom to the top.

The principles include political equality-meaning political equality of all citizens is an essential principle of democracy, equality before the law, equality of opportunity based on individual's capacities and people should not be denied equal opportunity because of gender, association, religion or race. While political tolerance should always be encouraged although the practices of politics believed to be the easy path to obtaining economic wealth and leadership power (Friedrich,1968). However, the Liberian society, compared to other African societies, is doing well in the area of political tolerance.

For Instance: the landmark judgment of the Supreme Court of Liberia as concerns the 2017 run off presidential election shows how tolerance Liberians are; free speech and press freedom are exceptionally tolerated; if anyone in the audience wants to verify this declaration...the best option is to turn to any of the local radio "Talks Show" or go through the daily headlines and pages of newspapers in the country. I recall that the 54th National Legislature recently decriminalized speech of offensive nature and created a free media environment in Liberia (E mansion, 2019).

The Bill is credited to the Office of the President of the Republic of Liberia, His Excellency Dr. Manneh Weah. Article 15 of the Liberian constitution guarantees for freedom of speech and expression and also provides

cautions regarding abuses. The provision includes freedom of speech and of the press; academic freedom to receive and impart knowledge and information and the right of libraries to make such knowledge available.

Former President Johnson-Sirleaf is also credited as the Second African head of State to endorse the Table Mountain Declaration, which calls on African governments to abolish criminal defamation laws. In 2010 Liberia became the first to enact West Africa's first Freedom of Information law and established an Independent media Commission headed currently by a student of the Kofi Annan institute of the University of Liberia. This law gives both journalists and the general public the leverage of unrestricted to access to public document, with exclusions of those border on national security.

The third principles of democracy is transparency while Leys (1967) disclosed that to be transparent means that officials both public and private allow for public scrutiny of what they do while in public office including that citizens are allowed to attend public meetings and are free to obtain vital information, holding of regular elections to ensure that bad leadership are not forced on the people and that elections are the main avenue for all citizens to exercise power to elect, or choose and reject their leaders through a secret ballot.

The situation of economic independence is also essential under the Liberian democratic governance system in that it creates the basis on which the citizens become economically potent, hold their leaders' feet to the fire and at the same time meet the needs of their family. Candidates usually



attempt to bribe registered voters either directly or indirectly, returns, in most cases these candidates are punished by the voters despite of electoral gifts.

Regarding the principle of the rule of law, constitution of Liberia provides: That no one is above the law and requires that all citizens observe the law and are held accountable if they break it, due process of law requires that the law should be equally; fairly and consistently enforced; equality before the law; The law should rule and establish framework for all conduct and behavior to follow and rule of law ensures law and order and the protection of citizens as they enjoy their rights.

The issue of human right is also indispensable to democratic governance in Liberia since democracies around the world strive to protect the rights and freedoms of their citizens from abuse, to choose their leaders, right to life, the right to own property, the freedom of expression

Democracies across the world work towards multi-party system which is a set-up where there are more than two political parties contesting for power such as broaden the pool for choice of the best candidate for political office, offer alternative views to the government of the day as a result of the existence of an opposition and allow the opposition to act as a check on those in political office.

Electoral System

The Liberian electoral system allows voters to cast secret ballots, free of intimidation, violence and inducement; it further gives electorates the options to make their choices on the basis of alternative developmental programs (NEC,

2014). It provides for changes in government without ward through the will of the majority and serve as the yardsticks how democratic governance Liberia is viewed internationally. While the element of the practices of democratic values in the country includes: Government chosen by a small and democracy elections must be inclusive, elections must be conclusive and competitive while opposition parties and candidates enjoy the freedom of speech, assembly and movement.

violence while power can be transferred from one party to another by means of majority decisions; the process-service as a conduit to move forward through the will of the majority and serve as the yardsticks how democratic governance Liberia is viewed internationally. While the element of the practices of democratic values in the country includes: Government chosen by a small and democracy elections must be inclusive, elections must be conclusive and competitive while opposition parties and candidates enjoy the freedom of speech, assembly and movement.

Free Media

The mass media generally constitutes an influence and effective ingredient of the world. It is due to the role of the media it is called the "Fourth Estate" since a vigorous media is an important element in a strong and healthy democracy. In Liberia, the history of journalism dated far back from the era of pioneers in 1822 when the first batch of colonial masters arrived in Liberia. The first independent newspaper to appear on the newsstand in the country was the "The Liberian Herald on February 16, 1826. Currently, there are over 60 FM radio stations operating in the country with about 46 in Monrovia and its surroundings and also there are over 60 prints in the country but majority of the newspapers are occasional due to financial constraints.

The media role in democratic governance in Liberia includes playing a critical role in improving governance; fights against bad governance and undemocratic practices include abuse of state wealth, human rights and constitutional violations; help in reducing corruption, increasing economic efficiency and stability; serves as a "mirror" of the Liberian society and shapes public opinions, among other roles played.

But the media also encountering difficulties which include lack of needed financial resources and advertisements; Inadequate support and persistent delay to settle payment for advertisements; unethical and unprofessional situations; lacks of professionalism, and proper training by some journalists; sour media-government relations; failures to engage into investigative journalism and lacks the capacity to report in-depth. While lack of encouraging monthly incentive plays a major part as some journalists depend on the corrupt political bureaucrats and foreign capitalist or "token" to meet their daily needs.

Role of Liberian Women in Democratic Governance

The history of democracy in Liberia without the role of Liberian women will be incomplete. In the practices of democratic governance, women play a significant role. Any society that downplays the ability of women and continues to subscribe to outdated beliefs which denied women advancement will always be at conflict with itself. The non-violent activities of Liberian women draw international attention to the once atrocities that were being committed in the country.

It is very difficult to discuss democratic governance in Liberia will out mentioning the meaningful contributions of Liberian women towards the obtainment of democracy and listing peace. Their activities witnessed successive signing of the Accra Peace Accord and democratically elections in 2005 which was won by fearless Liberian women—Madam Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and this struggle of Liberia women started long time since the famous role of Mother Suakoko of Bong County and other indigenous Liberian women whose history deliberately failed to remember for selfish reasons.

Overview of Liberian Electoral Situation

Since Liberia's independence in 1847, the nation has had numerous elections but most of the elections were far from being democratized. Until the 1986 elections which result was compromised in the interest of ex-president Samuel K. Doe.

TO BE CONT'D

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Pre-trial detention hampers justice

-Justice Minister Dean

By Lewis S. Teh

Liberia's Justice Minister and Attorney General Cllr. Frank Musa Dean, notes that issue of pre-trial detainees is a serious problem facing the justice system here.

Addressing a regular press briefing last week hosted by the Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism, he however assured steps are being taken to address the situation.

The MICAT press briefing is a regular conference that allows government ministries, agencies and commissions to update the public on performance progress, and activities at various institutions.

Speaking on a wide-range of national security issues, the Attorney General says though problem of pre-trial detention exists, reforms are being made to remedy the problem.

He notes that some detainees are sent to prison by magistrates in different areas mostly on Friday where they are unable to pay bond fees.

The Attorney General says in such cases, the Ministry goes in and find out what took the

detainees to prison, and to have them released base on their offenses.

"We are making laws that criminal charges are based on

the ministry is embarking on plea bargaining exercise, which he says is being used all over the world, explaining, "It is a provision where if officials find out what it will take for one to be prosecuted and the

serve some terms and get rehabilitated, we encourage this."

The Minister continues there are other provisions of the criminal proceeding laws that are being worked on. "We

Speaking also, Solicitor General Cllr. DarkuMulbah, similarly alludes to the problem of pre-trial detainees, which he says is of public knowledge.

He says in order to address the problem, it is important to find out its root cause. "It is because of the law that we now have what we call pre-trial detainees today.

The Solicitor General cites the Rape Law for example, noting that whenever an offense is committed, it is not bailable, and one cannot find a bond to be out until the case is called, and that person will have to be in detention.

Cllr. Mulbah says the next thing is that courts in Liberia are "guided by procedures and provision in the law that tells you that a bailable offense must only be tried by a jury, and the law says no court should [have] two jurors sitting at the same, instead, one."

"We are trying to make sure that our judges have control over the courts in terms to get lawyers to not file all kinds of application before the court that eat up the courts' time, in order for them to be more rigid on all parties that will appear before them so that hearing can be carried out more speedily." -Editing by Jonathan Browne



Justice Minister Frank Musa Dean

police investigations or investigation by the city solicitors, the county attorney, and the solicitor general's office", he explains.

Minister Dean discloses that

strength of the evidence they gather, where the evidence will be highly evaluated."

"Our intent is to have a discipline population; it is not to destroy; if you having to

hope that when it's submitted to the legislature and passed, we will see some progress in reducing the huge backlog of criminal pre-detainees", he concludes.

Police Chief warns truck drivers

By Bridgett Milton

Police Inspector General Col. Patrick Sudue warns owners of trucks to make sure their trucks are in good condition before plying the streets.

including the recent accident along the Robertsfield highway which led to the death of Montserrado County Representative Adolph Lawrence and a female.

Sudue says road safety

along the highways to avoid accident.

The Police chief warns trucks breaking down along highways and not removed will be impounded by the LNP until a fine US\$100 is be paid in



Inspector General Col. Patrick Sudue

Speaking to Truckers Union of Liberia, Col. Sudue expresses concern about frequent accidents on highways across the country as a result of defective trucks,

requires collective effort of all Liberians.

He announces that beginning this week, the Liberia National Police will introduce safety measures

government account.

He says any car coming to town overloaded will be arrested, issued a ticket and its content reduced to the required weight.

Col. Sudue notes that overloaded cars plying the streets will be fined US \$50, and

made to reduce speed limit for safety reason.

He adds that drivers caught in drunk driving will be issued ticket for US \$100 and police will impound such vehicles.

According to the police, trucks that do not meet safety standards will not be allowed in the street, stressing the

need for safety requirements such as tap light, good head light and reflector.

He notes that in Liberia, when you are enforcing the law, you become enemy of the state, adding he is willing to accept such characterization if it is what it will take to ensure vehicles plying the streets meet safety standards in to protect lives and property. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

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World Bank-funded MSMEs, RFPERP get extension

The Micro Small and Medium Enterprise and the Rural Finance Post-Ebola Reconstruction Project have been extended from three to five years, according to the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning.

A press release from the Ministry says the two years extension grant agreement is intended to provide finance to MSMEs on a sustainable term, enhance capacities of local private sector financial institutions to lend profitably.

Out of the US\$ 4.8 million, 4.0 million was used for direct credit to MSMEs while US\$800k went for operations and innovations capacity building for both the participating financial institutions and the MSMEs benefiting the fund.

The release recalls in early 2017, the Government of Liberia received a grant of US\$4.8 million from the World Bank for the MSMEs Post-Ebola Reconstruction Project.

The funds are channeled through seven (7) financial institutions, including three (3) commercial banks and four (4) microfinance or non-banking institutions.



These institutions are Liberia Bank for Development and Investment, GN Bank, Afriland First Bank, Diaconia MDI, BRAC, Foundation for Women's and Business Link all of which are required to use their internal lending frameworks and systems for the implementation of the program.

Speaking at the extension signing ceremony held at the Monrovia City Hall recently, Deputy Minister for Economic Management at the Ministry of Finance and Development

Planning, Augustus J. Flomo said, Micro Small Medium Enterprises remains the 'main' entry point to the labor market for youth, women and disadvantaged groups, especially, those without formal education.

He continued that Micro Small Medium Enterprises can directly help to lower poverty and integrate women and other marginalized groups into society, and believes it is the MSMEs sector that has great potential to grow the economy by serving as the engine for

growth.

"The SMEs will also provide the opportunity for other people to have job and be able to expand the economic activities. So the government is committed toward this initiative and we are grateful to the World Bank for providing us the amount which got us started", Minister Flomo stressed.

He assured the administration of President Weah is committed to the development objectives of the project, pointing out that government has worked with the participating banks and

microfinance institutions to ensure that MSMEs are provided the loan on sustainable terms, while ensuring that capacities of MSMEs are enhanced to properly manage the fund.

He assured partners that government will continue to work with partners in providing businesses access to capital, as well as building the capacities of these businesses to properly manage their capital.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry, Professor Wilson Tarpeh, lauds the World Bank and other development partners for their support and staying with the country during difficult times.

Minister Tarpeh adds that government is trying to develop a service center to help people who are involved in business to solve problem.

The extension signing ceremony was attended by representatives from the World Bank, Liberia Bank for Development and Investment, GN Bank, Afriland First Bank, Diaconia MDI, BRAC, Foundation for Women's and Business Link, including Senior Management Team members from the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning. - *Press Release*

TNIMA administrator angers students

By Emmanuel Mondaye

At least 300 medical students at the Tubman National Institute of Medical Arts (TNIMA) have expressed anger over the school administrator's alleged action that constrained them to buy a certain medical

held at the premises of the John F. Kennedy Medical Center in Sinkor, suburb of Monrovia when they were presented BP-colds.

BP-colds, a medical tool used to examine patients to diagnose their medical

colds, terming it a waste of financial resources in a declining economy.

She claims that prior to the capping and pinning program for the students, they were requested by TNIMA Administrator Madam Sara Kollie to buy BP-colds and present it into her office.

In addition to buying the BP-colds, student Collins narrates that they were made to wrap them in gift papers with their respective names written on them before submitting the gifts to Madam Kollie's office.

She says to their dismay, the BP-colds that they bought were officially presented to them as gifts in the presence of visitors and friends.

Student Collins claims that the move by the school administrator gave an impression that it was the school that was giving out gifts to students.

"If the school wanted to do good for the students, why it did not use her own finance to purchase the BP-colds, wrap it and present it to them?" she wonders.

According to her, most of the students had long since bought their BP-colds as part of requirements prior to enrolling into the school.

She argues that buying additional BP-colds caused the



Flashback: Nursing students at graduation program

tool known as BP-colds which the school later allegedly presented to individual students as gifts.

The students were on 22 March capped and pinned by the school during a ceremony

problems which could lead to prescription of medications.

A spokeswoman for the frustrated students, Merlin Collins complains that each of the medical students spent US\$35.00 to acquire the BP-

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students to unnecessarily spend their money.

The students demand apology from Madam Sara Kollie for the alleged unnecessary financial burden they had to undergo in a very difficult economy here, saying some of them got the money by begging other people.

Student Collins alleges that Madam Kollie threatened students against talking about the transaction to anyone to avoid putting the school into trouble.

When contacted on 27 March at his office at the John F. Kennedy Medical Hospital, spokesman Creeton James

confirmed the incident.

However, James says the administration at TNIMA took the decision to ensure that medical students who were to be capped and pinned have the BP-colds, a major requirement for accepted students in the institute.

The TNIMA was established in 1945 through the effort and cooperation of the Liberian National Public Health Services, now the Ministry of Health and the United States Mission to train students desirous of acquiring medical skills in Liberia.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

Français

Qui est le suivant ?

Pendant que le gouvernement libérien continue de faire la sourde oreille sur les appels multiples à la création d'un tribunal des crimes de guerre qui sera chargé de poursuivre les auteurs de crimes de guerre et des crimes contre l'humanité, les pays occidentaux, petit à petit, sont en train de procéder à l'arrestation des libériens soupçonnés de crimes odieux.

AlieuKosiah, un ancien haut commandant des rebelles libériens, fait désormais partie de ces criminels de guerre présumés qui font l'objet de poursuites judiciaires en Europe, plus précisément en Suisse.

L'ex-rebelle a été inculpé mardi 26 mars de crimes de guerre et crimes contre l'humanité. Il est soupçonné par les autorités judiciaires Suisses de meurtres et de viols lors des deux guerres civiles consécutives qui ont endeuillé le pays dans les années 90 et 2000, selon l'AFP.

L'agence de presse



Sekou Damate Konneh

Prince Yormie Johnson

Alhaji Kromah

George Boley

française a rapporté que les enquêteurs suisses examineraient également une douzaine d'autres affaires de "crimes de guerre, génocide et / ou crimes contre l'humanité".

Le bureau du procureur général (OAG) a dit avoir présenté pour la première fois un "acte d'accusation lié au droit pénal international"

devant le tribunal pénal du pays. « Le suspect est accusé de violation des lois de la guerre en tant que membre d'une faction militaire dans le contexte du conflit armé interne qui a eu lieu au Libéria entre 1989 et 1996 », a déclaré le bureau du procureur dans un communiqué.

L'accusé est un ancien

commandant du Mouvement de libération unie du Libéria pour la démocratie (ULIMO).

Le Libéria a été dévasté par deux guerres civiles qui ont tué plus de 250 000 personnes entre 1989 et 2003. L'ULIMO a été créé pour combattre une force rebelle dirigée par le seigneur de guerre devenu président, Charles Taylor, qui purge actuellement une peine de 50 ans de prison pour avoir aidé et encouragé les rebelles Serra Léonais à commettre des atrocités dans leur pays, selon les juges de la cour spéciale de l'ONU pour la Sierra Leone.

Le bureau du procureur général a dit avoir reçu plusieurs plaintes des ressortissants libériens en mi-2014 contre le suspect. Ils auraient accusé l'homme d'avoir commis ou ordonné des meurtres, des viols et d'autres actes "visant à asservir et à terroriser la population du comté de Lofa entre 1993 et 1995".

Une fois que les autorités

ont déterminé que l'homme se trouvait en Suisse et vivaient dans le pays depuis plusieurs années, elles ont ouvert une enquête pour crimes de guerre à son encontre.

Bien que le bureau du procureur n'ait pas confirmé le nom de l'homme, des éléments de l'affaire indiquent qu'il est AlieuKosiah, un ancien haut responsable des rebelles libériens soupçonné de crimes de guerre arrêtés en Suisse au début de 2015.

L'enquête qui a duré près de cinq ans a été rendue "particulièrement complexe en raison du manque de coopération du Libéria".

Le 22 mars, l'acte d'accusation avait finalement été déposé, accusant l'homme d'avoir ordonné ou participé aux meurtres de civils et de soldats qui n'étaient pas en situation de combat.

Il est également indiqué dans l'acte d'accusation que le suspect avait profané "un cadavre de civil, violé un civil, ordonné des traitements cruels pour des civils, recruté et employé des enfants soldat, ordonné plusieurs pillages et ordonné et / ou participé à des transports forcés de biens et de munitions par des civils".

A en croire le bureau du procureur général suisse, depuis 2011, il a reçu plus de 60 plaintes de crimes de guerre, de génocide et de crimes contre l'humanité, mais la plupart de ces plaintes ne répondaient pas aux exigences légales et avaient dû être abandonnées.

Une douzaine d'enquêtes criminelles sont toujours en cours pour "crimes de guerre, génocide et / ou crimes contre l'humanité", ajoute le texte.

Le juge Ja'neh destitué après avoir été jugé coupable

Le parlement libérien a destitué le juge jugeKabineh M. Ja'neh, juge associé de la cour à la Cour suprême du Libéria, ce qui met fin à plusieurs mois de batailles politico-juridiques déclenchées en 2018 par la Chambre des représentants.

Le Sénat a voté le vendredi 29 mars en faveur de la destitution du juge Ja'neh pour avoir pris la décision

d'accorder un bref d'interdiction empêchant le gouvernement de percevoir une taxe imposée à des entreprises pétrolières et gazières.

Après sa destitution vendredi, l'un des avocats du juge Ja'neh, Me LavalaSupuwood, a dit que son client fera appel de la décision du sénat devant la Cour suprême. La défense estime

que la décision qu'a prise le juge Ja'neh en chambre dans l'exercice de ses fonctions constitutionnelles a été ensuite validée par les cinq juges de la Cour suprême, y compris par le juge en chef Francis S. Korkpor, celui-là même qui a présidé le procès en destitution devant le sénat.

Il a été jugé au Sénat libérien pour plusieurs chefs d'accusation dont inconduite prouvée, abus de pouvoir discrétionnaire, fraudes, détournement de fonds et corruption.

Pourtant, le Sénat ne l'a reconnu coupable que d'une charge, à savoir abus de pouvoir discrétionnaire pour avoir émis une ordonnance qui portait suppression d'une taxe pétrolière imposée par le gouvernement du Libéria sur des entreprises privées. Pour les autres charges retenues contre lui, il a été reconnu non-coupable. Il était soupçonné d'avoir notamment utilisé son influence pour obtenir de la Cour suprême une décision favorable lui permettant de prendre possession d'un terrain litigieux revendiqué par une



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citoyenne ordinaire âgée de 94 ans, Mme Annie Yancy Constance.

Mais pour l'avocat Supuwood, la procédure de vote était entachée de défauts et d'irrégularités. Il a ainsi prié en vain le juge en chef Korkpor de ne pas permettre que tout le verdict soit transmis dans les archives du Sénat.

Sur les neuf sénateurs qui avaient annoncé leur soutien au juge Ja'neh quelques heures avant la décision cruciale, seuls quatre ont voté contre et

trois autres se sont abstenus. Les deux autres sénateurs semblent avoir changé d'avis et avoir rejoint les sénateurs pro-impeachment pour condamner l'accusé.

Quelques heures avant le vote, les avocats de la Chambre des représentants avaient dit craindre que si le défendeur était acquitté, il y ait deux factions opposées à la Cour suprême car les relations entre ce dernier et le juge en chef Francis S. Korkpor seraient tendues.

Français

Prolongation de 6 semaines de l'audit sur une opération monétaire en 2018

Le gouvernement libérien a accordé un délai de six semaines à une commission officielle pour enquêter sur la conduite en 2018 d'une opération monétaire controversée, a annoncé jeudi le ministre de la Justice Musa Dean.

Le président George Weah avait commandé le 7 mars à la Commission générale des audits (GAC) un rapport, dans un délai de deux semaines, sur une opération de rachat de dollars libériens pour "éponger la liquidité excessive" de la monnaie nationale, destinée à enrayer sa chute.

La présidence avait précisé que cette décision répondait aux recommandations d'une commission d'enquête présidentielle et d'un audit du cabinet de conseil américain Kroll Associates sur la politique monétaire du pays et de sa Banque

l'accusation.

"Nous avons écrit à la GAC conformément aux instructions du président. Mais ces affaires obéissent à leur propre rythme", a déclaré à la presse le ministre de la Justice, pour expliquer ce délai supplémentaire.

Les membres de la GAC "nous ont dit que pour faire un travail méticuleux, surtout s'ils devaient aller sur le terrain, les deux semaines accordées initialement ne suffiraient pas", a ajouté M. Dean.

"Nous voulons des résultats que la GAC puisse assumer, c'est pourquoi nous avons accordé ces six semaines qui ont commencé hier" (le 27 mars), a-t-il précisé.

Les investigations de la commission d'enquête présidentielle ainsi que l'audit du cabinet américain portaient sur l'entrée au

COMMENTAIRE

Par Christopher R. Hill

La dérive transatlantique des continents

DENVER - Les plaques continentales de la Terre se sont fissurées et ont commencé à se déplacer il y a des centaines de millions d'années. Mais quiconque visite les capitales européennes ou suit les événements qui se déroulent à Washington sous le Président Donald Trump ne peut s'empêcher de penser qu'une autre sorte de divergence tectonique est en cours.

Bien sûr, la méfiance transatlantique n'a rien de nouveau. Dans la période qui a précédé la Guerre en Irak de 2003, le Secrétaire américain à la Défense d'alors, Donald Rumsfeld, a suscité la controverse en faisant une distinction entre « vieille Europe » et « nouvelle Europe », cette dernière comprenant les anciens États communistes, qui se montraient plus enthousiastes à l'idée de suivre les États-Unis dans la guerre. Aux yeux de nombreux Européens, l'objectif de Rumsfeld était de semer la division en Europe.

À présent, l'Europe doit faire face à un autre américain nommé Donald, qui cause ses propres sortes de difficultés. L'administration Trump a poursuivi une approche encore plus agressive en Europe, en estimant que l'Union européenne était un concurrent stratégique et en soulevant des doutes quant à l'engagement à long terme de l'Amérique dans la sécurité européenne. Conformément à la vision du monde de Trump, les États-Unis considèrent à présent l'Europe comme un parasite qui a profité des largesses américaines.

En faisant preuve de sa vague compréhension des intérêts américains, Trump semble vouloir affaiblir les forces d'intégration européenne. Il a également tenté de diviser les Européens, pas seulement entre « anciens » et « nouveaux » (parmi lesquels il compte un certain nombre de meneurs). Par exemple, Trump ne dissimule en rien sa sympathie à l'égard des Brexiteers, bien qu'ils continuent à se discréditer aux yeux de la plupart des Européens - et peut-être même également au sein de la majorité au Royaume-Uni.

La vision du monde « America First » de Trump ne laisse aucune place à un partenariat entre les États-Unis et l'Europe, ni à des alliés qui n'appuient pas automatiquement les politiques des États-Unis. Le Vice-président américain Mike Pence n'a fait que confirmer cela à la Conférence de Munich sur la sécurité en février, où il a réprimandé les Européens pour avoir sapé l'autorité des sanctions américaines contre l'Iran, et qui a plutôt fait figure d'un enseignant récitant une liste des tâches en retard.

Le paternalisme américain envers l'Europe ne finira pas nécessairement avec Trump. Comme nous l'avons vu, il reflète une attitude de longue date au sein de l'establishment de sécurité nationale des États-Unis, notamment parmi les néo-conservateurs, dont un grand nombre ont ouvertement refusé de travailler pour Trump. Sur des questions allant des Balkans à la menace russe contre l'Ukraine, la vision américaine qui prévaut est que les Européens sont faibles. Ou, pour citer un livre populaire de politique étrangère de 2003, « les Américains viennent de Mars, les Européens viennent de Vénus ».

Certes, l'Europe a également sa part de responsabilité dans les tensions transatlantiques. Lorsque l'UE a commencé son processus d'expansion il y a environ 20 ans, la Pologne et les autres candidats de l'UE se sont plaints aux diplomates américains, de ce que des envoyés européens leur aient demandé de choisir entre l'Amérique et l'Union européenne, comme s'il y avait deux systèmes de valeurs et d'intérêts différents. Les

opinions soi-disant plus évoluées des Européens sur le changement climatique, la peine de mort, les utilisations de l'énergie douce et bien d'autres questions étaient rassemblées à l'appui d'une seule identité européenne, avec des intérêts distincts de ceux des États-Unis.

Bien sûr, bien des choses ont changé depuis et certains Européens ont pris conscience qu'ils doivent faire davantage pour renforcer le « transatlantisme », notamment en augmentant leurs dépenses de défense, en rationalisant les processus de prise de décision de l'UE et en réglant leurs différends économiques. (Un opposant majeur est l'Allemagne, dont les dépenses de défense en pourcentage du PIB restent bien en dessous de l'objectif de 2 % fixé par l'OTAN.)

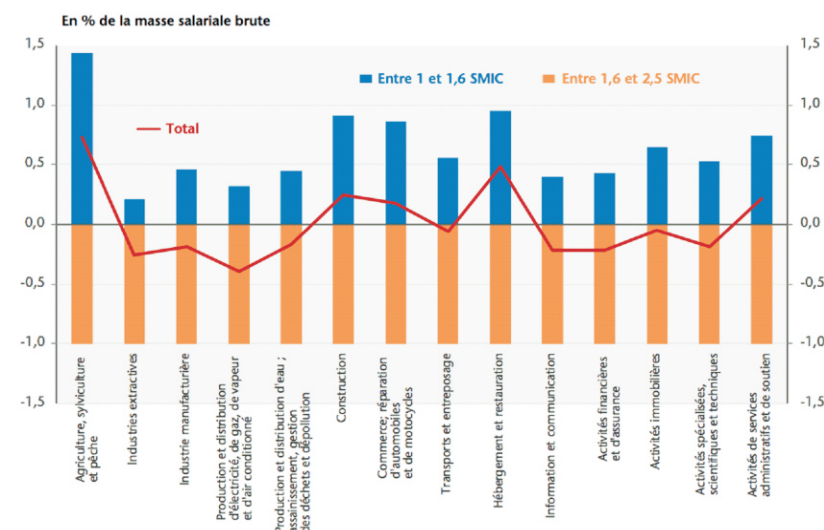
Mais l'Europe connaît un défi encore plus fondamental, qui est cette fois-ci un défi interne. Sur une large gamme de questions, les dirigeants européens doivent faire un meilleur travail pour expliquer à leurs électeurs en quoi consiste vraiment le projet européen. Pour les générations précédentes, la réponse était évidente : l'intégration européenne est nécessaire pour empêcher une autre guerre mondiale. Mais bien que cela ait été vrai il y a 70 ans, il est clair que la raison d'être du projet a besoin d'être mise à jour pour répondre aux préoccupations actuelles des électeurs européens.

Les Européens pensaient à l'origine qu'ils se rejoignaient au sein d'une entreprise de civilisation. Mais avec l'approfondissement de l'intégration structurelle du bloc et l'inclusion d'une Allemagne unifiée, de nombreux Européens ont commencé à ressentir qu'ils avaient été contraints à la bureaucratie la plus lourde du monde. Et à mesure que les pressions sociales et économiques de l'immigration ont augmenté, les Européens ont commencé à ressentir d'autant plus fortement cette impression de perdre leur identité nationale. Il y a peu de chances que des conférences sur la responsabilité morale et sur les besoins des plus démunis les fassent changer d'avis.

Par conséquent, pour certains États membres - dont certains ont énormément bénéficié de leur adhésion à l'UE - leur instinct leur dicte à présent de fermer la porte et de dérouler les fils de fer barbelés. Mais comme le sait tout dirigeant européen sérieux, les crises des migrants et des réfugiés - et la politique d'immigration de manière plus générale - doivent être traitées globalement au niveau de l'UE, notamment par une solide politique étrangère axée sur les causes profondes du problème.

Comme les Européens sont aux prises avec des questions fondamentales d'identité, de bureaucratie et de souveraineté, les décideurs américains, quel que soit leur pedigree politique, doivent respirer profondément et réfléchir sur les causes de la fracture transatlantique actuelle. Plus précisément, ils devraient se demander si le paternalisme autoritaire est vraiment la meilleure approche pour un continent dont les valeurs et les intérêts se confondent majoritairement avec les leurs.

Au risque de verser dans le truisme, la menace croissante envers la démocratie - et même envers la civilisation elle-même - exige que les États-Unis et l'Europe fassent preuve de davantage de respect mutuel et de coopération. Il n'y a aucune raison de s'attendre à ce que quoi que ce soit change sous l'administration américaine actuelle, mais nous avons encore besoin de tout le monde sur le pont pour nous préparer à un avenir meilleur pour les relations transatlantiques. Il est temps de rapprocher les plaques continentales les unes des autres.



centrale (CBL) depuis 2016. Cinq anciens dirigeants de la CBL, dont Charles Sirleaf, fils de l'ex-présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, à laquelle George Weah a succédé en janvier 2018, ont été inculpés le 4 mars de "sabotage économique" à la suite de la publication des conclusions de Kroll Associates et de la commission d'enquête présidentielle.

Deux d'entre eux, Charles Sirleaf et l'ancien gouverneur de la CBL Milton Weeks ont été libérés la semaine dernière après le versement d'importantes cautions. Il leur est notamment reproché d'avoir fait imprimer sans autorisation un excédent de billets pour un montant de 2,645 milliards de dollars libériens (14,4 millions d'euros ou 16,3 M USD), dont ils ne peuvent justifier l'utilisation, selon

Liberia d'un montant de quelque 16 milliards de dollars libériens (99 millions USD ou 87 millions d'euros) destinés à la CBL, dont une partie aurait disparu, selon certaines informations non vérifiées.

Dans son audit portant sur la période de janvier 2016 à décembre 2018, Kroll Associates conclut que les billets imprimés ont bien été livrés, mais relève de nombreuses "incohérences à chaque étape du processus d'entrée et de sortie des billets de la CBL".

Il se montre également très critique de la méthode retenue par l'administration Weah pour injecter dans l'économie 25 millions de dollars américains, estimant qu'elle a "augmenté le niveau de risque" de malversations et recommandant des vérifications supplémentaires. Africa N1

FEATURE

FEATURE

“Orange Voices” from Africa

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign

(Courtesy UN Africa Renewal)

Each year, the world comes together in a campaign to speak out on one topic: ending violence against women and girls. Sixteen Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence begins on 25 November, which is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and runs through Human Rights Day on 10 December.

Organized by UN Women under the theme “Orange the World: #HearMeToo,” this year’s campaign highlights the voices of women and girls who have survived violence and those who are defending women’s rights every day. The colour orange has been designated to the cause to symbolize a brighter future without violence.

“Women and girls in many parts of the world have their voices muzzled. This is why our theme for this year is #HearMeToo, because it is about the women and girls we are yet to hear from and respond to,” said UN Women’s executive director, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka.

The statistics are grim. At least one third of women worldwide have experienced either physical or sexual violence at some point in their lives. In some countries up to 70% of women have experienced physical or sexual violence from an intimate partner in their lifetime.

About 650 million women and girls in the world today were married before age 18. In West and Central Africa, over 40% of young women were married before their 18th birthday. At least 200 million women and girls alive today have undergone female genital mutilation or FGM, according to UN Women.

Research indicates that the cost of violence against women could amount annually to around 2% of global gross domestic product (GDP), equivalent to US\$1.5 trillion.

Africa Renewal recently listened to some “Orange Voices”

Patricia Essel: “The time to act is now”
Programme manager at WiLDAF (Women in Law and Development in Africa) Ghana



“The most prevalent form of gender-based violence in Ghana is economic violence. When women are deprived of work opportunities or barred by their husbands from working, it makes them economically dependent, as when men control their wives’ access to resources or unilaterally decide how

Secretary-general of GF2D (Groupe de réflexion et d’actions femmes, démocratie et développement)

In the small West African country of Togo, economic violence is a common form of abuse, says Michele Aguey, secretary-general of GF2D, a women’s advocacy group based in Lomé. In addition, she referred to the latest available official government statistics to explain the plight of women and girls, including that 9 out of 10 women have suffered a form of psychological abuse, 4 out of 10 have suffered physical abuse and 3 out of 10 have suffered sexual violence. “It is about time victims were heard,” she says, adding, “Victims should break their silence, file charges and get justice. Otherwise acts of violence will continue to flourish.”

Florence Machio: “We need justice for violated women and girls”
Campaign officer, Equality Now

“Although we have laws such as the anti-FGM act, the Children’s Act that prohibits child marriages and the Sexual Offences Act, there are no structures in place to support the administration of justice to women and girls. For example, when a child is violated by a teacher, what mechanisms are there to ensure she gets a safe space to speak out? When a woman is violated at home and chased away at midnight, what structures exist to ensure her safety and protection? If women are sexually harassed at the workplace, what structures exist to help them get recourse without losing their jobs?”

Marguerite Ramadan: “All we want is peace and an end to impunity”
President of OFCA (Organisation des femmes Centrafricaines)

“Should peace return to the country, maybe the worst forms of gender-based violence would abate. In 2017, the UN alone reported 308 cases of sexual violence, including 253 rapes, of which 181 were gang rapes, five attempted rapes, 28 forced marriages, 2 cases of sexual slavery and 20 cases of other sexual assault. Peace should return so that the victims can get justice.”



to spend their wives’ earnings. Ghanaian women want to be heard when they say, ‘The time to act is now. Let us not wait for tomorrow because it may be too late.’”

Michele Aguey: “Break the silence”



Mission accomplished!

By Ethel A. Tweh



It appears that the mission to dethrone Cllr. Kabineh M. Ja'neh as an Associate Justice of the Republic of Liberia has been accomplished.

Members of the Liberian Senate voted overwhelmingly to effect his impeachment on Friday March 29, a move which has ended months of political and legal battles initiated in 2018 by the House of Representatives over numerous charges.

The Senate voted Friday, 29 March to impeach Justice Ja'neh on account of a decision taken to grant a writ of prohibition that prevented government from collecting a road funds taxed against oil and gas companies because it had not been imposed through legislative act.

Following his impeachment Friday, one of Ja'neh's lawyers Cllr. LavalaSupuwood noted his client's exception to the decision, announcing that they will take an appeal at the Supreme Court.

Impeached Justice Ja'neh's lawyers arguments are that the decision he took in chambers while performing his constitutional duties was further validated by all five justices of the Supreme Court, including the presiding officer of the impeachment trial Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor, Sr.

He stood trial at the Liberian Senate for alleged

proved misconduct, abuse of public office, wanton abuse of judicial discretion, frauds, misuse of power and corruption.

In late 2018, Justice Ja'neh was impeached by the House of Representatives on four counts, pending the Senate's decision before his removal finally from the Supreme Court bench.

The Senate did not convict impeached Justice Ja'neh for the rest of the charges including allegedly using his influence to win favorable ruling from the Supreme Court to take possession of a disputed land being claimed by 94 - year - old private citizen Madam Annie Yancy Constance.

He is held for granting a petition for a Writ of

Prohibition filed by two petroleum companies to halt the government of Liberia from collecting taxes of US\$0.25 intended for road funds imposed on the pump price of petroleum products.

Former Associate Justice Ja'neh's lawyer Cllr. Supuwood prays Chief Justice Korkpor not to [make] all the verdict form part of the Senate's records, alleging that the voting process was marred by flaws and irregularities.

However the guilty verdict was admitted into the Senate's record after 22 Senators voted to remove him.

Out of nine Senators that announced their support for Justice Ja'neh hours to the crucial decision, only four voted against the

impeachment and three others abstained from the process.

The remaining two Senators appear to have crossed over to join forces with the pro impeachment Senators to convict the accused justice.

Hours before votes were cast, pro impeachment lawyers representing the House of Representatives expressed fears that if the defendant was acquitted, there would have been two warring factions on the Supreme Court bench on grounds that Ja'neh and the Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor who presided over the impeachment would have had strained relations.

A summary of the decision taken by the Senate which was read by Bong County Sen. Henry Yallah reveals that the Senate acquitted Justice Ja'neh of charges including official misconduct and gross breach of duty in the theft of records of the House of Representatives; the much publicized Annie Constance Land case; and the impeachment prohibition field to the Supreme Court,

respectively.

The charge of impeachment prohibition was voted down by 14 Senators against 12 that voted for while three abstained.

On the charge of theft of records of the House of Representatives, 14 Senators voted guilty, while 12 voted not guilty, and three abstained from the process.

Additionally in the land case with Madam Constance, 18 Senators voted guilty, eight voted not guilty, and three abstained from the process.

Meanwhile Justice Ja'neh's lawyers say the Senate Pro - Tempore Albert Chie failed to follow amended Senate Rule 63, with regards to the procedure for voting.

The protesting lawyers requested Chief Justice Korkpor to dismiss the verdict against their client.

The lawyers' protest prompted Chief Justice Korkpor to make inquiry with Pro-Tempore Chie to establish if the documents presented by the respondent lawyers were new rules crafted to be used for the voting process.

But Pro-Tempore Chie denied the argument, noting that what was used was a "mere procedure for voting and not a new rule as claimed."

In presenting the verdict, Chief Justice Korkpor urges that there must be a real issue in order to set aside and order a revote.

"There has been no substantive complaint brought before me to rule out the verdict from the jurors. On the one relating to the road fund case, 22 Senators found him guilty and four not guilty and three absences. Therefore and in keeping with Article 43 of the Liberian Constitution, the accused has been found guilty," says Chief Justice Korkpor. --*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

WAEC Liberia releases 2019 exams timetable

The West African Examinations Council (WAEC) Liberia Office releases timetable for the 2019 West African Senior School Certificate

According to WAEC Monrovia Office, the examinations are expected to last for five weeks, administered to 12th graders across Liberia.

Releasing the 2019 WASSCE

prepare for the public test.

WAEC also encourages stakeholders to make maximum use of the timetable by ensuring that



Examinations or WASSCE exams which is expected to be administered throughout the country from April 24 to May 20, 2019.

timetable in Monrovia last week, WAEC says early publication of the schedule is intended to afford school administrators and candidates an opportunity to adequately

students adhere strictly to the time and dates specified in the schedule during the administration of the exams.

However, the Council says it

will, in keeping with its policy, institute the requisite measures in dealing with those who will attempt to breach examination's protocols.

The timetable details the WASSCE examination will commence on

Wednesday, April 24, with practical and physical Geography and end on Monday, May 20, with Chemistry.

WAEC says objective test, essay, practice work, and oral examination will be used to evaluate candidates'

performance.

The results of 855 out of a total 33,124 candidates, who wrote the WASSCE in 2018, were withheld by WAEC Liberia for alleged examination malpractices.

The Council reveals the affected candidates were found culpable of violating basic rules governing the conduct of the examination, including use of foreign materials, like cellphones, among others.

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Welcome To The New World

4000 Liberians enjoy DED extension



Some 4,000 Liberians residing in the United States are breathing an air of relief again after President Donald Trump extended the Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) by 12 months last week following huge lobby by several members of Congress, rights campaigners and lawyers.

The deportation should

have been announced by Sunday, 31 March.

Thousands of Liberians fled two civil wars at home between 1989 and 2003 to the United States and were allowed to live in America under the Deferred Enforced Departure.

President Trump in an Executive Order last Thursday, said, "Upon further reflection

and review, I have decided that it is in the foreign policy interest of the United States to extend the wind-down period for an additional 12 months, through March 30, 2020. The overall situation in West Africa remains concerning, and Liberia is an important regional partner for the United States."

He noted reintegration of DED beneficiaries into Liberian civil and political life will be a complex task, and an unsuccessful transition could strain United States-Liberian relations and undermine Liberia's post-civil war strides toward democracy and political stability.

"Further, I understand that there are efforts underway by members of Congress to provide relief for the small population of Liberian DED beneficiaries, who remain in the United States. Extending the wind-down period will preserve the status quo, while the Congress considers remedial legislation", the U.S. President added.



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Messi: I miss having Ronaldo in La Liga

Lionel Messi says he misses facing rival Cristiano Ronaldo as the former Real Madrid forward gave "prestige" to La Liga.

After helping Madrid win a fourth Champions League title in five years, Ronaldo left the club to join Serie A giants Juventus in July.

Ronaldo has continued to save his best for Europe's elite club competition, with



a hat-trick against Atletico Madrid firing Juve into the quarter-finals of the Champions League.

The draw subsequently

ensured Messi and Ronaldo cannot meet unless both clubs advance to the final, which is set to be played at Atletico's Wanda Metropolitano home.

Madrid are lagging 12 points behind Liga leaders Barca and Messi suggested he misses the competition provided by Ronaldo.

"I miss Cristiano," Messi told FM Club 947 in Argentina".

Get to know Cllr. Kuku Y. Dorbor

Counsellor Kuku Y. Dorbor is not only a former lawmaker, active legal practitioner, entrepreneur, but also a humanitarian. She is Chief Executive Officer of the Dorbor's Foundation situated in Coca-Cola Factory, Paynesville, Montserrado County. The Foundation is a non-for-profit organization that is engaged in charitable works such as Tuition-Free Program and Free Legal Services to Indigent people. It also provides basic social services, including hand pumps, construction of toilets, bus stops, micro-loans for market women, construction of market buildings and involvement with youth organizations in communities besides working with community leaders in ensuring that basic needs of the people are met, such as construction of hospital, schools, roads, town halls, pipe-borne water system, etc. The program also assists physically-challenged, shoe-shine boys, motorcyclists, and farmers.

The Foundation is involved in advocacy in areas such as rape, prostitution, early marriages, drug abuse and wayward children, including children selling in the streets.


As former Co-chair for the Monsterrado Legislative Caucus (2006 - 2011) she made sure County Developments Fund (CDF), Social Funding from Concession Agreement and Surface Rental Funding were expended on projects within the County. Hon. Kuku also ensured that projects implementation were in line with needs of the people, while providing oversight on the administration of the County Office through the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

The Caucus is a conglomeration of all members who are elected from Monsterrado County. Its role is to promote harmony all Montserrado lawmakers.



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