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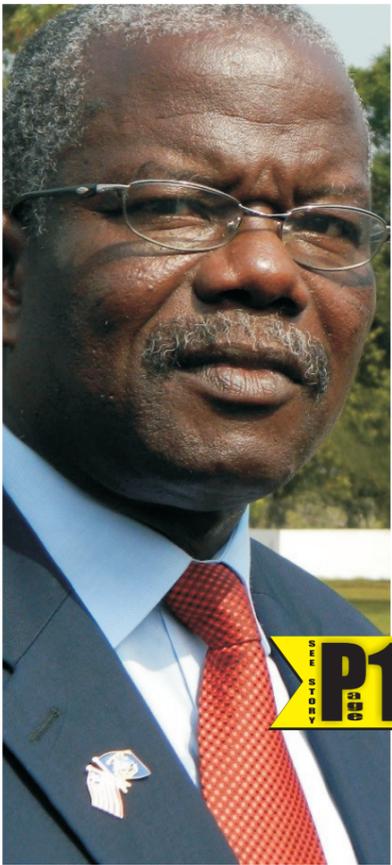
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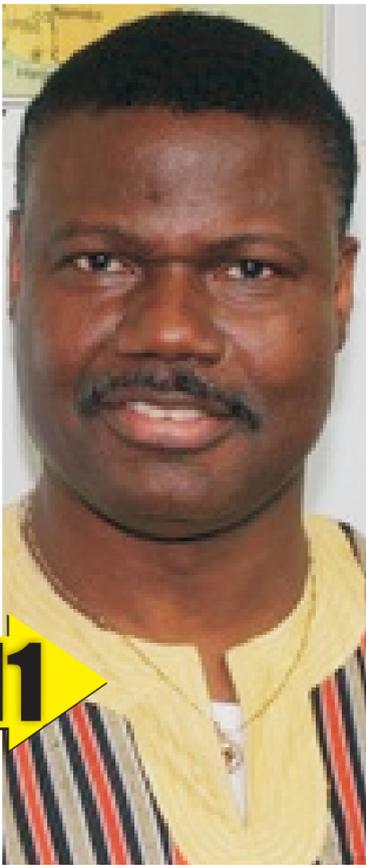
VOL.9 NO. 049

THURSDAY, APRIL 04, 2019

PRICE LD\$40.00



Sen. Prince Yormie Johnson



Sen. Thomas Grupee

PYJ, Grupee in the mud

SEEKING NEWS
P11

Army will not be politicized



SEEKING NEWS
P11

-Chief of Staff assures Liberians



Continental News

Uganda gunmen kidnapped American tourist

An American tourist has been kidnapped and is being held ransom in Uganda by men demanding \$500,000, reports claim.

The tourist was in Queen Elizabeth National Park when he was abducted along with a local tour guide by an armed group, said to be from Congo.

The group are asking for a ransom of \$500,000 equivalent to 1.85 billion shillings, UBCTV claim.

The American embassy and Ugandan government are working to ensure they are rescued.

A statement released by Uganda tourism board said that between 5pm and 7pm on Tuesday, four armed men ambushed a tourist van that was on a Game Drive in the Queen Elizabeth National Park.

The statement added: "The outlaws put the occupants under gun point and abducted two of them; a Ugandan driver and an American Citizen.

"The kidnapping happened

near Katoke Gate in the Queen Elizabeth National Park. The other occupants of the van who were left behind managed to contact a few people: who came to their rescue.

"All security agencies such as the Uganda Police and the Uganda People's Defense Forces including wardens from

the Uganda Wildlife Authority have joined in the hunt for these outlaws with the main aim of safely securing the hostages. "The lives of the kidnapped are a key priority during this process. We appeal for calm as we find a lasting solution to this issue.

"Further information will be shared with the public as it comes in."

It comes almost a year after two Brits were held hostage in neighbouring Congo. Bethan Davies and Robert Jesty were held by armed bandits after an ambush, during which a ranger was killed.

They were kidnapped in the Virunga National Park, which

borders Rwanda, in an attack which claimed the life of Rachel Makissa Baraka.

The abductors had reportedly demanded £150,000 in ransom for the pair's release.

A statement released on behalf of the pair after they were freed said: "We are very relieved that there has been a positive outcome to the kidnapping and are very grateful for the excellent support we have received. AFP



Cholera kills two, infects 1,400 in cyclone

MAPUTO, Mozambique - A cyclone-induced cholera outbreak in central Mozambique has killed two people and infected more than 1,400, the government announced on the eve of the launch of a mass vaccination drive.

Health authorities said 376 new cholera cases had been reported on Tuesday, taking the total number of people infected to 1,428 since the first cases were reported last week. The bulk of the cases have been registered in the central city of Beira, which has so far recorded 1,218 cases.

Cholera is transmitted through contaminated drinking water or food and causes acute diarrhoea. The aid-dependent impoverished country on Tuesday took delivery of 900,000 doses of oral cholera vaccines ahead of the rollout on Wednesday of the lifesaving inoculations to avert an epidemic, more than two weeks after the devastating cyclone hit and caused heavy flooding.

The vaccines were sourced from a global stockpile for

emergency in India, according to the UN.

"The procurement of vaccines is one of several approaches UNICEF and its partners are taking to curb the spread of cholera," the UN children's fund UNICEF representative Michel Le Pechoux said in a statement.

Water treatment systems are also being re-established while water purification products are being distributed across the affected region. Cyclone Idai smashed into the coast of central Mozambique on March 15, unleashing hurricane-force winds and rains that flooded the hinterland and drenched eastern Zimbabwe.

By Tuesday, 598 people had been confirmed killed by the cyclone in Mozambique alone while Zimbabwe government reported its toll to have climbed to 268 -- taking the toll to 866 between the two countries.

Hundreds of thousands of other people have been left homeless, with many of them forced into overcrowded shelters or not having access to clean drinking water and proper sanitary facilities.

Uhuru forms tribunal to probe Justice Ojwang'

President Uhuru Kenyatta has named a seven-member tribunal to probe the conduct of Supreme Court judge Jackson Ojwang.

In a gazette notice, President Kenyatta appointed Court of Appeal Judge Alnashir Visram as the chairperson of the tribunal. The members of the tribunal include Justice (Rtd.) Festus Azangalala,

lawyer Ambrose Weda, Andrew Bahati Mwamuye, Senior Counsel Lucy Kambuni, Sylvia Wanjiku Muchiri and Amina Abdalla. The President was acting on the recommendation of the Judicial Service Commission (JSC). Justice Ojwang' stands suspended from office according to the Constitution. Justice Ojwang' is facing various allegations including being bribed to

deliver favourable rulings and being a partial arbitrator. He is also accused of close association with Migori County government and its Governor Okoth Obado.

One complaint against Justice Ojwang' is that he authored a judgment in respect to the Sony sugar belt and in return was rewarded by Mr Obado, who allegedly built the road to the judge's private residence on the outskirts of Migori Town. Notably, street lights have been installed along the road leading to the judge's residence. At Justice Ojwang's home, which residents said is always guarded by Administration Police officers, Sunday Nation only found employees. One of the employees, a middle-aged woman, said the judge resided in Nairobi and only visited during holidays.

"The boss and his wife, Prof Colleta Suda were here during December holidays. When he comes, you may not notice his presence because he is a man of few words," said the employee. The JSC said on Wednesday that the

accusations against Justice Ojwang' formed reasonable grounds to warrant the formation of the tribunal. It singled out miscellaneous application No.

49 of 2014, of the town council of Awendo versus Mr Nelson Oduor Onyango and eight other residents of Migori. "The petition detailed instances which the petitioners believed constituted grounds of misconduct, impropriety, conflict of interest and breach of the judicial code of conduct

on the part of the judge," the JSC said in a statement.

It noted that Justice Ojwang' sat with other judges of the Supreme Court in hearing the matter, "despite being conflicted and closely associated with Governor Obado". The JSC said, "The commission found that the petition disclosed sufficient ground to warrant a recommendation to the President to set up a tribunal for the removal of Justice Ojwang and accordingly adopted it." ENCA



EDITORIAL

Grooming surrogate groups undermines peace

A LESS KNOWN group suddenly emerged Monday, 1 April and marched thru the streets of Monrovia before issuing a stern threat to return “fire for fire” against anti-government establishments and those it brands as “lawless lawmakers”, in defense of true democracy and good governance in Liberia.

THE SELF-STYLED Special Taskforce Revolutionary Group or STRONG says it does not take lightly alleged threats by small surrogate groups to overthrow the democratic will of the Liberian people, as expressed through the ballot box a year ago.

ITS SO-CALLED SUPREME Commander, J. Richard Holder, specifically accused leaders of the former ruling Unity Party and its foot soldiers for embarking on a tragic conclusion that the attainment of democratic power through the ballot box is no longer possible, which he says may explain their futile desperation to collapse Liberia’s hard-earned democracy.

THE WIDE ALLEGATIONS and the violent speech used to announce its sudden emergence on the social-political landscape of the country further heightens the already politically-charged and hate-driven atmosphere currently pervading in Liberia.

WE ARE STILL struggling to understand where does the self-styled STRONG get its authority from to come in defense of the current administration, if it is not a state surrogate? We all are aware that state-sponsored surrogates or sponsored violence is counterproductive to sustaining peace and unity, democratic governance and economic development.

TRADING HATE MESSAGES that are saturating social media here is in fact, inflaming the situation, and turning Liberians’ attention from the vital task of nation building. We seem very pre-occupied with condemning and pulling one another down, rather than joining forces to lift Liberia out of its current economic woes.

THE GOVERNMENT IS in the driving seat of the blame-game, accusing the past administration and everyone else but itself, for the dwindling economy exacerbated by lack of transparency and accountability.

AS IF PRONOUNCEMENTS by major concessions, including Firestone Liberia recently to lay off employees or pull out of the country were not enough, ordinary citizens, particularly jobless youth are giving themselves out to politicians from either side to engage in mischief and subterfuge in exchange for little or nothing.

THE TRUTH OF the matter is, this is not the kind of country Liberians envisaged when they went to the ballot box 15 months ago and elected a new President. Instead, the masses elected a government they believe would better their standard of life by keeping inflation and prices down, creating jobs, ensuring security and basic social services.

IN SHORT, GROOMING surrogate groups by both sides to fight proxy wars does not only undermine peace and development, but scares away potential investors and partners, which is not healthy for the Motherland.

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

COMMENTARY

By Daoud Kuttab

No Country for Palestinians

The Israeli general election should have given Israelis an opportunity to choose between war and peace. Instead, Israelis will have a choice between war and more war, between occupation and more occupation, even if the candidates avoid using those terms.

AMMAN - A bizarre election campaign is heating up in Israel. The incumbent prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, has become the first candidate in the country’s history to seek reelection while facing criminal indictments. Meanwhile, the most important topic - the occupation of the Palestinian territories - has not been mentioned, with candidates instead competing over who can be tougher on the Palestinians.

The biggest threat comes from Netanyahu. As he fights for his political life amid charges of fraud, bribery, and breach of trust, fears are rising that he will misuse the enormous power he wields (he also serves as defense minister), escalating tensions both within and around Israel in order to strengthen his own position.

Far from quelling these fears, Netanyahu has been stoking them. He has once again ordered the closure of Bab al-Rahmeh in the Al-Haram Al-Sharif/Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in Jerusalem, Islam’s third-holiest site. Part of a UNESCO World Heritage site, the compound has been administered by Muslims for more than 14 centuries.

There is no legal justification for closing Bab al-Rahmeh. The building was sealed off in 2003, because it was being used as a headquarters for the Islamic Heritage Committee, led by a hardline Islamic sheikh (and Israeli citizen), Raed Salah. But that reasoning is no longer relevant: Salah hasn’t set foot in Al-Aqsa for more than a decade, and the Islamic Heritage Committee has long since been disbanded.

For Netanyahu, however, any flimsy excuse will do. His radical supporters want to take Israel one step closer to building a synagogue on the site of Bab al-Rahmeh. Netanyahu is acquiescing to these extremists in an effort to boost his political capital among a key bloc of voters. In the same vein, Netanyahu may find it politically convenient to trigger conflict in other areas, such as Gaza, south Lebanon, or with Iranian or Iran-backed forces in Syria.

Unfortunately, Netanyahu’s main challenger, Lieutenant General Benny Gantz, is not a much more desirable option. The former head of the Israeli Defense Forces, Gantz leads a right-of-center coalition. But he has also touted his anti-Palestinian credentials, such as how in 2014, under his command, the IDF sent parts of Gaza “back to the Stone Age” during a campaign that left thousands of

Palestinians dead, injured, or homeless.

Then there is the recently created Hayamin Hehadash party, co-chaired by the outgoing education and justice ministers, Naftali Bennett and Ayelet Shaked, respectively. Bennett has declared that he wants to annex over 60% of the occupied West Bank. Shaked also wants to annex most of the occupied West Bank. And, in a bizarre attack on supposed judicial activism by Israel’s Supreme Court, she recently released a mock advertisement for “Fascism” perfume, which she declares “smells like democracy to [her].”

All of the main parties running in Israel’s election seem to know what they do not want: an end to the occupation, the division of Jerusalem, Palestinian statehood, and the right of Palestinian refugees to return. But beyond intensifying the occupation and annexing territories, none of them has offered any vision for the region’s future, let alone a road map for peace with the Palestinians.

This plays into the hands of those who never want the conflict to be resolved. After all, while government policy can diverge from campaign promises, winning an election based on hawkish one-upmanship could tie the hands of the eventual prime minister, even if he did decide to pursue peace.

Israeli leaders are not alone in their lack of interest in, let alone vision for, ending the decades-long military occupation of nearly four million Palestinians. The United States under Trump has decided, for the first time in over five decades, to drop the term “occupied” from references to Gaza, the West Bank, and the Golan Heights in its annual human-rights report. These territories are, the US government now claims, simply “controlled” by Israel. This approach will only further weaken Israeli leaders’ motivation to find solutions. By recognizing Israel’s annexation of the Golan Heights, Trump even went further and legitimized, for the first time since World War II, the acquisition of land by force.

The Israeli general election should have given Israelis an opportunity to choose between war and peace. Instead, Israelis will have a choice between war and more war, between occupation and more occupation, even if the candidates avoid using those terms. And the fact remains that, without a two-state solution or a power-sharing deal within a single state in which all citizens have equal rights, the region is doomed to remain locked in its cycle of violence.



By Daoud Kuttab

No Country for Palestinians

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SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Tender for the Construction of Health Facilities in Nimba and Grand Cape Mount Counties

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

1. This Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice for Fiscal Year (2018/2019) that was published in local dailies as well as the dgmarket beginning June 26, 2018.
2. The Ministry of Health has received funding from the Fixed Account Reimbursable Agreement (FARA) Project as a support to the smooth implementation of its National Health Planned and intends to apply portion of this fund to payment under a contract for the Construction of Health Facilities in Nimba and Grand Cape Mount Counties.
3. The Ministry of Health now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the assignment as indicated below:

Project	Area in Square Foot	Location/ County
Lot-1: (a) Construction of a New Ganta Community Clinic, Waste Management Facility, Latrine and Water System in Lugbeyee, Nimba County, Liberia	(4,890ft ²)	Lugbeyee, Nimba County, Liberia
(b) Palala perimeter fence	(2,625ft ²)	Palala, Bong County
Lot-2: Construction of Maternity waiting Home Lugeyee, Nimba County, Liberia	(2,725ft ²)	Lugbeyee, Nimba County, Liberia
Lot-3: Construction of County Health Team Office	(5,980ft ²)	Grand Cape Mount County

4. Bidders deserve the choice to bid for all Lots or any one as they wish. Bid evaluation and contract award will be on the basis of **Lot**. The purchaser will award a contract to the lowest responsive evaluated bidder who meets all other qualification requirements.
4. Bidders shall be required to have the following minimum qualifications and that of detailed qualification requirements that will be specified in the Bidding Documents:
 - Experience as prime contractor in construction of at least three (3) contracts within the last three (3) years of this nature, complexity and equivalent to the proposed works. Include the name and location of the project, its features, cost and contact detailed of the employer/ client with email and phone contacts (Phone numbers, email addresses, and physical addresses, etc.).*
 - The contractor shall have a minimum average turnover in construction works during the last three (3) years of USD\$50,000.00 (Multiple of three (3) years of \$150,000.00)*
 - The Bidder shall demonstrate that it has available, liquidity/ assets (USD\$75,000) unencumbered real assets, lines of credit, and other financial means (independent of any contractual advance payment) sufficient to meet the construction cash flow requirements.*
 Additional details will be provided in the Bidding Documents.
5. Bidding will be conducted through the **National Competitive Bidding (NCB)** procedures as specified in the Amended and Restated Public Procurement Act of 2010, and is open to all Eligible Bidders.
6. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Ministry of Health and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address 9 (a) given below from 09:30 to 3:15 PM from Monday to Friday.
7. A complete and detailed set of bidding Documents in English can be purchased by interested bidders at the address at 10 (a) below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fees of US \$ 100.00 (One Hundred United States Dollars) or its equivalent in any freely convertible currency at the prevailing exchange rate. The method of payment will be cash and paid to the cashier in the office of Financial Management (OFM) on the fourth floor of the Ministry of Health office in Congo Town.
8. Bids shall be collected from the address 9 (b) below and must be delivered to the address at 9 (c) below. Electronic bid will not be permitted. Late bids shall be rejected and return unopened. Bids will closed on **May 7, 2019 at 2:00pm and open the same date @ 2:05** in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the address at 9 (d) below as indicated above.
9. The addresses reference to above are:

(a) Purchasing of Bidding Documents:

Cashier Room/Office of the Financial Management Fourth Floor, Central Office MOH Tubman Boulevard Congo Town

(b) Collection of Bidding Documents:

The Procurement Unit, Ground Floor (Room # - 142), Central Office MOH Tubman Boulevard Congo Town

(c) For Submission of the Bids:

Tender Box, Ground Floor, opposite the elevator, Central Office MOH Tubman Boulevard Congo Town

(d) For Opening of the Bids:

The Procurement Unit, Ground Floor, (Room # - 142), Central Office MOH Tubman Boulevard Congo Town

All bids should be clearly marked as indicated below stating the bidder choice of Lot (s):

Attention: Procurement Director

Ministry of Health

Congo Town Tubman Boulevard

Room #: 142/Ground Floor

Contact #: 0886-515-565

Email addressed: proumohsw@gmail.com

Ref: IFB.No MOH/ FARA/ NCB/ 001/ 17/18

Construction of the Health Facilities In Nimba and Cape Mount Count

Signed: _____
Procurement Director

LIBERIANS DEBATE

With Sally Gaye

The former Unity Party suspends eight of its senators for their role in the impeachment of Associate Justice Kabineh M. Ja'neh.

In this spot-check, the New Dawn asks some residents of Monrovia about their views on the party's action and how does the decision impact respect for independent political views.



Boimah Myers

“Every party has its rules and regulations. No matter your position once you violate these laws, you are called for questioning. For one to undergo a transparent investigation, you must be released of your office. These guys will be given due process of law. Hypocrites, you guys violate the constitution and now you are blaming UP and LP for

trying to protect their constitutions?”



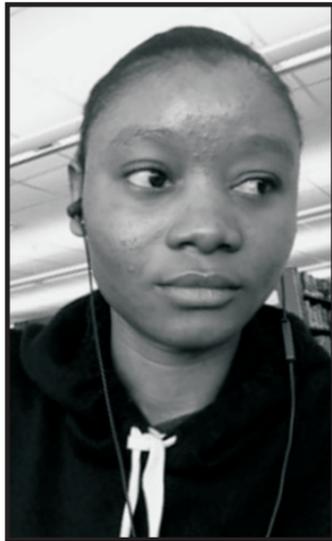
Lawrence Gaye

“Several top executives have decided to blame the government and have tendered in their resignation from the part, while others are leaving cabinet positions. Political parties have right to discipline their members in the Legislature for acting otherwise. This is the redeeming moment for those senators, who claim they voted against the impeachment but their votes [were] never counted. Take it or

forever blame yourself.”

Ruth Paye

“The suspension of eight senators of the Unity Party is a bluff and a serious risk towards the 2020 Senatorial Elections. I see it as a gateway for CDC because all of them will now go to join CDC and give other parties hard time, because this is not the first time for senators voting this way. During past the time, it was the Unity Party's way and CDC tried suspending some of [its] members too. In so doing,



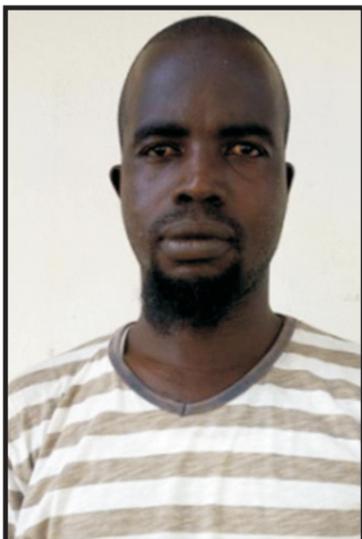
political parties are technically established as a conduit for putting people in power and thereafter, do as they wish. That way, each group of membership with vested interests will ensure that political parties conform to high standards in their operations and that decisions formed will be based on consensus and votes coming out of discussions.”

Mustafa Zinnah

“All [of] the senators that are expelled from their various political parties are welcome to join the CDC. , This is a revolutionary appeal to chairman Morlu of the people's party, the mighty Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) to grant associate membership to those gallant senators, who were cowardly dismembered for playing their constitutional role. Welcome home the masses children. What I do not



understand from those suspensions and expulsions is, how could you go that route when elections are just next door, and not taking into consideration that those persons have followers, who are needed to win. Anyway, your know plenty.”



Ayouba Kamara

“The constitution gives every institution, including political parties [right] to make their own rules, and take disciplinary actions on members when necessary. Thus, this is not their first time to suspend and expel members from their parties, if the party feels they are of no help, and [have] become embarrassment to their various parties. Let leaders so learn to

[be truthful] to any party they are part of; this is not news because other countries around the world are doing the same to [their] members.

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Welcome To The New World

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

CDC frowns on Kaipay's suspension

By Lewis S. Teh

The National Youth League of the governing Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) frowns on the suspension of Grand Bassa County Senator Jonathan Kaipay by the opposition Liberty Party for his position in the recent impeachment trial of former Associate Justice Kabinah Ja'neh.

The CDC in a news conference here, says it frowns on the wave of undemocratic and callous dictatorship being exhibited by the LP to have "suspended for time indefinite" the erudite Senator of Grand Bassa County Jonathan Lambort Kaipay, for exercising his constitutional right.

It notes the LP's action exposes its weakness and speaks volume to the lack of institutional building in the opposition block.

In a two-page press statement, the head of the CDC management team Isaiah H. Togba says the Youth League

is neither surprised nor baffled over the latest decision of the Liberty Party, which shows how individualism has taken over institutionalism thus, making the party the latest 'boys scout' with individual like Abraham Darius Dillon dictating the course of action of the party,

contrary to public perception that it is an institution.

"If you can recount over the weekend after the Senate unanimously voted to impeach former Associate Justice Kabinah M. J'aneh, Mr. Dillon took to his social media page (now consider the new

Executive Committee of the Liberty Party) to threaten Senator Kaipay of expulsion from the Liberty Party which has convinced our consciences more that Dillon is the new political leader of the party and his executive committee is his facebook page", Togba laments.

He continues that one would wonder why the CDC decided to flag the issue, saying "We refused to believe that Darius Dillon is bigger than the Liberty Party, an opposition party that supposed to be responsible and organized like the CDC did for the past twelve years will now be led by an individual and his social media page which we consider the new Executive Committee to make final decision on behalf of the party with gross disregard for the

pluralistic democracy the CDC has been able to tutor opposition political parties in this country for the past years."

He notes that the Youth League will welcome Senator Kaipay to the CDC and all other stalwarts, who have been victimized by the undemocratic and unilateral decision to have them suspended or expelled simply for exercising their democratic franchise as lawmakers and citizens of the Republic.

"As enshrined in our party constitution, the CDC, as a democratic party is open to Liberians aspiring to liberate our people from the scourge of ignorance, disease and poverty based on the sound management of the national economy and the natural resources." -Editing by



Grand Bassa County Senator Jonathan Kaipay

Suspended senator replies UP

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

One of the suspended senators of former ruling Unity Party (UP), Grand Gedeh County Sen. Alphonso Gaye says as far as he is concerned, the UP has not taken any action against him yet because he was not briefed or invited by UP executive committee before being suspended.

Speaking to the NewDawn newspaper via mobile phone Wednesday, 3 April, Sen. Gaye brands his suspension by the UP as a "mere talk-show suspension" on grounds that he only hears about it on talk show.

"How possible will that be

that a political party with high level of understandings and high level of respect from both locally and internationally will suspend me or anyone without the person being in the know? That's unbelievable. It is not you that should tell me about my suspension neither talk-show hosts," Sen. Gaye tells our staff in the interview.

Gaye's comment comes after the National Executive Committee of UP voted overwhelmingly on Tuesday, 2 April in a well-attended meeting held at the National Headquarters in Congo Town to suspend all eight of its senators.

The party's decision is in

protest against the impeachment from the Supreme Court of Liberia of former Associate Justice Kabinah M. Ja'neh by lawmakers, in spite of some opposition parties and lawyers' suggestion that the process was done unconstitutionally.

UP has suspended the membership of its eight Senators in persons of Cllr. Varney H. Sherman, (Cape Mount); Edward B. Dagoseh, (Cape Mount); Morris Saytumah, (Bomi); George Tengbeh, (Lofa); Thomas Grupee, (Nimba); Alphonso Gaye, (Grand Gedeh); Matthew Jaye, (Reiver Gee) and Milton Teahjay, (Sinoe).

Other opposition parties are taking similar action against their senators following Ja'neh's controversial impeachment for allegedly blocking government access to collect a road funds taxed against oil and gas companies here because he says the tax had not been legislated.

Sen. Gaye has been a strong member of the Unity Party since 2008. He argues that as far as he is concerned, the Unity Party has not taken any action against him.

"I should be briefed dully about my wrongdoings before action can be taken by the executive committee of our

The Management of Guaranty Trust Bank-Liberia expresses condolence to the members of the House of Representatives for fallen Representative Adolph A. Lawrence of Montserrado County district 15.

In a communication addressed to Speaker Bhofal Chambers Tuesday, the GTBank describes the late District #15

will give the House of Representatives and the family fortitude to bear his passing.

The Representative Lawrence was pronounced dead on arrival by doctors at the John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital in Sinkor, Monrovia last week after his vehicle crashed near Tower Hill Community on the Robertsfield Highway in Margibi County.



The late Rep. Adolph A. Lawrence

lawmaker as a tough-talking, friendly, brave, and astute statesman.

Public Relations Manager Zarzar Wleh says, the death of the representative was untimely and a great loss to not only his family and friends, but also to the entire nation.

He says the bank is thankful to God for the enviable legacy the late Rep. Adolph Lawrence left, and prays the good Lord

Along with a few riders on board, he was on his way to Monrovia from Grand Bassa County where he went to celebrate his 50th birthday.

The fallen lawmaker was husband to current Grand Bassa Senator Nyonblee Kanga-Lawrence. His death brings to two the number of legislators who have died this year.



Grand Gedeh County Sen. Alphonso Gaye

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Motorcyclists face security restriction in Bong

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

Amid high rate of criminal activities in Gbarnga, Bong County and its environs, the Joint Security in the county has placed a restriction on the movement of motorcyclist plying the streets.

The restriction which commenced Wednesday, 3 April sets 11PM as deadline for motorcyclists in the streets.

According to Bong Police Commander Frederick Nappy, the restriction is aimed at reducing the rate of criminal activities in the county.

He blames motorcyclists for the high level of criminal activities in Gbarnga, maintaining that some of the motorcyclists are criminals who usually steal peaceful citizen's properties.

There's a recent robbery case that occurred at the Frank Joe Community in which a huge amount of money and valuable properties were taken from victim Abel Pope.

Mr. Nappy discloses that four of the six robbery suspects that were arrested were motorcyclists.

"The Police think that this is the right step taken because it will allow us to arrest armed robbers and we are sure that will be done," Commander Nappy adds.

He did not say when the new mandate will end.

Speaking in support of the joint security's mandate to

place a restriction on the movement of motorcyclists at night hours, the president of the Bong Motorcycle Union Sam Elliot urges his colleagues who are in the constant habit of riding at night to respect the new security measure with immediate effect.

He warns that violators will be punished in accordance with the law.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



Suspended senator

Cont'd from page 6

party. But for people to issue press statement and talk show hosts discussing it, it tells me that it is just a rumor," Sen. Gaye asserts.

"I have a well organized and functional office at the Capitol Building and my residence is also structured in a way that communication intended for me will reach me timely. But nothing relating to my suspension has reached me. It's talk-show suspension that's all I can say," Sen. Gaye says.

He emphasizes that the suspension is not to his knowledge, describing the action of the UP as appalling.

He notes that the UP is a formally organized, intellectually originated, duly registered political party under the laws of the land, and the least he expects is to see such appalling action coming from the party's executive committee members without the knowledge of the affected person.

According to UP's press statement, the party expressed grave concerns and disappointment over last Thursday's wrongful and politically motivated action to impeach Associate Justice Ja'neh from the Supreme Court.

The party says it is worried about the fate of calls for electoral reforms in the wake of alleged interference with the independence of the Judiciary.

The UP statement under the signature of Mohammed Ali, the National Assistant Secretary General for Press, Publicity and Outreach says the party is aware of the concerns of its members and Liberians at large about the deteriorating governance situation here.

The party claims that the deteriorating governance system has been exacerbated by the compromise of the Judiciary Branch of government as witnessed in the impeachment of Justice Ja'neh.

Unity Party says the impeachment of Associate Justice Ja'neh was unconstitutional and it communicated with all of its senators to vote against such impeachment.

The party believes that impeaching former Justice Ja'neh in the way the Senators did was only intended to undermine the democracy and strengthen the alleged dictatorship that President George Manneh Weah is practicing.

The party warns that this attempt to control the Judiciary is also an attempt to cheat in future elections as the confidence to take such cases to court would have already been eroded.

The party calls on all the suspended senators to yield to an investigation to be conducted by the UP.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

Senate shuts down chat rooms

By Ethel A. Tweh

The Liberian Senate has shut down its membership and leadership chat rooms to prevent leakages of information.

The Presiding Officer for

trial of former Associate Justice Kabineh M. Ja'neh.

Chat room is an area on the Internet or other computer network where users can communicate, and this is now common among peers in

rules and regulations to govern the Senate chat rooms so that information can't be leaked out.

According to Sen. Morais, documents were leaked to the public during the just-ended impeachment trial of former Justice Ja'neh by some members [of the Senate], though he fails to disclose their names.

"Mark Zuckerberg that created Facebook can control it so we should be able to control our chat rooms," Sen. Morais says.

Sen. Morais acknowledges that the leadership of the Liberian Senate was aware of the opening or creation of the social media platforms, but [they] did not institute appropriate guidelines to control them.

Meanwhile, the leadership of the Senate has set up a three-man committee, including Senators Augustine Chea of Sinoe, Dr. Henrique Togbah of Bong, and Daniel Naatehn of Gbarpolu to formulate rules that would govern and control the upper Houses' social media platforms.

According to Sen. Morais, the three-man committee will provide the rules that must be followed.



Tuesday's session, Maryland County Sen. Dan Morais says the leadership of the Senate took the decision to shut down the chat rooms in the wake of leaked information from the controversial impeachment

different social or political status for easy transmission of messages nowadays.

Sen. Morais says the two chat rooms will remain closed until further notice.

He says there needs to be

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While the rules are still being formulated, he says the chat rooms remain closed.

The Maryland County Senator indicates that Senators use the chat rooms to discuss serious national issues before coming to plenary.

He notes that no member from the Senate should take information from the chat rooms to give it out to anyone until it is officially given out to the public.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

Français

Les sénateurs « s'offrent un congé » après le procès en destitution du juge Ja'neh

Le mardi 2 avril, une vaste majorité de sénateurs ont abandonné les travaux du Sénat. Il s'agissait de leur première séance depuis la destitution controversée de l'ex-juge associé Kabineh M. Ja'neh le vendredi 29 mars.

Notre correspondant au Sénat libérien a déclaré que seulement 10 sénateurs étaient présents pour leur première session mardi, alors que le reste des 19 sénateurs ne pouvait être vu nulle part à Capitol Hill.

La plupart des sénateurs absents semblent s'être accordés des vacances sans avoir au préalable obtenu l'autorisation des autorités. Le président de la séance de mardi, le sénateur du comté de Maryland, H. Dan Morris, a fait savoir que sept sénateurs seulement se sont vu accorder une excuse. Ce qui n'a pas été le cas pour les 12 autres sénateurs qui se sont absentés impunément. L'atmosphère était telle qu'on avait l'impression que



Associated Justice Ja'neh

Pro-Temp Chie

le Sénat libérien avait pris sa pause agricole après la destitution controversée du juge Ja'neh. Cependant, le sénateur Morris estimait que ceux qui ont demandé des excuses pourraient être comptés parmi les présents, ce qui permettrait à la session d'atteindre le quorum

nécessaire pour se tenir ce mardi 2 avril. Il a déclaré que les 10 sénateurs présents et les sept sénateurs qui se sont excusés totalisaient 17 membres, ce qui signifiait qu'ils pourraient avoir le quorum.

Selon notre reporter, la session a été retardée de

quelques heures tout en espérant que quelques sénateurs feraient leur apparition. Le sergent-at-arma sillonné tous les bureaux des sénateurs à la recherche de ces derniers. Et effectivement, quelques instants plus tard, le sénateur du comté de Nimba, Prince Y. Johnson, a fait son entrée, ce qui a porté à 11 le nombre de sénateurs présents. Toutefois, le sénateur Commany Weseh du comté de River Gee a décidé

de ne pas tenir de session parce que les règles du Sénat ne prennent pas en compte les sénateurs absents quoiqu'ils aient demandé des excuses. Et vu que le président de la session insistait, il est sorti de la salle. En sortant, il a rappelé aux sénateurs que leur décision de tenir une session en l'absence d'un quorum physique constituait une violation de ses propres règles, ajoutant que ce n'était pas étonnant puisqu'ils avaient déjà violé la Constitution libérienne. Il faisait allusion au procès en destitution de l'ancien juge adjoint Ja'neh. « Je ne peux pas rester ici pendant que l'article 7 du Règlement est violé, a déclaré le sénateur Weseh, tout en ajoutant que bien qu'il n'y ait pas de quorum, le président insiste pour que la séance se déroule. « C'est une situation d'anarchie et cette anarchie doit cesser, ce n'est pas bon pour notre pays », a-t-il poursuivi. Le sénateur Weseha également dénoncé la destitution de l'ancien juge Ja'neh, la qualifiant d'illégale et d'inconstitutionnelle.

Le président Weah aurait-il plus de marge de manœuvre que son prédécesseur ?

Un ancien responsable du régime de l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson, M. Kimmie Weeks, estime que le président George Manneh Weaha tout ce qu'il faut pour unir tous les Libériens vu sa popularité.

M. Weeks, l'un des principaux jeunes militants défenseurs des droits humains du Libéria, a travaillé sous l'administration de l'ancienne

Présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf en tant que président du conseil d'administration de la Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation (LWSC).

Il n'a pas manqué de confier à Prime Morning Drive, une émission en direct diffusée sur la chaîne de télévision locale Prime FM le mardi 2 avril à Monrovia, que le président Weah est l'un des présidents les plus populaires de l'histoire

récente du pays.

Il estime que cette popularité montre que le président Weah peut être un unificateur, c'est-à-dire que ce dernier peut utiliser sa popularité pour rassembler le peuple libérien, il suffit que le chef de l'Etat fasse de simples choses pour réduire l'amertume et la colère qui se lisent sur le visage des Libériens.

Il conseille au chef de l'Etat de procéder à l'établissement de dialogues communautaires, surtout dans les bidonvilles, puisqu'il est aimé.

Il exhorte le gouvernement à entretenir des relations étroites avec la population en demandant aux agences et aux ministères de publier tous les mois leurs plans respectifs à court et à long terme.

M. Weeks pense qu'une communication étroite avec les gens peut donner de l'espoir et contribuer à la création d'une entente mutuelle entre les uns et les autres.

Pour lui, le refus du gouvernement de parler à la population donne champ libre aux spéculations et aux

rumeurs qui pourraient envenimer davantage les relations entre les gouvernants et les gouvernés.

Il appelle alors l'administration dirigée par le président Weah à se concentrer sur la lutte contre la cherté de la vie quotidienne, ajoutant que l'autonomisation de la population est très indispensable à la paix et à la stabilité de l'Etat.

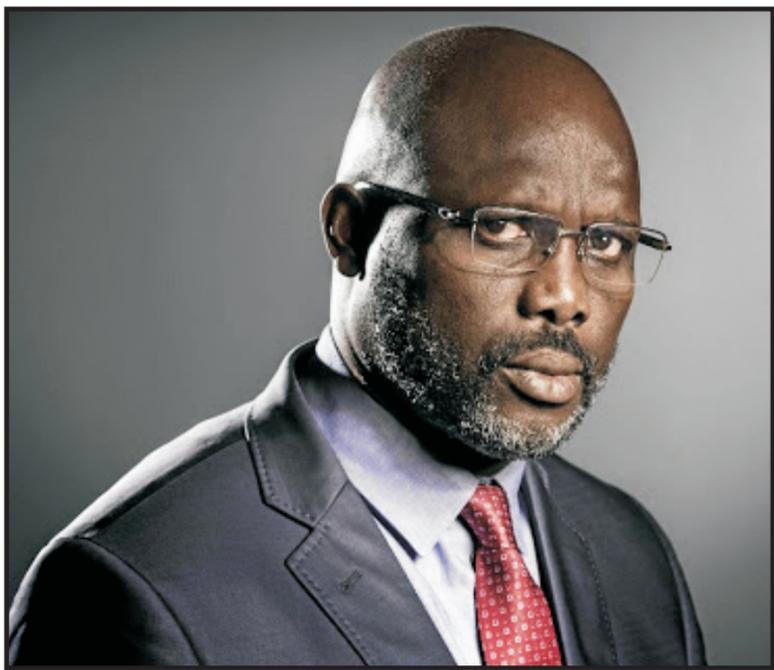
Il a souligné que le gouvernement devrait maintenant envisager de créer des emplois pour les jeunes chômeurs libériens afin de réduire les tensions économiques qui se font déjà sentir quotidiennement.

Pour M. Weeks, les défis économiques auxquels sont confrontés les Libériens devraient attirer l'attention du gouvernement de la Coalition pour le changement

démocratique (CDC) afin de renforcer la confiance de la population dans la gouvernance. Il s'est dit convaincu qu'avec les mesures qui auront été mises en place, le processus de gouvernance ira dans une direction qui aura un impact positif sur chaque Libérien.

M. Weeks travaille depuis quatorze ans à réduire la pauvreté et les souffrances humaines en Afrique et dans le monde.

Au fil des ans, Weeks a formé des partenariats et dirigé des organisations qui ont dispensé un enseignement à des milliers d'étudiants en Afrique de l'Ouest, fait pression pour le désarmement de plus de 20 000 enfants soldats et pour la mise à disposition des centres de santé et de loisirs pour les enfants.



Articles traduits

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Français

Prince Johnson veut que le type de jugement traditionnel soit introduit à Nimba

Prince Yormie Johnson, sénateur du comté de Nimba, a dévoilé son intention d'introduire plus prochainement le type de jugement traditionnel qui consiste à faire jurer un accusé selon des pratiques traditionnelles à Nimba vu la prolifération présumée des activités de sorcellerie au sein de la population.

Le gouvernement du Libéria a déclaré ce type de procès illégal, mais le sénateur PYJ, ancien chef de guerre et prédicateur, affirme que faire jurer les accusés dans le contexte traditionnel aiderait à lutter contre la vague de sorcellerie dans sa région, Nimba.

Prenant la parole sur la Radio Kerghemahn FM 94.5 à

Ganta, dans le comté de Nimba, le sénateur a déclaré que les citoyens vivent maintenant dans une peur constante à cause de ces pratiques démoniaques.

La déclaration du sénateur intervient à la suite de l'élaboration d'un projet de loi par le représentant du district 8 du comté de Nimba, Larry P. Youngoung, dans le but de réintroduire des types de procès qui consistent à « torturer » quelqu'un soupçonné de sorcellerie afin qu'il passe à l'aveu. Plus de 20 personnes auraient perdu la vie dans le comté à la suite d'activités présumées de sorcellerie impliquant plusieurs personnes qui auraient avoué.

Algérie : le Conseil constitutionnel entérine la démission de Bouteflika

Le Conseil constitutionnel, réuni à Alger ce 3 avril, a entériné la démission d'Abdelaziz Bouteflika et a constaté, conformément à la Constitution, la « vacance » de la présidence de la République.

Le Conseil constitutionnel s'est réuni en présence de Tayeb Belaiz, le président de l'institution, l'homme à qui Abdelaziz Bouteflika a tendu sa lettre de démission sur les images qui ont été diffusées mardi soir à la télévision.

Le Conseil constitutionnel a donc constaté « la vacance définitive de la présidence de la République », selon la télévision nationale algérienne. Le Conseil « informe aujourd'hui le Parlement de la déclaration de constat de vacance

définitive de la présidence de la République, conformément à l'article 102 alinéa 5 de la Constitution », précise le média.

Aucune date n'a été annoncée pour la réunion des deux chambres du Parlement, l'Assemblée populaire nationale (APN, chambre basse) et le Conseil de la nation, l'équivalent du Sénat, prochaine étape prévue par la Constitution.

Mais une fois cette constatation de vacance transmise au Parlement, c'est ensuite Abdelkader Bensalah, le président du Conseil de la nation, qui doit normalement prendre les rênes du pays pour 90 jours maximum et qui doit assurer, selon ce que prévoit la Constitution algérienne, l'organisation d'élections.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Daoud Kuttab

Pas de pays pour les Palestiniens

AMMAN - Une étrange campagne électorale enfièvre Israël. Le Premier ministre sortant, Benyamin Nétanyahou, est devenu le premier candidat menacé d'inculpations dans l'histoire du pays. Alors que le sujet central de ces élections - l'occupation des territoires palestiniens - n'est pas même évoqué, les candidats rivalisent de marques de fermeté envers les Palestiniens.

La menace la plus dangereuse vient de Nétanyahou. Tandis qu'il lutte pour sa survie politique et que des enquêtes le concernant ont été ouvertes, des chefs de fraude, de corruption et d'abus de confiance, les craintes se font plus vives de le voir mésuser (il détient aussi le portefeuille de ministre de la Défense) des immenses pouvoirs qu'il a accumulés, en poussant à l'escalade les tensions, tant en Israël que dans son voisinage, afin de consolider sa position.

Loin d'apaiser ces craintes, Nétanyahou les avive. Il a une fois de plus ordonné la fermeture du site de Bab al-Rahma (la porte de Miséricorde), sur l'esplanade des Mosquées, le troisième lieu saint de l'islam, où s'élèvent le dôme du Rocher et la mosquée Al-Aqsa. Située dans la vieille ville de Jérusalem, qui est inscrite au Patrimoine mondial de l'humanité, l'esplanade est administrée par les musulmans depuis quatorze siècles.

La fermeture de Bab al-Rahma n'a pas de fondement légal. L'accès du bâtiment a été interdit en 2003, car il servait de siège à un Comité du patrimoine islamique (Islamic Heritage Committee), dirigé par un cheikh radical (et citoyen israélien), Raed Salah. Mais l'argument n'est plus valable : Salah n'a pas mis les pieds à Al-Aqsa depuis plus de dix ans et le comité a depuis longtemps été dissout.

Nétanyahou, pourtant, saisit le moindre prétexte. Ses partisans radicaux veulent faire un pas supplémentaire vers la construction d'une synagogue sur le site de Bab al-Rahma. Le Premier ministre fait le jeu de ces extrémistes, dans l'espoir de renforcer son capital politique auprès d'un segment stratégique de l'électorat. De la même manière, il ne voit peut-être pas d'inconvénient politique à déclencher un conflit sur d'autres terrains : la bande de Gaza, le Sud-Liban, ou encore avec les Iraniens ou avec les forces soutenues par ces derniers en Syrie.

Malheureusement, le principal rival de Nétanyahou, le général Benny Gantz, ne constitue pas un choix beaucoup plus désirable. Ancien chef d'état-major des forces israéliennes de défense, Gantz dirige une coalition de centre-droit. Mais il n'a pas manqué de faire valoir ses états de service contre les Palestiniens, rappelant qu'en 2014, par exemple, les forces israéliennes, sous son commandement, ont renvoyé des secteurs de Gaza « à l'âge de pierre », au cours d'une campagne qui a fait des milliers de sans abris,

de blessés et de morts dans la population palestinienne.

Le parti récemment créé de La Nouvelle droite, coprésidé par le ministre de l'Éducation, Naftali Bennett, et la ministre de la Justice, Ayelet Shaked, donne aussi de la voix. Bennett a déclaré qu'il était favorable à l'annexion de 60 % de la Cisjordanie occupée. Shaked souhaite également que la plupart de la Cisjordanie soit annexée. Elle s'en prend en outre, dans un étrange clip de campagne, où elle vante un parfum nommé « Fascisme », qui pour elle, « sent la démocratie », à la Cour suprême d'Israël et à son soi-disant activisme judiciaire.

Les principaux partis en lice pour les élections israéliennes semblent savoir ce dont ils ne veulent pas : la fin de l'occupation, le partage de Jérusalem, un État palestinien et le droit au retour des réfugiés palestiniens. Mais hors l'intensification de l'occupation et l'annexion des territoires, aucun n'a proposé une vision quelconque de l'avenir de la région, sans parler d'une feuille de route pour la paix avec les Palestiniens.

C'est abonder dans le sens de ceux qui n'ont jamais souhaité la résolution du conflit. Car si la politique d'un gouvernement peut diverger, après la conquête du pouvoir, des promesses faites durant la campagne, une élection gagnée par la surenchère belliqueuse, lierait les mains du futur Premier ministre, même s'il décidait de relancer le processus de paix.

Les dirigeants israéliens ne sont pas les seuls à se désintéresser des moyens de mettre un terme à l'occupation militaire, qui se poursuit depuis des décennies, de près de quatre millions de Palestiniens - a fortiori de toute vision qui permettrait d'y parvenir. Pour la première fois en cinquante ans, les États-Unis ont décidé, avec Trump, d'éliminer le terme « occupé » du rapport sur les droits de l'homme lorsque ce dernier cite la bande de Gaza, la Cisjordanie et les hauteurs du Golan. Ces territoires ne sont plus désormais, aux dires du gouvernement américain, que « contrôlés » par Israël. Cette nouvelle voie d'appréhension de la situation réduira un peu plus l'empressement des dirigeants israéliens à trouver des solutions. En reconnaissant l'annexion par Israël des hauteurs du Golan, Trump est allé encore plus loin et a légitimé, pour la première fois depuis la fin de la Seconde Guerre mondiale, l'acquisition d'un territoire par la force.

Les élections générales israéliennes auraient dû donner aux Israéliens la possibilité de choisir entre guerre et paix. Mais ils n'auront le choix qu'entre la guerre et plus de guerre, qu'entre l'occupation et plus d'occupation, même si se sont là des termes que les candidats évitent d'utiliser. Il n'en reste pas moins qu'en l'absence d'une solution à deux États ou d'un accord de partage du pouvoir au sein d'un même État où tous les citoyens auraient des droits égaux, la région est condamnée à rester enfermée dans son cycle de violence.

Articles traduits

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ARTICLE

ARTICLE

A New Chapter of Liberia-China's Relations: What Does It Mean for Liberia's International Image?

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CONT'D FROM LAST EDITION

All of these projects create opportunities (include jobs) for the current administration to fulfill the hopes and aspirations of the people. Chinese Government growing popularity Liberia is due to the soft power approach in the region and the speed of which it responds to developmental requests by unpunished countries like Liberia.

Nowadays, China remains a shining and deeply admired posture in the realm of mutual respect for others to be master of their own destiny and captain of their own future. Indeed, that's praiseworthy. For instance, during the outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus, China was the first to respond with medical aid and cash. In July 2011, the project of Bang Iron Mines in Liberia undertaken by Wuhan Iron and Steel (Group) Corporation was put into operation. In September 2011 China, for the first time, sent a 140-strong riot squad to Liberia for the UN peacekeeping operation.

China's relationship with Liberia is a strong example of how China is using soft power to successfully and deftly broaden its influence in Africa. China gains at least short-term popularity by answering the request of the Liberia Government especially in the time of urgent need and long term solution the country's numerous infrastructural needs. In the views of Liberians, China is not only a credible and willing international partner but also a strategic option for the country's development. On the other hand, the Liberian market is relatively small in comparison to many African markets. Ordinary Liberians feel that Chinese-made commodities are not durable.

There have been enthusiasms from Liberians for goods made in the United States compared to that made in China. Liberian consumers, workers, and small businesses are worried about the economy. The perceptions of Liberians toward Chinese made products are fewer enthusiasms.

More inspiringly, Liberia needs to reflect on China's 40 years of opening up have made remarkable achievements that have attracted the attention of the world. And that country should use its diplomatic dynamics to knock on the doors of Chinese leadership reassured its faithful commitment to the south-south cooperation, and reaffirm the government's principles and shared values for the sole purpose of the attainment of sustainable development in terms of an improved economic, industrialization and infrastructure development and African integration.

It is my understanding that China's large population has been the engine for its impressive growth rate. And if African economies were to go through a similar economic miracle as China, African leaders need to sufficiently invest in the development of Africa's greatest asset-its young population because success without a successor is a failure. There is a need to develop the workforce in Africa to compete the global knowledge-based economy.

Over the past decades, China's GDP has averaged a yearly growth rate of about 9.5 percent. While in terms of foreign trade, China has registered a yearly growth of over 14.5 percent in U.S. dollars. In the last 10 years, with China's strength in the workforce, capital, market and technology, the nation, on average, contributed 30 percent of the global economic growth yearly, sharing the benefits of China's development with the world.

Also, the country's share in the global economic growth rose from 2.7 to 16 percent; its per-capita GDP exceeded US\$800 in 2017; in the past 40 years, a total of 800 million Chinese are helped out of poverty which amounted to over 70 percent global poverty reduction. Besides, China is the first developing country to meet the Millennium Development Goals set by the United Nations in terms of poverty reduction.

China has backed up this proposal with a fund of US\$60 billion for major capital projects. These projects are tied to developing locals' economic capacity, for win-win cooperation to be sustainable. So as the Chinese people celebrate their four decades of reforms and opening up, African leaders will want to remain the West of their application of China's snowballing significance as their leading development partner.

For instance, China is the strongest partner of several African states including South Africa; in 2017 bilateral trade between the two countries increased by 11.65 percent year on year to reach US\$39.17billion. Today, China is South Africa largest trading partner and a major source of investment and overseas tourists.

Liberia is a low-income country that relies heavily on foreign assistance and remittances from the Diaspora. It is richly endowed with water, mineral resources, forests, and a climate favorable to agriculture. Its principal exports are iron ore, rubber, diamonds, and gold. Palm oil and cocoa are emerging as new export products.

According to the World Bank latest statistics, Liberia's Gross domestic product (GDP) growth in 2017 is estimated at 2.5% compared to a deceleration of 1.6% in 2016 and zero percent growth in 2015. While China per-capita GDP exceeded US\$800 in 2017; in the past 40 years, a total of 800 million Chinese are helped out of poverty which amounted to over 70 percent global poverty reduction.

In his first State of the Nation Address, President Weah clearly stated the key priorities for his government including improve public sector transparency and efficiency, creating an environment for transparent and honest businesses, filling in infrastructure gaps, in particular, connecting the Southeast through the coastal road, and creating jobs for youth.

Meanwhile, China is also undertaken several other millions of dollars' worth of projects in Liberia including the "Chinese Building" University of Liberia Fendall Campuses, the Jackson Doe's Medical Hospital in Tapita in Nimba County, the installation of Traffic lights in Monrovia and its environs of Sinkor and Paynesville, the rehabilitation of the Samuel K. Doe Sports Complex, the Extension of MVTC, rehabilitation and refurbishing of roads and bridges, peacekeeping mission, warded fellowships to public and private sectors, and support to the national army and security apparatus.

Besides, China win-win diplomacy and soft power in Liberia have given the Chinese leverage in the country. Today, some Liberian political and economic elites even believe that China is not only a credible and willing international partner but also a strategic option for growth in Liberia. America too is clearly concerned.

Liberians must heed the lessons learned. History has shown that whenever a rising power, like China, creates fear among its neighbors and other great powers, such as America, that can be a cause of conflict in direct reference to Newton's third law is: For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. The statement means that in every interaction, there is a pair of forces acting on the two interacting objects. The size of the forces on the first object equals the size of the force on the second object.

In the words of He Jun, a Beijing-based energy consultant: China does not have a competitive edge over its Western counterparts in an open market. But in a closed market like Africa's, Chinese companies are able to gain from government influence." Western oil companies, not to mention industry based in other sectors, have been able to build upon generations of engagement dating back to the colonial period to secure their investments in Africa. The result has been a Chinese strategy constructed around the following areas.

The Chinese economic interests goes beyond Liberia, Angola, and Sudan to Africa's major rich richer states such as Nigeria and Angola, thereby focusing on establishing stronger trading and economic ties with petroleum producing states by following a policy of mercantilism, while oil companies, which are under strict government control, seek to sign equity deals with oil companies and obtain a stake in the local oil industry.

In Nigeria, Sao Tome, South Sudan, Liberia, Principe, Angola and several African states along the west coast of Africa are the main hotspots for Chinese oil interest. Nigeria is second the biggest exporter of oil in the region, while Angola first after taking over Nigeria.

For Angola, the state's rejection of Western aid conditionality paved the way for the acceptance of Chinese aid, and the takeover of an oil block hither-to

allocated owned Total (upon its expiration) to a Chinese oil company. China's top five African trading partners (Capital Week) are Angola, South Africa, Sudan, Nigeria, and Egypt. China has also pursued exploration and production deals in smaller, lower-visibility countries, like Gabon.

In 1949, the birth of new China opened up a new chapter in Sino-African relations. Since the 1950s and 1960s, as more and more African countries won independence and established diplomatic relations with China, the Sino-African relationship was ushered into a new era of all-round development that is having great impacts on the lives of millions on both fronts; the presence of China in Africa's development cannot be questioned.

China is visible on the continued march as evident by the hundreds of projects undertaking or completed, while new agreements have been consolidated for effective implementation. China's robust economic growth in the past 30 years, which has lifted 600 million people out of extreme poverty, offers lessons for other regions, especially Africa. China has been consistently supporting African regional and sub-regional organizations like OAU, AU, SADC, and ECOWAS, in efforts to safeguard regional peace and security.

Sino-African trade and economic cooperation have been advancing smoothly. For long, China has provided within its capacity sincere assistance to the economic development of African countries, Liberia is a case study where China's infrastructures are visible. China has provided aid to hundreds of projects in Africa which involved agriculture, road, infrastructure, health, education, animal husbandry, fishery, textile, energy, water conservancy, power generation, and other sectors. China's vastly increased involvement in Africa over the past decade is one of the most significant recent developments in the region.

In recent years, China-Africa interconnectivity construction and industrial capacity cooperation have yielded important fruits, such as the Addis Ababa-Djibouti Railway, which came into operation in October in 2016, and the Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge Railway in May 2017. Industrial park construction along the rail routes has seen preliminary achievements.

As protectionism and exclusivism make its way into certain major powers, the world is increasingly confronted with the willful acts of a trade war, challenges against economic globalization and multilateral trade regime, and increasing instabilities and uncertainties in international political economic and security domains.

The Chinese government has been accelerating and intensifying their efforts to make a substantial contribution toward the provision of hard infrastructure across Africa-ranging from distribution grids to pipelines, airport, ports, roads, refineries, railways and power generation, which is having a huge multiplier effect on African economies.

China's relations with Africa should adhere to the principles of good governance which include sincerity, inclusiveness, respect for the rule of law, practical results, affinity, and good faith and uphold the values of friendship, justice and shared interests. China and Africa "have always belonged to a community of shared values and fruitful future" and "have always been good friends who stand together through thick and thin, good partners who share weal and woe, and good brothers who fully trust each other despite changes in the international landscape.

Profoundly, let us at this forum to extol China's unwavering and productive policy towards Africa of non-interference in other nations' internal affairs nor dictates to Africa to swallow the bitter pills of forced submission or risk the imposition of a sanction or a blockage to aid. Nowadays, China remains a shining and deeply admired posture in the realm of mutual respect for others to be master of their own destiny and captain of their own future. Indeed, that praiseworthy.

Let me reiterate, China's involvement is said to serve hope for Africa, as China provides an alternative political-economic framework for Africa while China in return stands to also benefit.

TO BE CONT'D

PYJ, Grupee in the mud

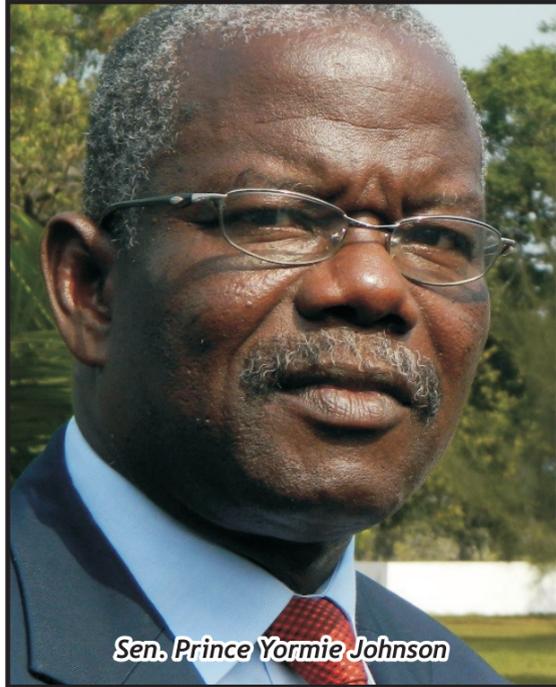
By Thomas Domah/Nimba

Former Superintendent of Nimba County, Madam Edith Gongloe-Wehyee blames controversial Nimba Senator Prince Yormie Johnson, and his colleague, Senator Thomas Grupee for the recent impeachment of Associate Justice Kabineh M. Ja'neh from the Supreme Court.

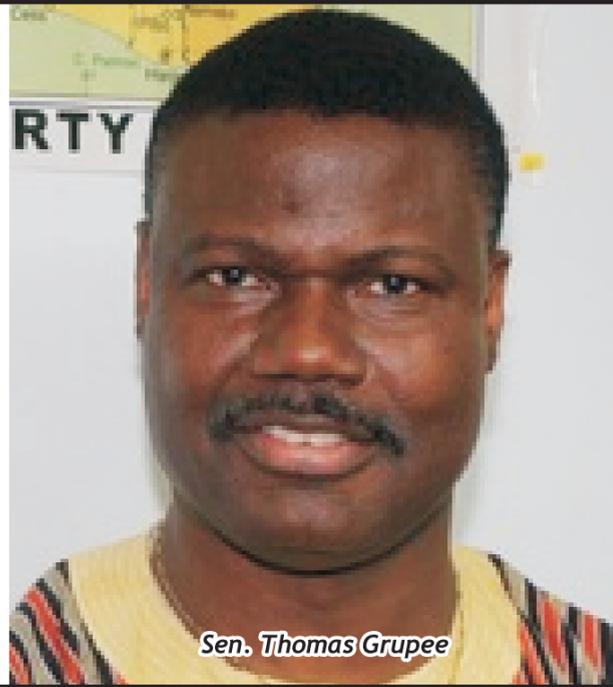
Former Justice Ja'neh was impeached by the Liberian Senate last Friday for alleged proved misconduct, abuse of public office, wanton abuse of judicial discretion, frauds, misuse of power and corruption.

But Ja'neh's lawyers had argued that the decision he took in chambers while performing his constitutional duties was further validated by all five Justices of the Supreme Court, including Chief Justice Francis Korkpor, who presided over the impeachment trial in the senate.

President George Manneh Weah has subsequently appointed Judge Yussif Kaba,



Sen. Prince Yormie Johnson



Sen. Thomas Grupee

as an Associate Justice to replace ex-Justice Ja'neh on the Supreme Court of Liberia, pending senate confirmation.

Speaking to Voice of Gompa, a community radio station in Ganta City, Nimba County, Madam Gongloe-Wehyee, also a former senatorial candidate notes,

the nation only needed two votes from the Nimba senators (Johnson and Grupee) to have combated the impeachment process.

She laments that Senators PYJ and Grupee allegedly voted for the impeachment against their own kinsman and son, Ja'neh.

She explains that while nine senators from various counties voted against the impeachment process, the two Nimba senators were among senators, who led the former Associate Justice to the gallows for his eventual impeachment.

However, Senators PYJ and Grupee have since distanced themselves from Ja'neh's impeachment, claiming instead, that they voted against the impeachment process.

The two Nimba senators, appearing on a community radio station in the county, distance themselves from said allegation.

They maintain that they voted against the process because it was unconstitutional.

But most Nimbaians, including ex-Superintendent Gongloe-Wehyee strongly believe their senators were induced by cash to go against their own brother, Ja'neh.

In a widely circulated audio posted on social media here just a day after Ja'neh was impeached last week by the Liberian Senate, Senator PYJ disclosed that all available efforts from elders of Nimba, including his personal intervention to have the ex-Associate Justice resigned honorably from the Supreme Court bench were turned down.

The audio contains an interview which PYJ held with a community radio station in Ganta, Nimba County via mobile phone in which he is heard narrating several interventions made to give Ja'neh a dignified exit, since according to him, services of the Associate Justice were never needed by the current administration.

Senator PYJ: "When I returned from Nigeria, I

decided to find out what the actual problem was, and I discovered that this was a political matter, not a judicial trial that was following. And after making some contacts, I discovered that Kabineh Ja'neh was no longer needed among his colleagues on the bench; and that he was no more needed by the authority of the day.

I was told; I wouldn't tell you who told me; I wouldn't tell you who I discussed with, but I made every frantic effort, and I was told 'Kabineh is no longer needed; [he] sabotaged a lot of things for this Republic, but because he is a son of Nimba and you are the godfather of Nimba, and Nimba County stood behind us, we will not want to take him on; What we want you to do is to intervene for a win-win situation. If he can honorably retire, we will pay him off for five years; whatever he makes, we will give him all of the incentives, a diplomatic passport, a vehicle, everything will be given to him; we just don't want him there because he is a saboteur.'

He says immediately he went to see Ja'neh the following night at 10:00 pm.

"And I went to see Justice Kabineh Ja'neh 10:00 o'clock in the night. And I said to him, I am your leader, I will not fool you; this matter that is pending is not a judicial trial where you will need lawyers to plead for you, they will only eat you money. Political trial requires political solution; political maneuvers, so I have come to tell kindly resign and you will get all of your incentives. I will bring the traditional leaders from Nimba, the 34 paramount chiefs I will bring them they will join me to intervene so that you can now tell the world I'm not guilty, but because my people in Nimba have appealed to me to step down; I honorably bow off, so that you can get your money. But when you put up a fight, you cannot win the power of the government. And Kabineh looked at me and said, he will never step down; that he will fight on."

PYJ maintains that he did not vote in the Senate for Ja'neh's impeachment likewise Senator Thomas Grupee, because they thought the entire process was political and not legal, adding that "Anybody accused us in Nimba, they need to check their brains very well, because we are only two senators, and we are 29 in the place; if two of us cast a vote against, it means nothing!" -Editing by Jonathan Browne

Army will not be politicized

Liberia's Army Chief of Staff Maj./Gen. Prince C. Johnson, III, says vices that politicized the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) which in the past resulted into the AFL being fictionalized will not be tolerated under his watch.

"We all saw how fictionalized our military became [during] our civil conflict because of its involvement into politics, but you can be assured that it will not happen with this new army," Gen. Johnson said over the weekend in the Nippy Town Community on Old Road during interaction with the youths of the community.

According to a statement issued by the Ministry of

Defense Wednesday, 3 April, Maj./Gen. Johnson assures Liberians that the AFL will remain a "Force for Good" in the common interest of the country.

He observes that politics damaged the image of the force, noting that as Chief of Staff of the AFL, his primary objective is to uphold the professionalism of the army.

Maj./Gen. Johnson informs the youth that the AFL has been transformed from the seventh worst committer of atrocity according to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Report, to one of Africa's respected peacekeeping institutions in the sub-region.

Maj./Gen. Johnson lauds the role played by the

International Community especially the United States Government in establishing the new army, adding that the new army has now become the pride of the nation.

He references two barometer reports that rated the AFL as the most trusted security institution in the Country, according to citizens that were interviewed.

On the construction of the Military Hospital, Maj./Gen. Johnson says the move by the Commander - In - Chief of the AFL, President George Manneh Weah is in the best interest of all personnel working within the security apparatus of the country.

He maintains the Military Hospital when completed, will not only benefit personnel of the Armed Forces of Liberia but the spouses and dependents of officers and other personnel.

On the AFL's role in Mali, where it is currently engaged with the United Nations Peacekeeping operations, the Army Chief of Staff voices praises for his men on the mission, stressing that the Flag of Liberia continues to fly high among other countries on the mission.

According to him, since the deployment of the Liberian troops in Mali, they have exhibited high degree of professionalism.

He says their professionalism has prompted the UN to request the increase of Liberian troops in Mali.-- Press release



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Tottenham win first game in new stadium



Tottenham celebrated the official opening of their magnificent new £1bn stadium with a crucial victory over Crystal Palace to cement their place in the Premier League's top four.

After two dress-rehearsal games, Spurs staged the opening ceremony before kick-off, 689 days after their last league fixture on this site against Manchester United.

And, after a series of celebrations to mark the occasion, Spurs overcame a nervous first 45 minutes in

their new home to record their first Premier League win since 10 February when they beat Leicester City at Wembley.

South Korean Son Heung-min will take his place in history as the first player to score a Premier League goal here when his shot from the edge of the area deflected in off Luka Milivojevic after 55 minutes.

And the win was sealed 10 minutes from time when Christian Eriksen scrambled home from close range as Harry Kane looked for a

penalty after tangling with James McArthur.

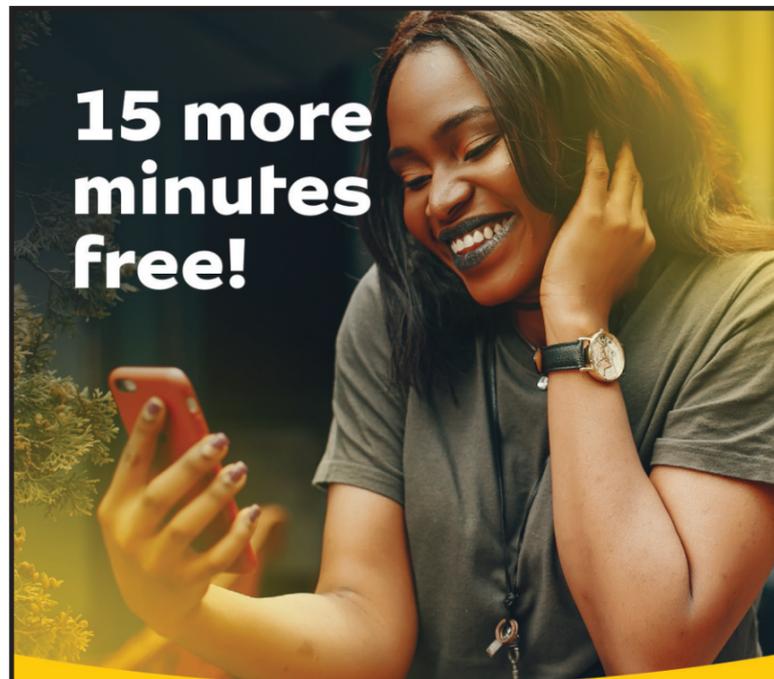
It rounded off the perfect night for Spurs, in front of a crowd of 59,215, as they leapfrogged arch-rivals Arsenal to go third, a point ahead of the Gunners, who have a game in hand, and Chelsea.

This magnificent sweeping stadium is a spectacular arena that proved well worth that 689-day wait. It ranks alongside any in the world.

Spurs fans gathered around their new home hours before kick-off, the space-age structure dominating the skyline and the local area.

And the pre-match ceremonials matched the occasion, with the stadium's place in the community highlighted alongside the obvious sporting and financial benefits to Spurs.

The motto for the occasion was 'Welcome Home' and one English tradition, the weather, obliged as the stadium was hit by a dramatic hail and snow storm an hour before kick-off.



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'You can reach 1,000 goals', Pele tells Mbappe

Football legend Pele told Kylian Mbappe on Tuesday that he believes the French World Cup winner can emulate his own achievement of scoring 1,000 career goals.

The 78-year-old Brazilian claims to have netted over 1,000 goals in his career, while Mbappe has so far managed 103 in total.

"It's possible, I scored

exactly 1,025, so 1,000 goals is possible for him," Pele told AFP in Paris, where he met Mbappe at an event sponsored by Hublot.

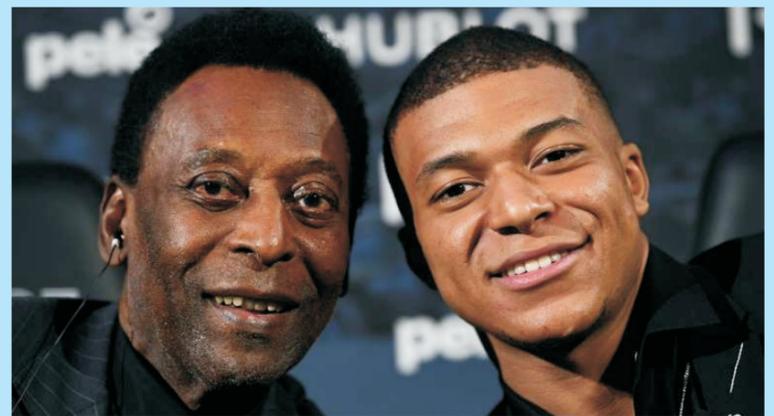
Mbappe, who last year became only the second teenager to score in a World Cup final after Pele in France's 4-2 victory over Croatia, played down Pele's comments.

"I think that even if we count the goals on inter-city

pitches and goals on the PlayStation, I won't be able to reach the 1,000-goal mark," said the 20-year-old Paris Saint-Germain forward.

"We will try to get as close as we can, but I think I'll be a long way off it at the end of my career."

Mbappe has scored 32 goals in all competitions for PSG this season, including 27 from only 24 Ligue 1 appearances.



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