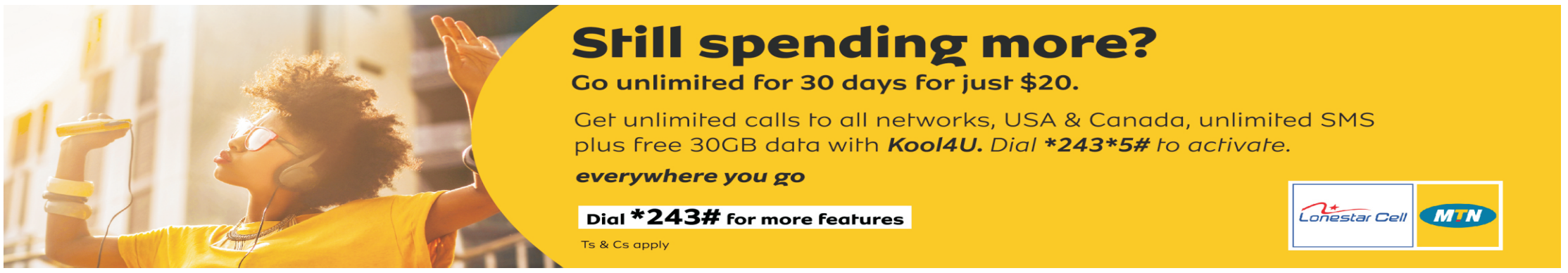

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

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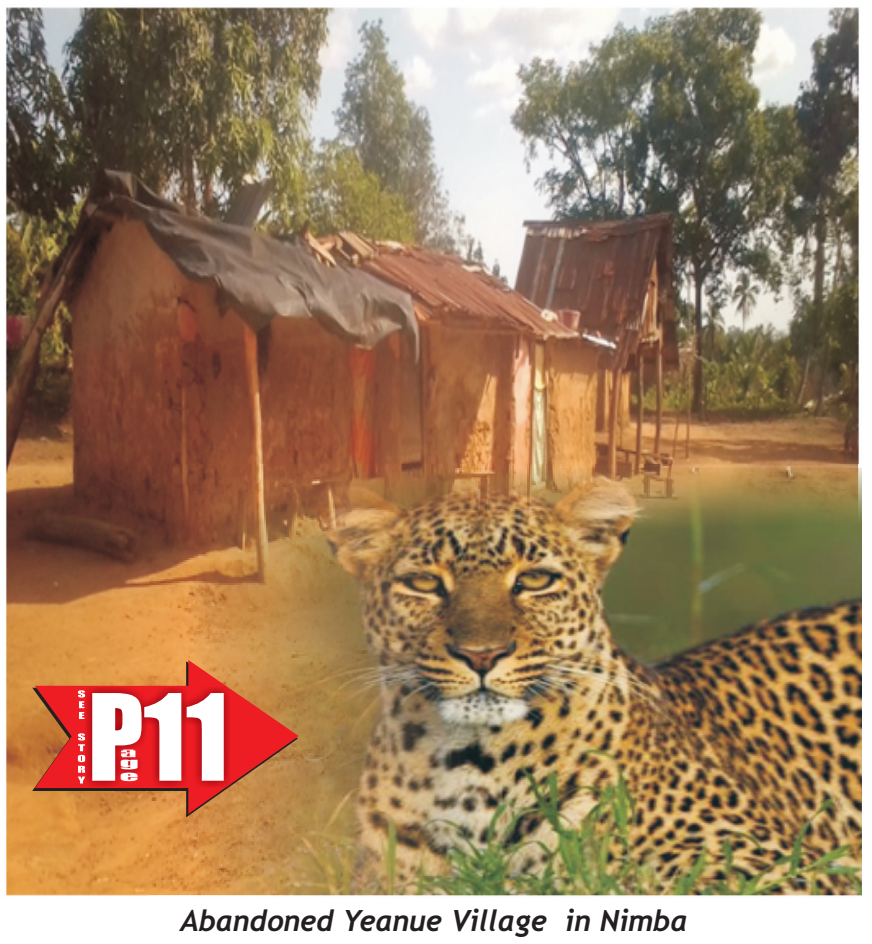

Abandoned Yeanue Village in Nimba

-over 50 livestock killed

Continental News

Ethiopia pilots 'could not stop nosedive'

The Ethiopian Airlines plane that crashed last month nosedived several times before it hit the ground, a preliminary report has said.

Pilots "repeatedly" followed procedures recommended by Boeing before the crash, according to the first official report into the disaster.

Despite their efforts, pilots "were not able to control the aircraft", Transport Minister Dagmawit Moges said.

Flight ET302 crashed after take-off from Addis Ababa, killing 157 people.

It was the second crash of a Boeing 737 Max aircraft in five months.

Last October, Lion Air flight JT 610 crashed into the sea near Indonesia killing all 189 people on board.In a news conference in Addis Ababa, Ms Dagmawit said: "The crew performed all the procedures repeatedly [that were] provided by the manufacturer but were not able to control the aircraft."Her comments were based on a preliminary report into the crash, which has not been published yet, but could be released by the end of the week.The 737 Max family of aircraft was grounded following the Ethiopian Airlines crash, a move affecting more than 300 planes.

What did the report say about the cause of the crash?

The preliminary report did not attribute blame for the crash. But it says the crew were fully qualified to conduct the flight, and that they performed all the expected procedures correctly.

The report goes on to recommend that Boeing review the 737 Max's "flight control system related to flight controllability" and that aviation regulators ensure this is done before the aircraft goes back into the air.Crash investigators have focused their attention on the Manoeuvring Characteristics Augmentation System (MCAS) - software designed to help prevent the 737 Max from stalling.

The software reacts when sensors in the nose of the aircraft show the jet is climbing at too steep an angle, which can cause a plane to stall.

The report does not mention the MCAS by name, but it does detail during the minutes after take off the problems the pilots were having in trying to control the aircraft's angle of flight.

At one point the captain called out three times "pull up", and seconds after instructed the first officer to tell Air Traffic Control that they had a flight control problem.

In a statement on Thursday, the chief executive of Ethiopian Airlines, Tewolde GebreMariam, said he was "very proud" of the pilots' "high level of professional performance".

"It was very unfortunate they could not recover the airplane from the persistence of nosediving," the airline said in a statement.An investigation into the Lion Air flight suggested the system malfunctioned, and forced the plane's nose down more than 20 times before it crashed into the sea.

The preliminary report from Indonesian investigators found that a faulty sensor on the aircraft wrongly triggered MCAS without the pilots' knowledge.BBC

Woman filmed 'beating nursery children'

A woman in South Africa has been arrested after videos surfaced appearing to show a person hitting children and forcing them to clean.

One clip shows a woman shouting at a girl who appears to have vomited, before hitting her on the head.

The footage was filmed in Johannesburg a year ago but has re-emerged, the BBC's Pumza Fihlani reports.

Local media report that some parents have removed their children from the nursery since seeing the viral post.

As well as hitting the young child, the woman is also seen smacking her on her bottom and repeatedly asking her: "Why are you vomiting? Why?"

Twitter users were quick to condemn the woman. One person replied "my heart sank", while another posted: "Wow you don't understand how much this brings tears to my eyes, poor baby."Some also questioned why the person filming failed to step in and stop the beatings.

One of the strongest social media responses came from the regional education minister, Panyaza Lesufi, who was tagged in the video.

"Disgusting!!! I couldn't even finish watching it!" he wrote, before tagging his colleagues and adding: "Let's hunt this creche! I am [on] standby to pounce just get details."

The South African Department of Social Development also tweeted about the incident, saying they "condemn the abuse of children" before appealing for more information.Officials from the organisation also reportedly visited the school on Thursday to carry out an assessment.

A lawyer for the nursery told Eyewitness News that the person who filmed the video has been reported to child protection services, and that the woman in the footage had already been dismissed.BBC

Uganda hunt for kidnapped US tourist enters third day

Photo-Police and UPD Forces present in Kasese

Ugandan security forces scoured dense bush on Thursday in the hunt for a US tourist and her safari guide who were kidnapped by gunmen in a national park.

"The operation to rescue the tourist is still ongoing," Uganda's tourism minister, Godfrey Kiwanda, told AFP on Thursday.

Four kidnappers stopped a group of tourists at gunpoint around dusk on Tuesday as they drove through the Queen Elizabeth National Park on safari to see wild animals.Police identified the American as a 35-year-old woman and said the kidnappers had used her mobile telephone to demand a ransom of $500,000 (445,000 euros) for the release of the pair. The driver is a 48-year-old safari guide with years of experience.

Police spokeswoman Polly Namaye said all efforts were being made, adding that Uganda's top-ranking police officer, Inspector General Martin Okoth Ochola, had flown to the area to lead operations.

"The operation is continuing," she told AFP.

The gunmen dragged the pair from their safari vehicle, but left behind two other tourists, whom police described as an "elderly couple". They managed to raise the alarm from the lodge where they were staying.

Army spokesman Brigadier Richard Karemire said the security forces were doing all they could to track down the gunmen."Let the security forces do their work," he said Thursday.There was much speculation but no information as to who the gunmen behind the attack might be.AFP

EDITORIAL

Grooming surrogate groups undermines peace

A LESS KNOWN group suddenly emerged Monday, 1April 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 Bill Emmott

Springtime for Nationalism?

Since the United Kingdom's Brexit referendum and the election of US President Donald Trump in 2016, a consensus has emerged that populism – the politics of "us versus them" – is on the rise. But that term does not capture what is really at stake in national and regional elections around the world this year.

LONDON – Is populism still on the rise? That question will be looming over elections in Israel, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Spain, and the European Union over the next two months. Yet it will be misplaced, for the real contest is between nationalism and internationalism.

To be sure, the nationalist-internationalist division is being prized open by populists themselves, particularly US President Donald Trump, whose instinctive disdain for international laws and institutions has long been clear. But it is also being exploited by more mainstream politicians, including some in that most multilateral of institutions, the European Union, which is experiencing a profound change in its internal political dynamics.

The term populism merely describes a campaigning technique used by insurgent politicians of all stripes. Hence, its power as a political epithet has diminished with use, especially in the years since the Brexit referendum and Trump's election. Once in power, populists still have to govern to voters' liking, or else risk defeat at the next election.

Consider the Five Star Movement (M5S), which came to power in June 2018 as the senior partner in Italy's governing coalition, but has since lost a string of regional elections, halving its vote from a year earlier. That decline does not reflect voters' disillusionment with M5S's populist policy proposals; after all, it has succeeded in implementing its promised basic income for jobseekers. Rather, M5S's participation in the coalition has been overshadowed by the strong nationalist rhetoric of its governing partner, the right-wing League party.

Now, consider Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, and that consummate survivor, Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. Unlike M5S, all three campaigned as populists but have governed as tough-guy nationalists. In elections on April 9 (Israel), April 11-May 19 (India), and May 13 (Philippines), it is that nationalist approach that will be tested.1

Modi, Duterte, and Netanyahu have each used fear – of terrorist attacks from Pakistan, drug cartels, and Hamas rockets, respectively – and appeals to national pride. Their stated goal is to strengthen the nation-state against threats foreign and domestic, through both economic and political means. They have little regard for international institutions or laws, and if they consider the international context at all, it is usually through the scope of bilateral relations with the United States and/or China, rather than multilateralism.1

Similar issues are in play in the run-up to Indonesia's April 17 presidential election, where the incumbent, President Joko Widodo ("Jokowi"), and his rival, Prabowo Subianto, can both be described as "populists." The difference is that while Jokowi is running on his five-year record of leadership in both Indonesia and Southeast Asia generally, Prabowo is positioning himself more as a Duterte-style nationalist, as he did in 2014.

In Europe, the politics are different, but the key divisions are strikingly similar. The terms populist and Euroskeptic do not truly capture the rise of far-right parties such as Vox in Spain, the Freedom Party of Austria, and the Alternative für Deutschland (AfD) in Germany; nor are they sufficient for understanding the policies of Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and Poland's ruling Law and Justice (PiS) party.

To be sure, these parties are all nationalist, conservative, and generally opposed to immigration. But with constant reference to "law and order," they are exploiting cultural rather than military or geostrategic fears. Hence, should the far-right make significant gains in Spain's general election this April, and then in the European Parliament elections in May, the right way to think about it will not be as an anti-EU phenomenon.

A rebalancing of power toward the nationalist right would represent a changing view of the EU, but not an outright Brexit-style rejection of it. It would augur a further shift away from integration, and toward a more ad hoc intergovernmental approach for tackling issues related to immigration and the rule of law. The scope for top-down policies issued from Brussels would be significantly narrowed. And as individual EU member states began to pursue their own policies toward Russia, Libya, and other third countries, there would be a broad retreat from efforts to negotiate common foreign and security policies.

So, forget populism. The real contest in elections this year, as well as in the US presidential election in 2020, will be between nationalism and internationalism. Amid rising geopolitical tensions, increased migration flows, and the lingering stresses of past financial crises, the question is whether appeals to a rules-based international order can still win voters' hearts and calm their fears. In the absence of US leadership to lend that idea credibility, the answer is anyone's guess.

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Lord, why our people quick to forget scriptures

Dear Father:

Me pa, if anybody wants to declare me government bone they are welcome but I will talk some without fear or favor.
Talk it my son, he who don't born child, he no get feelings. So lay it on me.

Father, da nathe noise they people causing in this village about how the Paramount Chiefs at the Traditional Council have removed one big Elder from among the Council of Elders at the Palaver Hut. They are saying how money changed hands to remove the man. I don't know whether the money came from the right hand to the left hand or what. But in any case they say some money were spent.

Is that so my son?
Yes, oo Father that is what the people are saying all over in the village, whether they get receipt or not I don't know.

But you see Father, the Good Old Book says, he that lives by the sword, shall die by the sword- and it can be interpreted in so many ways.
What do you mean my son?

Okay good, let me explain Father. I have been hearing in the gravened, how the Country Giant A.K.A GbehkuGbeh spread some money around to get the Elder remove from among the Council of Elders.

Now, so what is the big deal na? Was it not the same Elder for whom they said the Old Lady spent some money for the Paramount Chiefs at the upper end of the Traditional Council to confirm him?

So, if the Old Lady who was then the ruling chief Zoe of our village at the time paid money for the Paramount Chiefs to confirm the Elder, why all the nose about GbehkuGbeh paying money to remove him, that is if all these gossips going around are something to hold as truth.

So, you see where I say he that the scripture cannot lie-because if somebody pay money for somebody to get there and another person pay money for the same people to take him out it is straightly business.

Father this thing the Good Old Book says is not about real sword alone. If you steal somebody man, don't forget that somebody will steal it from you too-God na like ugly.

So, I don't know why people are making all the noise about how money was paid instead of just keeping the argument to the main issue-because when you bring money business inside then I will say, the same money they say brought him is the same money that they say took him out.

Anyway, so that is it. God na like ugly. For those of you going around cheating with your man then women just make sure that somebody will take care of your own the same way. So if you are as jealous as I am, just make sure you stay with your own.

This pro-poor time, da na time to share the small one you have oh. Just as it comes in your hand run with it to the house let the oldma put it to good use.

OPINION

By Anders Fogh Rasmussen

NATO's Duty at 70

COPENHAGEN – NATO marks two anniversaries this year: the 70th anniversary of its founding, and the 20th anniversary of its first expansion behind the former Iron Curtain. Looking back, NATO's status as the most successful peace project in history reflects not just its military might, but also its ability to provide hope to aspiring members. There is no doubt that the prospect of NATO (and European Union) membership has served as a driving force for democratization and liberalization in the ex-communist countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

With an "open door policy," NATO continues to accept new allies. And though the zeal for enlargement 20 years ago has given way to wariness about antagonizing Russia, such reticence is ill-advised. Recent history shows that every time NATO has dithered, Russia has moved in.

For example, in April 2008, NATO allies met in Bucharest to discuss offering a Membership Action Plan (MAP) to Georgia and Ukraine. At the insistence of Germany and France, we decided to postpone that decision until the end of the year. In my view, that was a mistake. Just months after our summit, Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered the invasion of Georgia, and Russia has occupied Abkhazia and South Ossetia ever since.

Since April 1999, NATO has provided a formal process for aspirant states to receive advice and support through the MAP program. But the criteria for eligibility makes it virtually impossible for any country with a territorial dispute to become a NATO member. The Kremlin understands this, and so has regularly fomented "frozen conflicts" – disputes over sovereignty that begin with violence but then settle into an entrenched stalemate – to wield an effective veto over further NATO expansion.

A perfect example of this cynical strategy can be found in Ukraine. In 2014, massive street protests in Kyiv prompted then-Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych to flee the country. With Ukraine clearly making a sharp pivot toward the West, Putin reverted to type, deploying special forces to annex Crimea illegally. That was soon followed by Russian incursions into the Donbas region of Eastern Ukraine, where the conflict persists to this day.

I recently reviewed my notes from the 2008 NATO-Russia meeting in Bucharest, and I found that Putin had issued statements there that he would later echo following the annexation of Crimea – for example, that Ukraine's population is one-third Russian, or that it existed in its current form only because of a decision by the Soviet Union . Moreover, then-Polish President Lech Kaczyński had warned at the time of the Georgia invasion that Ukraine would be next. But these early red flags went unheeded.

Nonetheless, Georgia and Ukraine continue to make significant progress toward meeting the criteria for NATO membership, under the assumption that they will indeed join the alliance one day. The prospect of an ever-closer relationship with NATO has provided an impetus for critical democratic and military reforms, and both countries now contribute regularly to NATO missions, more so even than many member states. Still, Georgia and Ukraine will need to undertake further reforms before they can meet the standards for full NATO membership.

Ukraine is now in the run-up to the second round of its presidential election, and Georgia is set to hold a parliamentary election next year. In both cases, these countries' choices will decide their fortunes for years to come.

Given the stakes, NATO member states should move beyond offering warm words about the democratic will of the Georgian and Ukrainian people, and acknowledge the disruptive role that Kremlin paranoia is playing in the accession process. We should continue to extend our hand in peace to Putin's Russia, provided it changes its behavior. But we must not condemn aspirant countries to an indefinite "deep freeze" just to appease a strategic adversary. The Kremlin's aim is to hold these countries back until their progress toward reform starts to slip. We would be neglecting our duty if we allowed that to happen.

On the 70th anniversary of its founding, it is time for NATO to establish clear milestones for further integration. It could start by offering Ukraine an Enhanced Opportunities Partnership, such as what Sweden, Finland, and even Georgia already have. This would formalize Ukraine's relationship with the alliance, and provide a stepping stone to a MAP and full accession.

At the same time, NATO members must increase the pressure (sanctions) on Russia to end the conflict in the Donbas region, as outlined in the 2014 Minsk Protocol, and withdraw from Abkhazia and South Ossetia. The Alliance must make clear that Russian territorial grabs will no longer be regarded as impediments to offering aspiring member states a path to formal accession.

Here, NATO could follow the model of Cyprus's accession to the EU. Cyprus is a full member of the EU and the eurozone, but EU law has been suspended in the parts of the island that the Cypriot government does not control. Likewise, NATO could provide security guarantees for all of the territory still controlled by the Georgian and Ukrainian governments.

Why is this important? During a recent visit to the Donbas contact line – the front line between Ukrainian forces and Russia-backed militants in Ukraine – Ukrainian soldiers told me they were proud to be fighting for freedom and democracy not just for their country, but for all of Europe. If NATO is to continue fulfilling its political mission as it enters its eighth decade, it must honor those soldiers' sacrifice by giving their country a clear path to membership.

Expanding NATO to include Ukraine and, eventually, Georgia was never going to be an easy decision to make. But it is a decision that should lie with current and aspiring member states, not with Russia. The longer we allow Putin's interference to bear fruit, the more he will seek to undermine the sovereignty of democratic states.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

CDC chides UP

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

The governing Coalition for Democratic Change launches a stinking attack against the former ruling Unity Party, for suspending eight senators from the party on voting to remove former Associate Justice Kabineh Ja'neh from the Supreme Court.

Speaking in a news conference at the Coalition headquarters in Congo Town Thursday, April 04 national chairman MulbahMorlu roars the decision by the opposition party is undemocratic and it undermines Article 42 of the Constitution of Liberia, which states no lawmaker should be held liable or be punished for action taken in plenary.

Article 42: No member of the Senate or House of Representatives shall be arrested, detained, prosecuted or tried as a result of opinions expressed or votes cast in the exercise of the functions of his office. Members shall be privileged from arrest while attending, going to or returning from sessions of the Legislature, except for treason, felony or breach of the peace. All official acts done or performed and all statements made in the Chambers of the Legislature shall be privileged, and no Legislator shall be held accountable or punished therefore.

Morlu notes the decision of 'few stalwarts of the Unity Party to suspend sitting senators for doing their legislative work speaks to the high level of anger and hate being created among some partisans of the UP against the Coalition-led government.

He points out that suspension of the eight senators reduces the numerical strength and popularity of the UP in those counties the senators represent, and for a Unity Party that is barely struggling to survive the political wave of the CDC ahead of the 2020 Special Senatorial election.

"To suspend these strong legislators for their action taken in plenary is undemocratic, unconstitutional and it violates the high moral of good governance in the party. They are behaving like beheaded chicken, jumping from point to another. The suspension tells me some Unity Party partisans acting like a group of boys who, wanting to be heard or seen that they are doing something but in actual sense, they are doing nothing. The decision is harmful to them politically", he says.

At the same time, he calls on the suspended senators to make their way to the CDC where they will be welcomed and treated with respect and dignity, saying, "Some of those senators were part of us and we are calling on them to come home where they will be respected and cherished for their role play in moving the country forward."

Morlu continues that the Unity Party should rescind its decision in order to make the opposition community stronger for the 2020 senatorial election. Liberia is expected to hold Special Senatorial election where 15 of the 30 senators will seek reelection.

He stresses that the former ruling party is not mature politically in dealing with such situation, noting that many of the senators suspended by the UP got elected on their own popularity and not on basis of the Unity Party's numerical strength. "It makes no sense to kick those who are helping to [make you] strong out for personal grief." Editing by

Gov't applauds

Starts from back page

in reaching a defining moment in their strive to provide for airlines and chariots, a conducive and modern cargo facility for the first time in Liberia.

According to Bishop Klayee, the LAA is involving into an airport management company which intends to power Liberia airports as destination of choice.

He expresses optimism that the project will go a long way in alleviating problems associated with storage for cargo here.

With the completion of a new state - of - the - art terminal building at RIA, Bishop Klayee says the airfield at RIA will grow steadily with facilities like the RACC which will help to enhance operations at a massive scale.

However, Bishop Klayee admonishes the contractors for the RACC project to adhere to airport compliance requirements as they will be required from time to time during the course of the construction.

For his part, the chair for GLS - NAS Mr. Malcolm King calls the ground breaking ceremony a vindication of the many years of hard works they did since 2014 when they presented their initial concept to the then Board of the LAA.

Mr. King notes that they felt it was a long shot, but expresses delight that the groundbreaking is a vindication of what they started.

He concludes that they look forward to opening the facility in 12 months.

Meanwhile, GLS- NAS General Manager Axel Coulibaly says the groundbreaking ceremony marks the commencement of construction for a new cargo terminal at the RIA.

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IOM to help address Liberia's migrations challenges

The Chief of Mission of the International Organization for Migration, (IOM) says her organization is here to work with the Liberian Government aimed at intensifying efforts to address the country's migration challenges.

Madam Fatou Diallo Ndiaye said the International Organization for Migration (IOM) wants to partner with Liberia in building the capacity of institutions that are concerned with migration issues in the country so as to ensure that they become stronger in dealing with situation regarding migration issues.

She made the statement when she met with Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal Affairs, Cllr. Deweh Gray at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

According to a Foreign Ministry release, Madam Ndiaye added the IOM looks forward to having its presence felt in Liberia by helping the country take concrete actions in securing its borders as it relates to illegal migration activities.

Madam Ndiaye also disclosed that the IOM is here to help Liberia in crafting migration policies as well as to engage the donor community in order to assist with funding geared toward strengthening IOM activities in Liberia.

The IOM Chief of Mission further assured Liberia that his organization has begun lobbying with the European Union and other donor partners to enable Liberia benefit from the EU-Trust Fund geared toward providing support to migration management issues in Africa.

For her part, Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal Affairs Cllr. Deweh Gray lauded the IOM Chief of Mission for the many initiatives her institution is undertaking to help address some of the gaps in the migration situation in Liberia.

Deputy Minister Gray also revealed that the Liberian Government, through its relevant institutions such as the LRRRC, Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Liberian Immigration Services, (LIS) have been making reasonable strides in repatriating Liberians that are stranded in foreign countries back home.

She assured the IOM Chief of Mission of Liberia's desire to collaborate with donor partners including the IOM in addressing challenges facing the Liberian community in Australia and other parts of the world, especially as it relates to their status in their host countries.

Madam Gray then noted that under Liberia's Pro-Poor Agenda for Development and Prosperity, the Weah-led Government is exerting efforts aimed at providing the basic necessities and enabling environment that would encourage young people in Liberia to avoid traveling to other countries for survival.

Weah submits bill for National Youth Policy

By Bridgett Milton

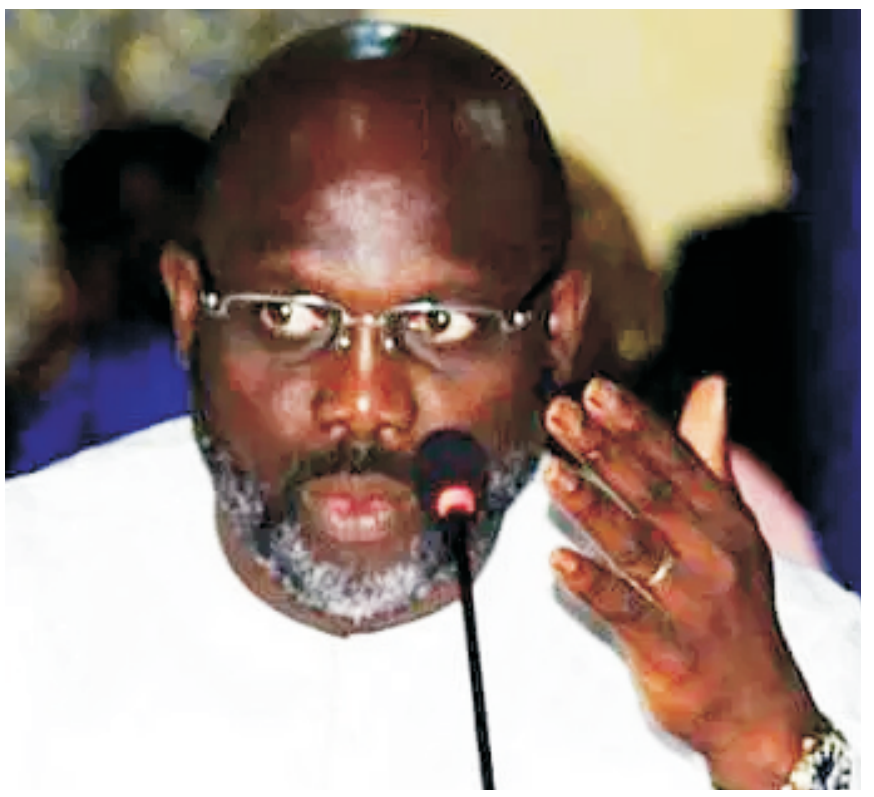
President George Manneh Weah has submitted for enactment, a bill titled ''An Act to Endorse the Nation Youth Policy of Liberia'' before the House of Representatives.

Submitting the bill, President Weah says the 70th plenary meeting of the UN general assembly held on December 12 1997, adopted resolution which reaffirmed the importance of youth.

According to him, the resolution called on all member countries to involve youth and youth organizations in all matters of concern to them.

Furthermore, in July 2006, he says the African Union Heads of State and governments including Liberia, meeting in Banjul, Gambia, endorsed the African Youth Charter as a political and legal document which serves as the strategic framework that gives direction for youth empowerment and development at continental, regional and national levels.

He notes that this Act when passed, will endorse the policy document which is expected to enhance young people's capacity, innovation, unity and sense of responsibility towards socio economic and political processes.



The goals of the National Youth Policy are to strengthen the values, principles and incentivize youth to be good citizen and partners in the development process, ensure that young people are integrated and involved in all development plans at all levels.

Additionally, he says it promotes programs that will enhance national sustainable development and stability for Liberia; establish the necessary framework for building youth capacities; and improve their economic condition by redesigning existing youth programs and projects.

Finally, he says it involves young people in decision making at all levels of government and ensures that young people's right to safety is protected.--***Edited by Winston W. Parley***

2,000 MCSS students face water constrain

By Emmanuel Mondaye

About 2,000 primary school students at the A. Glenn Tubman Elementary and Junior High School in 12th Street, Sinkor are faced with serious water shortage, constraining them to search for place to defecate outside the campus.

The school is one of the public schools under the Monrovia Consolidated School System (MCSS).

The institution has in total 24 restrooms for both male and female students, but lacks access to water.

During a visit on campus on Thursday, 4 April this paper observed pipe supplying water to the restrooms by the Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation (LWSC) had been disconnected since December 1, 2018 due to failure of the Monrovia Consolidated School System (MCSS) to pay water bill owed the LWSC.

A hand pump that is now the only source of water for the students is not pumping sufficient water to meet demand of the population on campus.

Addressing reporters at his 12th Street office in Sinkor on the water situation, Principal J. Nwanakola Paye confirms the situation but refers reporters to the Central Office of the Monrovia Consolidated School System about five minutes away to inquire further on the matter.

This paper also gathers the institution has 24 classrooms and 37 instructors, who themselves, are finding it difficult if not impossible to use the staff restrooms due to the lack of water to flush commodes in them.

Disconnected water pipe of the school

Another challenge faced by the school is constant intrusion of the campus by community residents, including vehicles due to absence of fence to protect the premises, something that has reportedly led to criminals robbing students of their personal effects such as cell-phones and eyepieces at knife point.

A kitchen knife reportedly confiscated from a criminal was displayed by Principal Paye, who expresses serious reservation about attacks on his students by criminals.

Some of the students spoken to complained they were constrained to go outside when pressed by nature because of lack of water, adding that in some instances, students are pressed to an extent they messed themselves up because there is no water to use the restrooms.

However, the Assistant Superintendent of the MCSS, Madam Roseline Sherman, says administration is seriously making effort to address the water situation at the school.

She explains that all relevant information regarding the problem has been communicated to the comptroller and the Special Project Department to negotiate with the Management of the Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation to restore water facility at the school. -***Editing by Jonathan Browne***

First AFL officer admitted at U.S. War College

An officer of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL), Lt./Col. Roland T-bai Murphy, I, has been admitted at the United States prestigious National War College based in Pennsylvania, USA, to pursue a Master's degree in National Security Strategy.

The Ministry of Defense says in a press statement issued Thursday, 4 April that Lt./Col. Murphy becomes the first AFL personnel to get admitted to the U.S. War College.

The National War College is an Ivy League institution which seeks to educate future leaders of the Armed Forces, Department of State, and other civilian agencies for high-level policy, command and staff responsibilities.

The training opportunity is part of the many assistance the United States Government is rendering to the Armed Forces of Liberia since the commencement of its restructuring process in 2006.

Lt./Col. Murphy, who is the current Military Assistant to the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of Liberia, joined the AFL in 2007 and has occupied several top positions in the AFL.

He holds a Bachelor Degree in Criminal Administration from the African Methodist Episcopal Zion University (Liberia) and a Master Degree in International Affairs and Defence Studies from the Nigerian National Defence Academy based in Kaduna, Nigeria.

Commenting before his departure for the United States of America, Lt./Col. Murphy lauded the High Command of the Armed Forces of Liberia, the Ministry of National Defense, and the United States Government for the opportunity to study at one of America's prestigious institutions.

He stresses that upon completion of his studies, knowledge gained will greatly help the AFL in its drive to deliver professional services to the people of Liberia, and the world at large.

The Ministry says Lt./Col. Murphy becomes the first Liberian soldier to be admitted into the United States National War College in the history of the Liberian Army.

Commenting on the admission of Lieutenant Colonel Murphy at the US War College, AFL Chief of Staff Maj./Gen. Prince C. Johnson, III, expressed gratitude to the United States Government for the opportunity granted the AFL to allow one of its personnel to study at the prominent War College.

He says the gesture from the US Government will further boost the morale of the Armed Forces of Liberia as it continues to contribute to the rebuilding process of Liberia and the maintenance of regional peace.--***Press release***

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UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
& INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

MERCY CORPS

المساعدات الاماراتية
UAE AID

The United Arab Emirates funds 1-year Strengthening Maternal and Infant Healthcare in Liberia (SAFE) Project in Liberia

April 6, 2019

Mercy Corps, the Government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the Liberian Ministry of Health and Social Welfare are excited to announce the launch of the one-year Strengthening Maternal and Infant Healthcare in Liberia (SAFE) Project on Saturday, April 6, 2019. The project is financed by the United Arab Emirates' Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MoFAIC).

The goal of the project is to ensure that the health of vulnerable Liberian women of reproductive age and children under five years is improved. By building the capacity of the Ministry of Health and local civil sector organisations, we will help toaddress key root causes of maternal and infant mortality, and will focus on improvements in prenatal and antenatal health.

The project will partner with National and Community Health Institutions and local Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), in Montserrado, Bong and Grand Bassa counties.

Together we hope to have the following impact:

• National and community level health institutions will be better equipped to provide quality prenatal and postnatal care to vulnerable women and their children

• Rural women of reproductive age will increase their knowledge of appropriate prenatal and postnatal care

• Health-focused Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) will be better able to meet the needs of vulnerable Liberian women and children.

The SAFE Project is funded by the Government and people of the United Arab Emirates and will be implemented by Mercy Corps in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare of Liberia.

Mercy Corps is a global organisation with programmes in 40 countries around the world. The organisation has been working in Liberia since 2002.

The official launch of the SAFE project is scheduled to take place on Saturday, April 6, 2019 .

U.S.-based Liberians to help compatriots here

A group of Liberians based in the United States of America has formed a National Peace and Reconciliation Initiative (NPRI) to promote peace among Liberians with the first general consultative meeting held early this week (Sunday, March 31st) in America.

According to a dispatch from the U.S., a corps of officers has been elected, with veteran Liberian playwright and educator, Dr. Joe Gbaba, as National Chairman, including Mrs. Esther Richards, National Vice Chairman, and Mr. Edward William Carter, Jr., National Secretary General, respectively.

Others elected are, Mr. Kelvin Gray, National Treasurer and Mr. Junius Smallwood, Parliamentarian. Dr. Lincoln Sie Brownell is named Chairman of the Advisory Board.

The organizing committee of the NPRI consists of 51 Liberian professionals and prominent statesmen and women trained in various disciplines.

National Chairman Dr. Gbaba says, the overarching goal of the NPRI is to provide a forum in which Liberians of diverse opinions may have an opportunity to freely exchange views on ways to achieve sustainable peace and reconciliation in Liberia.

NPRI National Chairman, Dr. Joe Gbaba

With a motto: "Kukatonon", which means, "WE ARE ONE" in the Kpelleh vernacular, the organization hopes to, among others, provide war trauma counseling services to post genocide Liberians worldwide; rehabilitate former combatants and child soldiers and survivors; promote gender equity and women empowerment including Liberian youth to acquire skills to enable them to earn honest livelihoods and reintegrate successfully into mainstream Liberian society.

NPRI also hopes to launch an effective national peace and reconciliation campaign throughout Liberia, using performing and visual arts in collaboration with local Liberian artists to promote peace, reconciliation and national unity as well as engage Liberian youth in peacekeeping activities and provide them scholarships and appropriate teaching and learning opportunities to advance themselves and prepare them as future leaders, while promoting voter's education to create awareness among Liberian voters and to help them make informed decisions in the exercise of their franchise, and lastly, to promote rule of law and transitional justice in the country to ensure perpetrators of genocidal and economic crimes face the consequences of their actions.

Members of the NPRI say they hope to achieve their objectives by actively engaging Liberians at home and abroad, the international community and friends of Liberia, the United Nations system, the African Union, European Union, ECOWAS, Mano River Union, American Congress, as well as humanitarians and philanthropists organizations across the globe.

National Secretary General Edward Carter, notes that recently, Chairman Dr. Gbaba made a passionate plea to his compatriots requesting their support to join him appeal to all Liberians, the Government of Liberia and the international community, to assist in bringing the Liberian peace process back on course.

He also cautioned that it was high time post war victims and survivors of the Liberian civil wars receive medical treatment and social intervention services to address the war traumas they experienced.

Dr. Gbaba also stressed the need for the Government of Liberia to collaborate with the National Peace and Reconciliation Initiative to establish vocational and technical institutions as well as mass literacy programs that will train Liberian youth and former combatants and post war Liberian citizens to acquire some literacy competences and technical and vocational skills that may empower them to earn honest livelihoods, be aware of their constitutional rights as citizens and empower Liberians to reintegrate properly into mainstream society.

Parliamentarian Junius Smallwood, says during the meeting, several statesmen and women expressed grave concerns regarding the downward spiral the Liberian nation is heading and confirmed their commitment to give back to their motherland in whatever way they can to restore rule of law and to secure transitional justice in postwar Liberian society.

For his part, Advisory Council Chair, Dr. Lincoln Sie Brownell, vows to assist in providing services geared toward peace education as well as civic and religious education and training, while Statesman James Fasuekoi offered to ensure activities of the National Peace and Reconciliation Initiative are properly covered in the press. Dispatch

Français

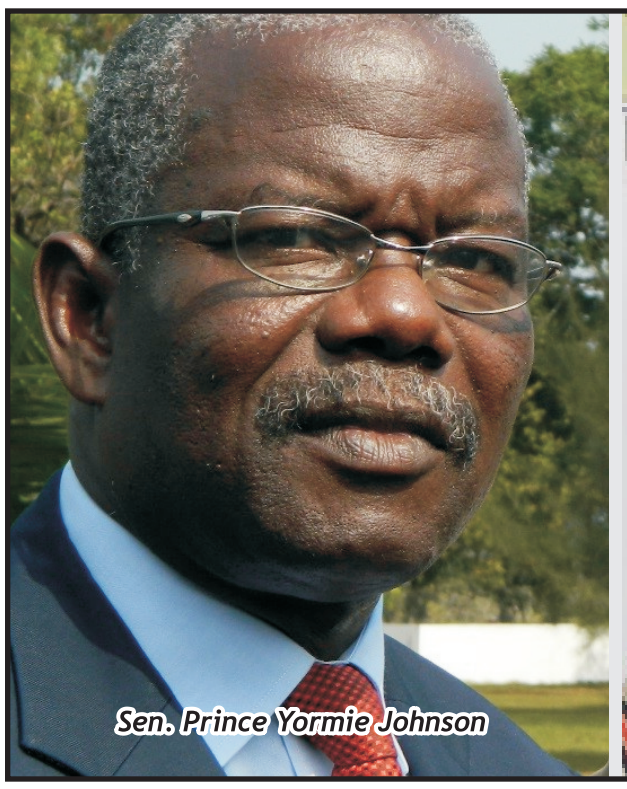
Les sénateurs Prince Johnson et Grupeeont-ils vraiment menti à leurs électeurs ?

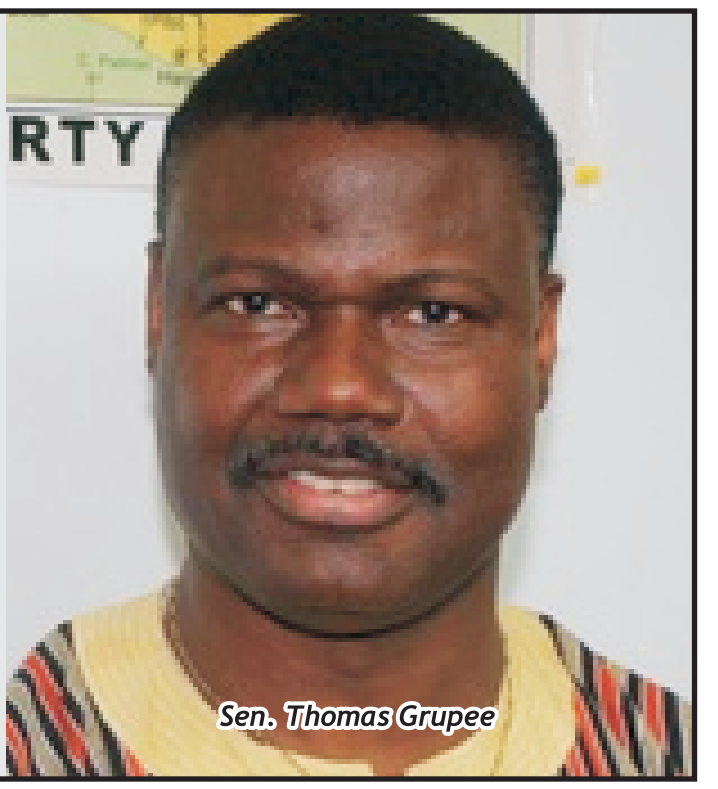
Mme Edith Gongloe-Wehyee, une ancienne surintendante du comté de Nimba, reproche au sénateur Prince Yormie Johnson, et au sénateur Thomas Grupee, tous deux sénateurs de Nimba, d'avoir récemment trahi le juge associé Kabineh M. Ja'neh de la Cour suprême.

L'ancien juge Ja'neh a été destitué vendredi dernier par le Sénat libérien pour inconduite présumée, abus de pouvoir discrétionnaire, fraudeset corruption.

Les avocats de Ja'neh avaient fait valoir que la décision qu'avait prise le Juge Kabineh dans l'exercice de ses fonctions constitutionnelles avait été ensuite validée par les cinq autres juges de la Cour suprême, y compris par lejuge en chef Francis Korkpor, qui a lui-même présidé le procès en destitution au Sénat.

Le président George MannehWeah a par la suite nommé le juge Yussif Kaba, juge associé, en remplacement de l'ex-juge Ja'neh à la Cour suprême du Libéria, en attendant la confirmation du Sénat.


Sen. Prince Yormie Johnson



Sen. Thomas Grupee

Parlant sur une station de radio communautaire de la ville de Ganta, dans le comté de Nimba, Mme Gongloe-Wehyee, également une ancienne candidate à l'élection sénatoriale, a indiqué que sans les deux voies des sénateurs de Nimba (Johnson et Grupee), M. Ja'neh ne serait pas destitué. Elle se dit fermement convaincue que les sénateurs PYJ et Grupeeont voté en faveur de la destitution de leur propre proche parent et fils, Ja'neh.

Selon elle, si,en plus des neuf sénateurs desautres comtés, les deux sénateurs de Nimba avaient voté contre, les deux tiers des voix nécessaires pour la destitution du juge associé n'auraient pas été atteintes.

Cependant, les sénateurs PYJ et Grupeeont tous deux nié ces allégations, indiquant qu'ils n'ont pas voté en faveur de la destitution de l'ancien juge associé. Ils ont démenti les accusations portées contre eux au cours d'une émission radio. Ils ont même qualifié le processus d'illégal et d'inconstitutionnel.

Mais la plupart des habitants du comté de Nimba, y compris l'ex-surintendant Gongloe-Wehyee, croient fermement que leurs sénateurs ont été poussés par l'argent pour aller contre leur propre frère, Ja'neh.

Juste un jour après la destitution de M. Ja'neh la semaine dernière par le sénat, le sénateur PYJa révélé dans un enregistrement audio largement diffusé sur les médias sociaux que tous les efforts déployés par les anciens de Nimba, y compris lui-même, pour amener l'ancien juge adjoint à démissionner honorablement de la Cour suprême sont restés vains.Il s'agissait en fait d'une interview que PYJ a accordée à une station de radio communautaire de Ganta, dans le comté de Nimba. Au cours de cet interview, a fait état de plusieurs interventions auprès du juge ja'nehpour le convaincre à démissionner car il était devenu un homme gênant pour le régime en place.

Le sénateur PYJ : « À mon retour du Nigéria, j'ai décidé de cerner le véritable problème et j'ai découvert qu'il s'agissait d'une question politique et non d'un procès judiciaire. Et après avoir noué des contacts, j'ai découvert que KabinehJa'neh n'était plus important parmi ses collègues du banc et qu'il n'était plus désiré par l'autorité du jour.

On m'a dit que, je ne vous dirais pas qui me l'a dit, je ne vous dirais pas avec qui j'ai discuté, mais j'ai fait tous les efforts possibles et on m'a dit :''Kabineh n'est plus nécessaire. Il asaboté beaucoup de choses pour cette République, mais comme il est un fils de Nimba et que vous êtes le parrain de Nimba, et que le comté de Nimba s'est tenu derrière nous, nous ne voudrons pas lui faire du mal. Ce que nous souhaitons, c'est que vous interveniez pour une situation gagnant-gagnant. S'il peut se retirer honorablement, nous le rembourserons pendant cinq ansquoi qu'il fasse, nous lui donnerons toutes les incitations, un passeport diplomatique, un véhicule, tout lui sera donné, nous ne voulons tout simplement pas de lui parce qu'il est un saboteur. »

Le sénateur Johnson a dit s'être immédiatement rendu chez Ja'neh le lendemain soir à 22 heures.« Et je suis allé voir le juge KabinehJa'neh à 10 heures du soir. Et je lui ai dit : Je suis ton chef, je ne te duperai pas ; cette affaire en suspens n'est pas un procès judiciaire où tu auras besoin d'avocats pour plaider pour toi, ils ne feront que manger ton argent.Le procès politique nécessite une solution politique, des manœuvres politiques. Alors, je suis venu dire gentiment démissionneet tu obtiendras toutes tes primes. Je ferai venir les chefs traditionnels de Nimba, les 34 chefs suprêmes, ils se joindront à moi pour intervenir afin que tu puisses dire au monde que ''je ne suis pas coupable, mais parce que mes parents à Nimba m'ont appelé à démissionner, je me retire honorablement'' pour que tu aies ton argent. Mais si tu te bats contre ce régime, tu ne pourras pas gagner. Mais Kabinehm'a regardé dans les yeux et m'a dit qu'il ne se retirerait jamais, et qu'il continuerait à se battre », a ajouté Prince Johnson.

PYJ aaffirmé qu'il n'a pas voté en faveur de la destitution de Ja'neh, pas plus que le sénateur Thomas Grupee, estimant que tout le processus était politique et non légal.

Côte d'Ivoire/ Réforme de la CEI : Douyou Nicaise s'en prend à Ouattara

Le Coordonnateur national de la Coalition des indignés de Côte d'Ivoire (Cici), Douyou Nicaise alias Samba David, a animé une conférence de presse, le mardi 2 avril 2019, à Yopougon, pour dénoncer la gouvernance Ouattara.

Ce leader d'opinion de la société civile ivoirienne, entouré de ses plus proches collaborateurs, s'est prononcé, pour la première fois, après sa sortie de prison, le 24 juillet 2018, sur la situation sociopolitique nationale dans son ensemble. Pour lui, la question de la réforme de la Commission électorale indépendante (Cei) est d'intérêt national. Aussi, a-t-il appelé les Ivoiriens à plus de responsabilité, et aux organisations de la société civile à s'investir pour obtenir une réelle réforme de l'organe chargé d'organiser les élections. « Nous passerons à l'acte pour obtenir la réforme de la Cei. C'est parce que nous sommes dans un État policier que les populations ont peur », a-t-il martelé, réclamant plus de liberté d'expression. « Les régimes vont passer, les présidents vont passer, mais la gouvernance ne va pas changer tant que la société civile ne prend pas ses responsabilités », a-t-il ajouté.

Le leader de la Coalition des indignés de Côte d'Ivoire, décortiquant le discours du chef de l'État devant les députés, lundi 1er avril, à l'occasion de l'ouverture solennelle de la session ordinaire de l'Assemblée nationale, au Plateau, a demandé de voir les paroles du président Ouattara se transformer en actes, avant de croire. « Je ne crois pas aux propos du président de la République. Il nous a habitués aux propos qu'aux actes. Il parle, mais il fait peu pour le peuple. Nous sommes dans un pays hors-la-loi. Je veux voir les choses s'accomplir, sinon pour nous, le président Ouattara veut faire un passage en force », a-t-il affirmé. À l'entendre, il faut « impérativement une Cei qui n'est pas inféodée aux partis politiques ».

Français

Les Libériens basés aux Etats-Unis veulent aider leurs compatriotes restés au pays

Un groupe de Libériens basés aux États-Unis d'Amérique a mis en place l'Initiative nationale pour la paix et la réconciliation (INRP). C'est une organisation qui vise à promouvoir la paix entre les Libériens. La première réunion de consultation générale a eu lieu le dimanche 31 mars en Amérique.

Selon une dépêche des États-Unis, un bureau exécutif a été élu, présidé par le dramaturge et éducateur libérien vétéran, le Dr Joe Gbaba, et comprenant Mme Esther Richards, vice-présidente nationale, et M. Edward William Carter, Secrétaire général national.

Les autres élus sont M. Kelvin Gray, trésorier national et M. Junius Smallwood, parlementaire. Le Dr Lincoln SieBrownell est nommé président du conseil consultatif.

Le comité d'organisation de l'INRP est composé de 51 professionnels libériens et hommes d'État et femmes éminents formés dans diverses disciplines.

Le président national, le Dr Gbaba, a déclaré que l'objectif principal de l'INRP est de créer un forum qui permettra aux Libériens de faire valoir librement leurs opinions sur tous les sujets, ce, enfin de parvenir à une paix durable et à une réconciliation totale au Libéria.

Ayant pour devise : «Kukatonon», qui signifie «NOUS SOMMES UN» en Kpelleh, l'organisation espère, entre autres, fournir des services de conseil en traumatologie de guerre aux Libériens, réhabiliter les anciens combattants, les enfants soldats et les survivants, promouvoir l'équité entre les sexes et l'autonomiser les femmes et les jeunes, afin qu'ils acquièrent les compétences nécessaires pour gagner leur vie honnêtement et qu'ils se réintègrent avec succès dans la société.

L'INRP espère également lancer une campagne nationale pour la paix et la réconciliation dans tout le Libéria, en collaboration avec des artistes libériens locaux afin de promouvoir la paix, la réconciliation et l'unité nationale. Elle veut aussi faire participer les jeunes Libériens à des activités de maintien de la paix et leur offrir des bourses d'études, un enseignement approprié et des possibilités d'apprentissage pour progresser et se préparer en tant que futurs dirigeants. Le groupe compte aussi mettre l'accent sur l'éducation et la sensibilisation des électeurs libériens afin qu'ils prennent des décisions éclairées dans l'exercice de leur droit de voteet qu'ils puissent promouvoir l'état de droit et la justice dans le pays. Le groupe veut veiller à ce que les auteurs des crimes génocidaires et économiques subissent les conséquences de leurs actes.

Les membres de l'INRP déclarent espérer atteindre leurs objectifs en mobilisant activement les Libériens chez eux et à l'étranger, la communauté internationale et les amis du Libéria, le système des Nations Unies, l'Union africaine, l'Union européenne, la CEDEAO, l'Union du fleuve Mano, le Congrès américain, ainsi que des organisations humanitaires et philanthropes à travers le monde.

Le secrétaire général national, Edward Carter, a fait remarquer que récemment, le président, le Dr Gbaba, avait exhorté ses compatriotes à soutenir ses compatriotes et à appeler tous les Libériens, le gouvernement libérien et la communauté internationale à contribuer au processus de paix.

Il a également averti qu'il était grand temps que les victimes de la guerre et les survivants des guerres civiles libériennes reçoivent des soins médicaux et des services d'intervention sociale pour faire face aux traumatismes de la guerre qu'ils ont subis.

M. Gbaba a également souligné la nécessité pour le Gouvernement libérien de collaborer avec l'Initiative nationale pour la paix et la réconciliation afin de créer des institutions de formation professionnelle et technique, ainsi que des programmes d'alphabétisation de masse destinés à former les jeunes Libériens et les anciens combattants ainsi que les citoyens libériens d'après-guerre.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Bill Emmott

Le printemps du nationalisme ?

LONDRES – Y a-t-il une montée du populisme ? La question va se poser avec les élections qui se dérouleront dans les deux prochains mois en Israël, en Inde, en Indonésie, aux Philippines, en Espagne et dans l'Union européenne. Mais ce n'est pas la question la plus pertinente, car la vraie bataille aura lieu entre nationalisme et internationalisme.

Néanmoins les populistes instrumentalisent la polarisation nationalisme/internationalisme. C'est notamment le cas de Donald Trump dont le mépris instinctif à l'égard du droit et des institutions internationales est évident. Mais c'est aussi le cas de dirigeants politiques plus classiques, dont certains se trouvent dans la plus multilatérale des institutions, l'UE, dont la dynamique politique interne est en pleine mutation.

Le terme de populisme décrit simplement une manière de faire campagne utilisée par certains politiciens extrémistes. Son impact en tant qu'épithète politique a diminué, en particulier depuis le référendum sur le Brexit et l'élection de Trump. S'ils ne veulent pas risquer de perdre lors du prochain scrutin, une fois au pouvoir, les populistes doivent gouverner conformément au souhait de leur électorat.

Considérons le Mouvement cinq Etoiles (M5S) arrivé au pouvoir en juin dernier en Italie, qui était dans sa phase initiale la principale composante de la coalition gouvernementale. Mais il a perdu depuis plusieurs élections régionales, la moitié de son électorat l'ayant abandonné. Son déclin ne traduit pas la désillusion de ses électeurs à l'égard de son programme populiste, car il a appliqué sa promesse d'un revenu de base pour les chômeurs. C'est plutôt la rhétorique nationaliste bruyante de son partenaire au pouvoir, la Ligue, parti de droite, qui l'a fait passer au second plan.

Tournons maintenant notre regard vers d'autres dirigeants : le Premier ministre indien, Narendra Modi, le président philippin Rodrigo Duterte et le Premier ministre israélien Benyamin Netanyahu, un politicien consommé. Contrairement au M5S, après avoir fait une campagne populiste, ils mènent une politique nationaliste dure. C'est sur cette politique que les électeurs vont se prononcer lors des prochains scrutins (le 9 avril en Israël, du 11 avril au 19 mai en Inde et le 13 mai aux Philippines).

Tous trois jouent sur la peur (peur du terrorisme au Pakistan, des cartels de la drogue aux Philippines et des rockets du Hamas en Israël) et sur le nationalisme. Leur objectif affiché est de renforcer l'Etat-nation contre les menaces intérieures et extérieures, avec des outils économiques et politiques. Ils n'ont guère de considération pour le droit international et les institutions internationales, et quand ils prennent en compte la politique étrangère, c'est en général dans le cadre de relations bilatérales avec les USA et/ou la Chine, plutôt que du multilatéralisme.

La situation est similaire en Indonésie, à l'approche de l'élection présidentielle du 17 avril. Tant le président actuel, Joko Widodo (surnommé Jokowi) que son rival, Prabowo Subianto, peuvent être considérés comme des populistes. Jokowi cherche à obtenir un deuxième mandat de 5 ans, tandis que Prabowo adopte une posture plus nationaliste (qui se rapproche de celle de Duarte), comme il l'avait fait en 2014.

La situation est différente en Europe, mais il est surprenant d'y observer des clivages analogues. Les mots de "populiste" ou "d'eurosceptique" traduisent mal la montée des partis d'extrême-droite, Vox en Espagne, le parti de la liberté en Autriche et l'AfD (Alternative für Deutschland) en Allemagne ; et ils ne permettent pas réellement de comprendre la politique de Viktor Orban en Hongrie ou du parti Loi et Justice (PiS) en Pologne.

Ces partis sont tous nationalistes, conservateurs et hostiles à l'immigration. Mais en faisant constamment référence à "la loi et à l'ordre", ils exploitent davantage des peurs de nature culturelle que militaire ou géostratégique. C'est pourquoi si l'extrême-droite fait une percée significative lors des élections législatives espagnoles fin avril et ensuite aux élections pour le Parlement européen fin mai, il ne faudra pas y voir un phénomène anti-européen.

Un rééquilibrage des pouvoirs au bénéfice de la droite nationaliste constituerait un changement de point de vue sur l'UE, mais non son rejet brutal comme a pu l'être le Brexit. Cela pourrait augurer un abandon de l'intégration, au profit d'une stratégie intergouvernementale pour traiter de l'immigration et de l'état de droit. Ce serait un coup de frein aux mesures décidées par Bruxelles. Les pays membres de l'UE auraient leur propre politique à l'égard de la Russie, de la Libye et d'autres pays. Cela en serait fini de la recherche d'une politique étrangère et d'une politique de sécurité communes.

Oublions le populisme, car la véritable bataille se livrera entre nationalisme et internationalisme lors des élections de cette année, comme dans l'élection présidentielle américaine de l'année prochaine. Les tensions géopolitiques vont croissantes, les flux migratoires sont à la hausse et les répercussions des crises financières passées se font encore sentir. Dans ce contexte, un ordre international fondé sur des règles peut-il encore séduire les électeurs et apaiser leurs craintes ? En l'absence du leadership américain pour crédibiliser cette idée, il est difficile de répondre à cette question.

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CULTURE & ENTERTAINMENT

With Ben Polee Wesee

Local musician initiates peace concert

By Emmanuel Mondaye

The United Nations Mission In Liberia or UNMIL has since left Liberia, but consolidating the peace here rests on the shoulders of all well-meaning Liberians. It is against this backdrop that a veteran Liberian musician James Coco Chea, and other local artists embark on community for peace and security campaign thru music, to rally residents about the need to maintain peace and security in the country.

Mr. Chea, brain behind the advocacy, says he decided to undertake the exercise to remind fellow Liberians about the collective responsibility to maintaining peace and security fought for by the regional body ECOWAS, in collaboration with UNMIL.

Veteran Liberian musician James Coco Chea, Head of Harmonizers Entertainment Group Inc.

Top Liberian female musical star thrills residents of S. K. D. community

He says they intend to take peace and security messages to every community in Montserrado County, especially, at the time when mob violence and lawlessness are reawakened in some communities, leading to loss of innocent lives. The veteran Liberian musician notes that to ensure everyone gets the message, his group has chosen Saturdays and Sundays to visit communities. More than 800,000 Liberians died and hundreds of thousands others became refugees and internally displaced during the country's civil wars which started on 24 December 1989 and ended in September 2003.

Coco warns young people, who are considered most vulnerable to be mindful by not allowing evil-minded individuals to mislead them to violence. He says young people should expose such people, who have nothing positive to contribute to the development of the country.

He calls on well meaning Liberians interested in peace and security to contribute in whatever ways they can to the current campaign.

He adds the 30 March concert held at the S. K. D. Complex in Paynesville outside Monrovia was a prelude, as the actual campaign is expected to take off in Rehab Community on 6 April where residents are urged to come out and join the exercise.

Mr. Chea, who is proprietor of Harmonizers Entertainment Group Inc., a Liberian musical group, also calls on young people to say no to violence. - ***Editing by Jonathan Browne***

Fuamah District hosts cultural festival

The people of Fuamah District converged recently in Haindii, district headquarters, in Lower Bong County to witness and participate in an all day cultural festival. The events, organized to unify members of the district, saw the rekindling of good old memories of the past three decades Fuamah.

The rich cultural festival, first of its kind in the district, brought together inhabitants of four of the five clans of the District, competing in canoe race, hands-off bucket race and traditional dances.

Participants of the dance competition, most of whom are in their mid 30s and 40s, walked away cheerfully with fat and attractive prizes.

At the opening ceremony, sponsor Mr. Joseph P. Keller, requested a minute of silence in honor of their ancestors, after which he inspired his people to take ownership of the festival.

"This is your program. It is not mine. I am just here as a citizen and over there is my father's house and there I grew up. You know it," he explained and added, "All I am trying to do is to bring us together, to know each other so we can work on different things to uplift Haindii."

He reminded participants the activities were not different from what they do daily, except that this time around, the performance will be timed to determine who can do it most efficiently, to know the winner.

"For instance, women towing buckets of water on their heads with babies on their backs, walk distance and the water doesn't waste: what is the secret?" Mr. Keller asked.

He recalled that during his childhood days, he saw dancers in Haindii, such as the snake dancers, people behind the Yobai and Gbetu masked dancers. "So we will love to see whether you can still remember to do some of those dances."

Mr. Keller offered prizes in three categories: Best Canoe Operator, Best Bucket Totter, and Best Dancer, respectively.

Each of these categories was contested for first, second and third place winners, with the sponsor offering LRD10,000.00 for first place winner, LRD7,500 for second place winner and LRD2,500 for third place winner respectively, for the canoe and dance competitions. In the bucket race, the first place winner walked away with LRD2,000; the second place winner, LRD1000; and third place winner, LRD500.

Speaking on behalf of Fuamah District authorities, Mr. Saylai Korlubah said he was highly grateful to the sponsor and the organizing committee of the occasion, while welcoming all who assembled in Haindii to witness and participate in the festival.

He wished a successful conclusion and urged that any aggrieved contestant or complaint should be promptly forwarded to his office for immediate redress.

According to the chairman of the organizing committee, Evangelist Lomini Goll, contestants in the canoe race were three, representing Dobli Island, Haindii Town, and Malomah, respectively. Each team had four members.

It was a twenty-minute walk from Haindii Town to Gahkpelle crossing point, where the canoe race was held.

Spectators sat on reed benches built specifically for the competition, near the river bank, from where they watched and cheered on their teams in the race. Each team had to cross the river and return in the shortest possible time.

After a heated and challenging display of wit, strength and talent in canoe peddling, Team Haindii (containing four youthful males) took first place after crossing the 275-feet stretch across St. Paul River and returned in 2:56 minutes, amidst cheers of spectators near the river bank.

It was an exhilarating feat for the two remaining teams, Dobli Island and Malomah. Dobli Island (Team 2) won the second place in 3 minutes and 7 seconds, while Malomah fell to the third place in 3 minutes and 8 seconds, just one second slower than Team Dobli Island.

Everyone assembled at the oldest historic town square of Haindii for the bucket race. The square is situated few yards away from the Haindii crossing point, where the late Senator Boto Barclay of Bong County used his amphibious vehicle in the 1960s to cross the river from Haindii to Dobli Island. Many Fuamah residents remember seeing the vehicle being used for land transport with the ability to transform into a watercraft to cross the river.

The bucket race had five female contestants, towing five buckets full of water, hands-free, moved swiftly across a sixty-yard stretch and back.

Among the participants, Mercy Jensen of Haindii won first place, followed by Tina Clinton from Coconut Farm, near Haindii, along Haindii-Bong Mines Highway. Jatu Bainda, from Jangbiama, took third place.

Entertainment update

CoZ Kamikazee up next with a new album. Title? "State of the Union 2".

BeeVonne Records key vocalist, J Slught, is currently working on a new song and video. Title? "Amazing". Set to drop next month.

Star Zoo signed artist, Magical Breeze, is up next with a new single. Title? "Break 8 Down". Produced by Genius.

Female rap genius, MC Caro, is set to drop a video of her newest single, "Listen" next month.

Multi-talented artist, D12, is officially dropping a song this coming Friday. Title? "Wah Way"

Trap guru, Revoluxon Rocky, set to drop new song, featuring Feouls. Title? "Trap Shots" Produced by Controlboy Rawlo

Newest sensation, Paradise Queen, will be releasing a song early next month, featuring her label mates, Revelation and Skinny Boy Kpanto.

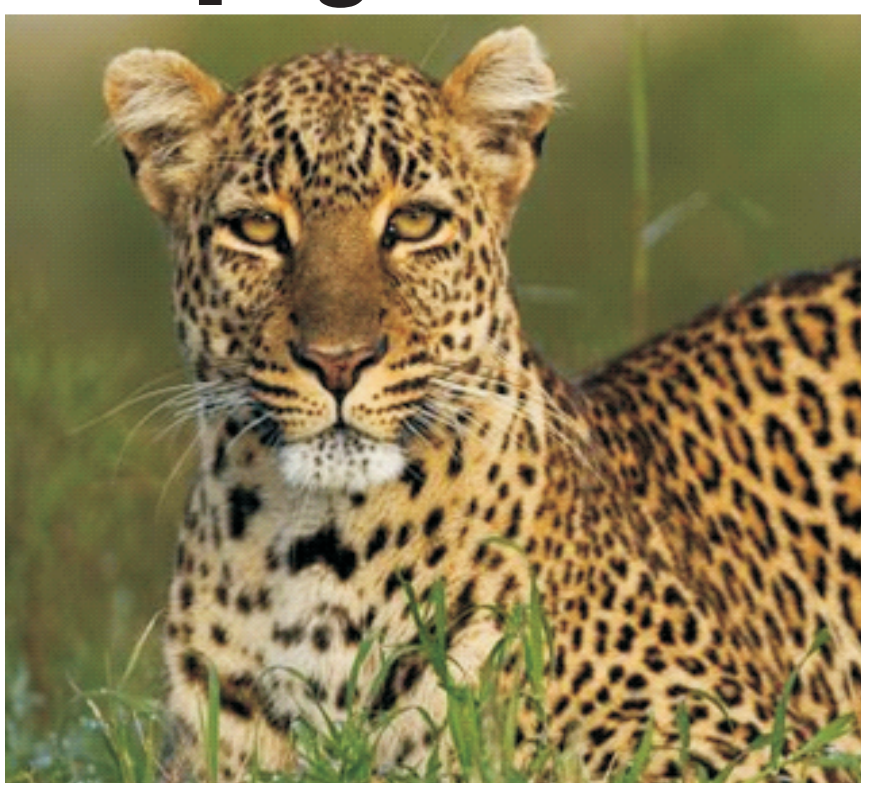
Holy Records signed artist, Revelation, is up next with a new song. Title? "No Space", featuring Afo4doe.

Multi hitmaker, Kobazzie, set to drop a new single early next month. Title? "Pro Poor". Produced by Stone Luckshine.

Mic Killer set to drop new song, "My City, with a video soon.

Leopards rampage in Nimba

By Thomas Domah/Nimba



Roaming leopards have ransacked several villages in Nimba County, forcing villagers to abandon homes.

There was no human casualty report, but residents of Yeanue village near Neegbein town few miles outside Ganta, Nimba County woke up Wednesday, 3 April to a terrified experience when they discovered that over 50 livestock, including chicks and goats have been killed by leopards.

According to research, leopards are graceful and powerful big cats closely related to lions, tigers, and jaguars. They live in sub-Saharan Africa, northeast Africa, Central Asia, India, and China. However, many of their populations are endangered, especially outside of Africa.

Head town chief Mr. Wuo Yeanue, narrates that while at the village along with his family he saw wild animals especially, leopards entered the village, forcing them to escape.

According to him, upon their return to the village four hours later, they realized that most of their cattle were dead.

Several villagers spoken to explain in tears, this is the second time of such attack by wild animals against their village.

Residents of Yeanue Village near the St. John River along the Liberian-Guinean border are living in fear for their lives and have abandoned their homes.

Report says this is the sixth time for wide animals to attack villagers in Nimba.

Recently, residents of Mail Town in district#6 near the border with Ivory Coast lost properties, including rice farms, palm and rubber farms to roaming elephants, which invaded the area from neighboring Ivory Coast.

Besides, wild animals similarly entered Gbeapea near Yekepa, a mining community in the county where steel giant, ArcelorMittal, operates.

There has been no response from the Forestry Development Authority or related government agencies in the county on the incident.

Liberia is home to various endangered species, including leopards, elephants, and baboon, among others. The country still has one of the endowed rain forest in West Africa which is habitat to most of these wild animals. ***-Editing by Jonathan Browne***

Pro-Tempore demands bribery proof

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Senate President Pro-Tempore Albert Chie demands proof of bribes offered to senators during the impeachment trial of former Associate Justice, Cllr. Kabineh Ja'neh.

He threw out the challenge thru a written communication to full plenary of the Liberian Senate, seeking an investigation for the allegation levied against him and the entire senate.

The communication dated March 30, which was read in the chambers of the senate on Thursday, April 4, states that the Judiciary Committee headed by Grand Cape Mount County Senator Cllr. Varney Sherman, should investigate Bomi County Senator Sando Johnson, on his accusation that the Liberian Senate received bribe to impeach former Justice Ja'neh.

Chie alleges that Senator Johnson in his remarks at the opposition Unity Party, Alternative National Congress and the Liberty Party coalition signing ceremony directly accused him (Chie) and the jury secretary of ballot tampering during the voting process of the impeachment trial.

The communication to plenary also quoted Pro-Tempore Chie as saying Senator Johnson reportedly disrespected the senate and its leadership by using invectives and profane languages in the senate's chat room, in local media and through SMS messages he (Johnson) had directly sent to him (Chie) thereby, embarking on a smear campaign, bringing the august body to public disrepute and ridicule.

The Pro-Tempore also calls on the committee to investigate how sample verdict from the impeachment trial got in the public sphere after it was discussed in executive session.

According to the senate's standing rules, any issue discussed in executive session shall not be made public until deems necessary by plenary.

Meanwhile, following the reading of the communication, Lofa County Senator George Tengbeh made a motion for the document to be forwarded to the Judiciary and Rules, Order and Administration Committee

Executive wants

Starts from back page

branches of government to [continue to] control them.

22 out of 29 Senators voted on Friday, 29 March to impeach Justice Ja'neh for granting a writ of prohibition filed by two oil and gas companies that prevented government from collecting taxes imposed on pump prices because the taxes had not been legislated.

Ja'neh's decision taken in chambers was further validated by the full bench of the Supreme Court, including Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor, Sr. who presided over the impeachment.

In spite of convicting Ja'neh for the road funds, Sen. Brown contradictorily claims that the impeached justice was not wrong for issuing the writ of prohibition in the road funds case and for forwarding the issue to the full bench of the Supreme Court.

"The full bench should have stopped everyone from benefiting from the money until the issue is resolved. All the Justices should have [been] held responsible for the action taken by the Supreme Court and not Ja'neh alone," Sen. Brown dramatically argues after he voted to impeach Ja'neh alone.

According to Sen. Brown, he acquitted the former Associate Justice on three of the four counts levied against him, saying he blames Ja'neh and all the Justices that signed for the road funds case.

He notes that the full bench was wrong for allowing the oil and gas companies to have their share of the money while the Government was denied.

Hours before the Liberian Senate voted Friday, 29 March to remove Justice Ja'neh from the Supreme Court bench, Sen. Brown was among nine Senators that signed a resolution opposing the impeachment.

But giving reason for crossing carpet overnight to vote against Ja'neh, Sen. Brown says the anti-impeachment Senators had initially planned not to go public until they had acquired 10 or 11 members to block the impeachment.

At least 10 of the 29 Senators on Capitol Hill were needed on Ja'neh's side to block his removal from the Supreme Court Bench, but some of the nine Senators that initially supported him crossed carpet overnight and voted against him.

Sen. Brown claims he voted against Ja'neh out of anger because his colleagues went public with their resolution to halt the impeachment.

"You don't expose your secrets to your opponent when you don't have the strength," Sen. Brown says.

Further, he accuses some senators of failing to affix their signatures to the anti-impeachment list, in spite of announcing that they were opposed to the impeachment of Justice Ja'neh.

The Maryland County Senator says he got disappointed in his colleagues when he heard the names of those who signed the resolution on the radio.

According to him, their action was supposed to remain a secret until they had succeeded in convincing other Senators to vote against the impeachment.

Additionally, Sen. Brown explains that on the day of the voting, he confronted two other senators, telling them that they could no longer stand by Ja'neh because the names of senators who had committed themselves to vote against his impeachment were already on the radio.

He argues that it made other senators to look bad.

"I got angry and voted against my colleagues because they went against our plans; I don't regret the way I voted," Sen. Brown concludes.***--Edited by Winston W. Parley***

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Sports
With Emmanuel B. Juduh

Gov't applauds cargo terminal project

Minister Samuel Wlue breaks ground

By Winston W. Parley

Liberia's Transport Minister Samuel Wlue expresses confidence that air cargo storage will be guaranteed upon the completion of a [multi - million] cargo project at the Roberts International Airport (RIA) in Margibi County.

Welcoming the groundbreaking ceremony Thursday, 4 April for the project estimated at US$11 million, Mr. Wlue calls it an added value and a new beginning for Liberia.

The proposed facility named Roberts Air Cargo Center (RACC) is under a joint venture company of Global Logistics Services, Inc. (GLS) and the National Aviation Services (NAS), called GLS - NAS.

Upon the completion of the RACC project, Minister Wlue notes that there will be a place where "our storage will be guaranteed."

"Let's go break grounds, and I pray that a year from now we can speak more," Minister Wlue ends his short statement.

The project is expected to be completed by April 2020.

The proposed new cargo terminal at RIA is expected to measure 2,700 sqm, aimed at improving RIA's air cargo operations to meet international standards and support export supply capacity in Liberia.

GLS-NAS says it can be further expanded up to 3,553 sqm. The company indicates that it currently operates out of the existing warehouse at RIA, handling nines airlines and over 2200 metric tons of cargo annually.

Earlier, Liberia Airport Authority (LAA) Acting Managing Director Bishop John Allan Klayee points out the tireless efforts of the management teams of GLS - NAS and the LAA

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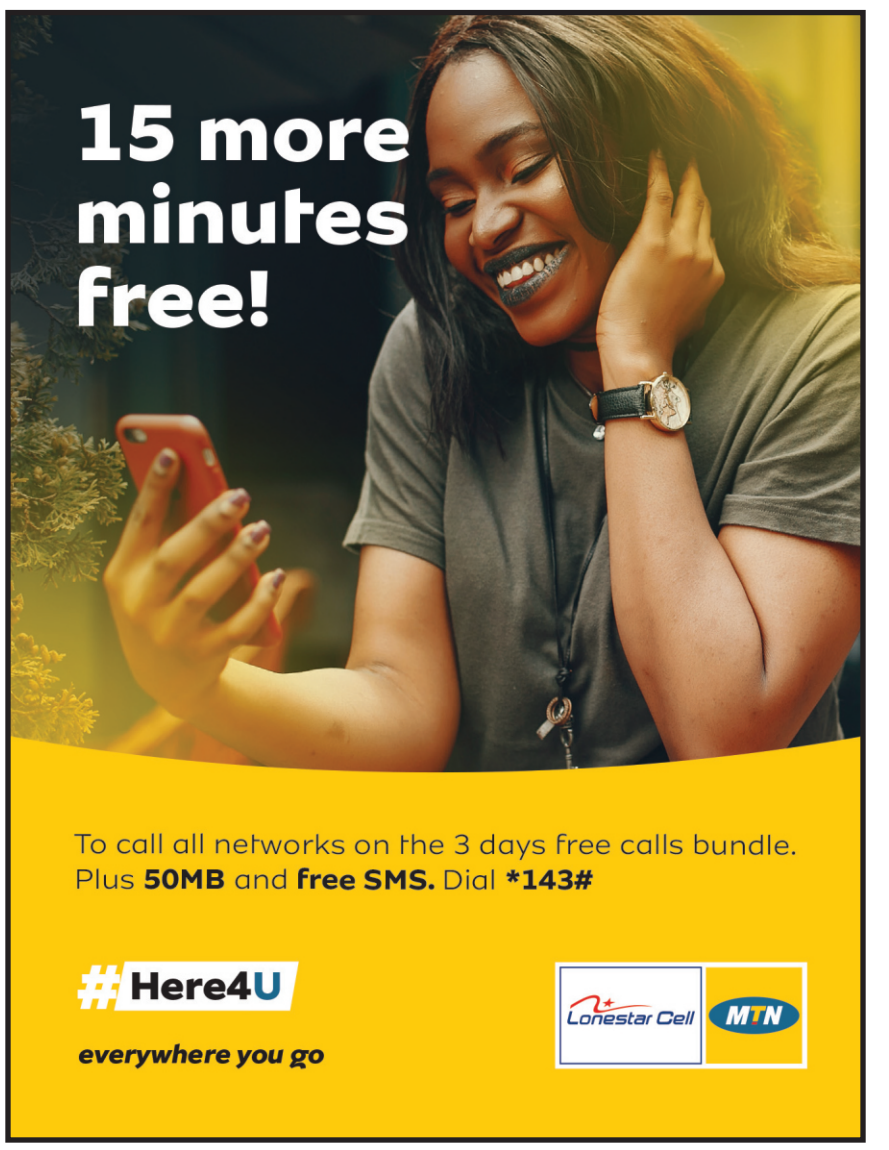

Executive wants control

-Sen. Brown gives reason for impeachment

By Ethel A. Tweh

Maryland County Sen. Gbleh-bo Brown says former Associate Justice Kabineh M. Ja'neh was impeached because the Executive wants to have control over the Supreme Court of Liberia.

"The impeachment went the way it went because the Executive wants to have control over the Supreme Court," Sen. Brown told legislative reporters Thursday, 4 April, roughly a week after he voted along with 21 other senators to impeach Ja'neh.

As if Sen. Brown's decision in the impeachment was not independent at all, he continues to lament that the Senate he works in today is not the kind of senate he wanted.

Sen. Brown tells legislative reporters that he wants an independent Legislature, stressing that they (Senators) should not allow the Executive that wants to control the three

See story P11

Know your former Lawmaker better

Counsellor Kuku Y. Dorbor, former lawmaker, entrepreneur and humanitarian is a public servant per excellence, who is always ready to answer when duty calls both in the public sector and outside of government.

As Montserrado County District#6 former Representative in the former 52nd Legislature, she chaired the World Bank Parliamentary Network (LIBERIAN CHAPTER 2007- JANUARY 15, 2011) and Co-chaired the West African Chapter from 2008 to 2011.

She also exercised oversight for the Liberia Country's Office and ensured project done by the bank were in line with bank procedures and policies. At the regional level, she similarly ensured compliance of the bank responsibilities to the region.

While executing legislative duties, Cllr. Dorbor served as Treasurer for female Legislative caucus from 2006 to 2010. Her role was specifically to ensure finance records of the caucus were in order.

During her tenure in the 52nd Legislature, Hon. Kuku Y. Dorbor served as member of the ways, Means, and Finance Committee of the House from 2006-2009. The Committee was responsible for all appropriations of the revenue for the support of the Government; matters relating to the finances of the House, Preparation of the House's budget and the custody and disbursement of the House's funds subject to the approval of the Speaker or Deputy Speaker, among others.

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