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Welcome To The New World

# The New Dawn

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TRULY INDEPENDENT

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VOL.9 NO. 055

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# Gov't warns planned demonstrators

# Senators asked to halt confirmation



Judge Yussif D. Kaba



# Continental News

## Algerian youth lead the call for change

**T**owering over the struggle for the future of Algeria is a symbol of its past.

Protesters gather in the shadow of the ornate Grande Poste, or post office - a French colonial landmark in central Algiers.

Some say that having broken free of colonial rule in 1962, Algerians are fighting for their independence all over again, this time from a hated and sclerotic regime.

Friday is now the main day of protest, when demonstrators occupy the steps outside the Grand Poste, spilling over into the central square in front. The crowd pulses with energy and with hope, but is threaded through with undercover police. Repression is part of the bedrock here. If freedom is about to triumph here, it seems they haven't got the memo yet. Raise a camera or a notebook and they appear within minutes, some polite, others far less so. They demand to see your

government-issued accreditation - you can't move without it. They crowd in as you interview protesters, filming them with their phones. The aim is to intimidate those who speak out. Old habits die hard, but are less effective these days.

When we started filming a

young political science student, Amina Djouadi, so did several plainclothes police. The 22-year old, in a green headscarf, glanced in their direction and kept on talking.

"We are not afraid anymore," she told us. "We are young, and full of bravery. The

people are heroes." They have already seen off Algeria's veteran autocrat, Abdelaziz Bouteflika. But for Amina and many others here the end of his two decades in the presidency was just the start. They say time's up for "Le Pouvoir" - his coterie of generals, businessmen and ruling party politicians. Among the sea of banners at the protests, there's one with a Brexit flavour. It reads "leave means leave". Amina believes the regime won't push back hard. "If they wanted to fight they would have fought in the first place," she said. It is the young who are driving this protest movement - on social media and on the streets. About half of Algeria's population is under 30. They want a generational shift. "The faces who have been around for 20 years have to leave," said Miriam Saoud, a 19-year old student in a black hoodie and a black headscarf. "We want to elect people to represent us. We want our voices to be heard, and we

want everything to change."

The next target for the demonstrators is the new interim President, Abdelkader Bensalah, who was a Bouteflika loyalist. He has promised to lead Algeria to free elections on 4 July. Few believe he will last that long. If he and the rest of the old guard remain in place there can be no chance of free and fair elections, according to Mehdi Feloussi, a stylishly dressed young entrepreneur who is a regular at the protests. They committed fraud in the past, he says, and would do so again.

"It's like someone who was stealing for the last 20 years and cheating for the last 20 years telling you, 'Please trust me, I will be nice and I will organise a transparent vote.' Everybody knows they will cheat again."

How certain are you, I asked? "99.99%," he replied.

The protesters have found strength in numbers, but some are ready to challenge the regime all on their own. BBC



Protesters want the removal of all the governing elite, known as "Le Pouvoir"

## Ivanka Trump in Ethiopia to 'promote women

**P**resident Donald Trump's eldest daughter, Ivanka Trump, has arrived in Ethiopia to promote a US government initiative aimed at advancing women's participation in the workplace.

The initiative aims to benefit 50 million women in developing countries by 2025.

Ms Trump will visit women working in the coffee industry and a female-run textile

facility.

She will also visit Ivory Coast during her four-day tour of Africa.

Launched in February, the Women's Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP) initiative aims to train women worldwide to help them get well-paying jobs. According to the initiative's website, low participation of women in the formal labour markets impedes economic growth and poverty

reduction in developing countries.

The project is financed by a \$50m (£38m) fund within the US international development aid agency (USAid). Ms Trump, who also serves as an adviser to her father, will attend a World Bank policy summit while in Ethiopia.

She tweeted ahead of the trip that she was "excited". She will visit Ivory Coast later in the week and is set to visit a cocoa farm, as well as participate in a meeting on economic opportunities for women in West Africa.

The Trump administration's policy in Africa has focused on the war on terror and trying to manage the growing political and economic influence of Russia and China on the continent.

It has, however, backed democratic reforms in countries like Ethiopia where Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has implemented a series of progressive changes including the normalisation of relations with Eritrea after a bitter border standoff going back two decades. BBC



Ivanka Trump (r) with US officials in Ethiopia

## 12 killed in fuel tanker explosion in Nigeria



**T**welve people were killed and 16 others badly injured when a fuel tanker exploded in northern Nigerian city of Gombe, police told AFP on Sunday.

The driver lost control of the fuel tanker as he tried to avoid colliding with another truck at a bridge on the outskirts of the city on Saturday.

The tanker fell on its side, "spilled its contents and exploded, causing an inferno that engulfed other road users," Gombe state police spokeswoman Mary Mallum

said. "Twelve people burned to death while 16 others were seriously injured and evacuated to hospital for treatment," she said, accusing the driver -- who was among those killed -- of reckless driving and speeding.

Accidents are common on Nigeria's poorly maintained roads, many caused by reckless driving, speeding and disregard for traffic rules.

Nineteen people were killed on April 5 when a truck crashed in northern Katsina state due to "fatigue and overloading", according to road safety officials. AFP

# EDITORIAL

## Lawlessness, insecurity abound

SITUATIONS ARE NOT proceeding normally across Liberia with news of mob violence here and there, resulting to arson attacks and death, criminal gangs drawing swords at one another in communities, widespread rape and murder, and armed robbery resulting to death.

IN LESS THAN a month, the wave of lawlessness across the country is scaring, leaving citizens and residents vulnerable.

IN MARCH, MOB went amok in Nimba, beating two persons to death on suspected witchcraft activities, while commercial motorcyclists in Margibi torched and razed several public facilities to the ground, including a police station and a magisterial court in protest of the suspected murder of a colleague.

JUST AS EARLY as last week, a man in Bong County shot his fiancée to death and butchered her corpse to pieces before packaging the body parts into an empty rice bag and dumping it in a bush, after he suspected her of being involved in extra relationship.

IN THE R2 Community along the Robertsfield highway outside Monrovia, armed men robbed and killed Madam Weeks, identified as mother of Theo Weeks, a player of the national football team, the Lone Star, making away with valuables.

LIBERIANS ARE INCREASINGLY creating an atmosphere of insecurity that poses threatening consequences against peace and stability here. What is even more troubling is that the national security forces, particularly the police seem to be overwhelmed by the degree of violence.

THE POLICE APPEAR unable to adapt proactive or pre-emptive measures in violent-prone communities, leaving citizens to, in most instances, take law into their hands.

FOR EXAMPLE, THE instances in Nimba, Margibi and Fiamah Sinkor in Monrovia, transpired right before the police, but they failed to respond immediately and adequately.

IN FACT, THE police are becoming noted for conducting inconclusive investigations, nothing else. Perhaps this could be one key reason why citizens resort to mob violence because of delayed justice.

IF LIBERIA SHOULD be considered a country of law, rather than men, it is about time government utilize full weight of the law by preparing our security forces to be proactive. Violence breeds insecurity, which is a threat to peace and stability.

HOW CAN WE guarantee safety of ordinary citizens, foreign residents and business partners when communities are no longer safe?

**The New Dawn**  
TRULY INDEPENDENT

# COMMENTARY

By Shlomo Ben-Ami

## Israel Doubles Down on Illiberal Democracy

*After another election dominated by disinformation and smears against Israeli Arabs, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has secured a fourth consecutive term. The outcome is an indictment of Israeli democracy, and particularly of the Israeli left and center, which responded to Netanyahu's open racism with pablum and platitudes.*

TEL AVIV - It is Bibi again. Having unapologetically allied with a racist, Jewish-supremacist party, Binyamin Netanyahu has secured a fourth consecutive term as Israel's prime minister. The Union of Right Wing Parties says Netanyahu promised it both the education ministry and the justice ministry, and who are we to doubt it? Along with Netanyahu's other right-wing allies, the URWP has already backed a new law that would protect the prime minister from being indicted on pending corruption charges.

Israel's latest parliamentary election has consolidated the country's position within a growing bloc of illiberal democracies around the world. Once again, Netanyahu has won by mobilizing the people against the very state institutions that he is supposed to uphold and defend. In this election cycle, he shamelessly lambasted the judicial system and the police for doing their jobs. He attacked the media for uncovering improper behavior by his family and cronies. He pilloried public intellectuals for refusing to acknowledge his greatness. And he depicted the old Zionist "left" as traitors.

As for the Arab parties, they lost around 25% of their seats, owing partly to voter abstention. With Netanyahu having pushed through a "nation-state law" declaring the pursuit of "national self-determination" in Israel as "unique to the Jewish people," Israel's Arab citizens apparently are through lending credibility to a sham democracy. Throughout the campaign, they were treated as political lepers by practically every segment of the Israeli body politic.

The Israeli left, in particular, has been exposed as a bankrupt political project. In fact, Netanyahu's Israel has swung so far right that the term "leftist" itself is now a smear. Both his party's main challenger, the centrist Blue and White alliance, and the Labor Party have run away from the label. And both not only lacked the courage to stand up to Netanyahu's maligning of Israeli Arabs as enemies of the state, but also refused even to consider forming a parliamentary alliance with Arab parties. On the Arab question, liberal Zionists have acceded to Netanyahu's project of making Israel into a one-race, one-party state.

All told, the election amounts to a monumental indictment of Israel's democracy. In a campaign dominated by personal smears and disinformation, not one substantive issue was debated seriously. It was as if the consequences of Netanyahu's cruel neoliberal policies - a weakened welfare state and squeezed middle classes - did not matter at all. Nor was there any discussion of the unproductive Orthodox community's dependence on state subsidies, which have grown substantially under Netanyahu.

And then there is the elephant in the room: the Palestinian question. Fearing the loss of conservative votes, the left and center parties

did not make a single convincing statement - let alone offer a policy program - to address the greatest existential and moral challenge facing the country. Yes, candidates on the left paid lip service to the problem, and Benny Gantz, the colorless leader of Blue and White, muttered something about the need for a "diplomatic move" with respect to the occupied territories, but that was it.

Meanwhile, Gantz and those on the left said almost nothing when Netanyahu boasted that he could get US President Donald Trump to greenlight a partial Israeli annexation of the West Bank. And they were equally nonresponsive when Netanyahu took credit for the Trump administration's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, and of Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights.

In fact, US-Israeli relations were another key issue that went almost unmentioned in the election campaign. Never mind that Netanyahu's alliance with Trump and American evangelicals has cost Israel the support of a growing portion of the US Democratic Party establishment, or that his blank check to the Israeli Orthodox community has alienated America's predominantly liberal Jewish community. After Beto O'Rourke, a contender for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2020, warned that Netanyahu is a "racist" who is damaging America's special alliance with Israel, Israelis responded by extending that racist's grip on power.

Throughout the campaign, Netanyahu touted his foreign-policy record. In addition to cozying up to illiberal Eastern European governments and Brazil's new right-wing president, Jair Bolsonaro, he claims to have bolstered Israel's economic clout in Asia, made diplomatic breakthroughs in Africa, and forged covert partnerships with neighboring Arab countries, not least Saudi Arabia.

And here, too, Netanyahu's opponents dropped the ball. They could have pointed out that his goal in brokering new partnerships is to head off international opposition to his planned annexation of Palestinian territory. Instead of using Israel's diplomatic relationships to work toward an acceptable solution to its primary existential challenge, he has exploited them for his own chauvinist agenda.

Sadly, the election leaves no doubt about what awaits Israel in the coming years. A cabal of Netanyahu cronies and family members, racist messianic settlers, and Orthodox parties with opportunistic designs on the state budget will drag Israel toward a new single-state reality that will resemble apartheid South Africa.

If there is any consolation, it is that the Israeli left and center - from Meretz and Labor to the Arab parties and Blue and White - still collectively represents almost half of the electorate. A bold leader who is willing to fight for Israel's soul could prevail, but only by unapologetically allying with Israeli Arabs. That is not just the best electoral strategy. It is also the right thing to do.

## O-PED

By Emily Jones , Calum Miller

## The Brexit Impossibility Triangle

**O**XFORD - With the European Union's latest extension of the United Kingdom's membership in the bloc, onlookers around the world are right to wonder why the Brexit process has proved so intractable. The short answer is that the UK's government and parliament are trying to achieve three incompatible goals: preserving the country's territorial integrity, preventing the return of a hard border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, and enabling the UK to strike its own trade deals.

The British are finally confronting the fact that only two of these objectives can be met at any one time. This implies that there are three basic scenarios for moving ahead with Brexit.

The first scenario centers on a "free-trade union," which would grant Britain autonomy over trade policy and territorial integrity in exchange for the return of a hard border in Ireland. Trade-policy autonomy requires that the UK leave both the EU customs union and the single market. In either case, customs and regulatory checks would have to be established at the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Though some have suggested that new technologies could obviate the need for physical border checkpoints, no such technologies exist. Hence, a major risk in this scenario is that the return of a hard border would jeopardize the 1998 Good Friday Agreement, which ended decades of violence in Northern Ireland.

The second scenario would offer an answer to the Irish question. The UK could enjoy trade-policy autonomy without a hard border in Ireland by sacrificing territorial integrity. This would involve keeping Northern Ireland in the EU customs union and single market while establishing a border in the Irish Sea - that is, between Northern Ireland and Great Britain.

The problem with this arrangement is that different parts of the UK would have different trade rules and regulations. Not only would Unionists in Northern Ireland object to being separated from the rest of the UK - again, raising the risk of renewed conflict - but Scotland would probably demand its own closer relationship with the EU. And if the Scots decided to pursue another independence referendum, the entire UK could be at risk.

Under the third scenario, the UK could avoid the Irish question and preserve its territorial integrity, but would have to abandon the vision of "Global Britain" by remaining in both the customs union and single market. Under this scenario, there would be no meaningful autonomy over trade policy. This is the essence of the "Common Market 2.0" proposal that has been put before the House of Commons.

Following Norway, the UK could opt out of the Common Agricultural Policy and the Common Fisheries Policy, thereby reducing its EU budget contributions. But it would still have to permit significant migration from the EU - a key red line of the "Leave" camp. Likewise, Britain would still fall under the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice, albeit indirectly.

Moreover, even a simple customs union with the EU - the option that has so far come closest to commanding a parliamentary majority - doesn't resolve the Brexit trilemma. While it would grant the UK control over immigration, it would require new regulatory checks between Britain and the EU. It also means that Britain would be locked out of the single market in services, which constituted around 40% of British exports to the EU in 2017, accounting for a surplus of £28 billion (\$36 billion).

The Brexit impossibility triangle makes clear why UK Prime Minister Theresa May's withdrawal deal has been rejected by the House of Commons multiple times. As an exit treaty, it leaves open the details of the UK's future relations with the European Union, but it does include a legally binding commitment (the "backstop") to prevent the return of a hard border in Ireland. In the terms of the Brexit trilemma, May's deal rules out the first scenario of a "free-trade union," but leaves the inevitable choice between trade-policy autonomy and territorial integrity for the next stage of the Brexit negotiations. It is this ambiguity that worries many MPs.

For their part, hardline Brexiteers are determined to secure autonomy over trade policy, which means they would accept a border through the Irish Sea. But then Scotland would demand its own special arrangement vis-à-vis the EU, putting the UK on track for a major constitutional shakeup, and possibly dissolution. Avoiding this scenario means sacrificing autonomy over trade policy for the sake of the Good Friday Agreement and territorial integrity. But this would upset hardline Brexiteers and could split the Conservative Party, a risk Theresa May has been unwilling to take.

British leaders need to acknowledge that all Brexit scenarios involve tradeoffs, and the country urgently needs to hold a national debate to rank the electorate's preferences. The choice is between one of the three Brexit scenarios and suspending the Brexit process altogether. Without a mature and frank discussion, the UK will continue to bear the costs of interminable uncertainty and indecisiveness.

But, of course, a proper debate requires effective leadership that highlights the choices and creates space for compromise. If the wounds of Brexit are ever to heal, voters will have to move past transactional, tribal politics and embrace leaders who are willing to reach out to the other side and speak honestly about policy tradeoffs. Only by working together will the UK arrive at an outcome that all can respect and live with.

## OPINION

By Ana Palacio

## Closing Europe's Confidence Gap

**M**ADRID - In Spanish, the word *confianza* has a double meaning. On one hand, it describes a firm trust in something or someone - the kind of trust that people around the world, from Brazil to the United States to North Africa, increasingly lack in their leaders and even governance systems. On the other hand, *confianza* refers to confidence in oneself - something that is in particularly short supply in Europe.

In fact, the European Union is suffering from a deficit of *confianza* in both senses. This is a uniquely dangerous mix, because a lack of trust and self-confidence is leading the EU not just to outsider politics and even outlaw politicians, but also to policy paralysis, public outrage, and an utter inability to determine its own destiny. Both before and after next month's European Parliament election - which will precede a new European Commission and a new European Council president - this deficit must urgently be addressed.

Public trust in EU leaders and institutions took a serious hit after the 2008 financial crisis. By then, the original purpose of the European project - to support peace on the continent after the devastation of World War II - had lost its purchase on public opinion. Europeans had gotten used to peace. Meanwhile, "Europe" became focused on the broader - and vaguer - goal of championing "shared values." That objective underpinned the establishment of the formal EU institutions.

For voters, however, lofty ideals were not the point. Europe had achieved peace through prosperity; mutually beneficial economic relations were the key to deterring conflict. But, as the memory of the war faded, the means became the ends. Prosperity was all that mattered.

So, when markets crashed in 2008, and Europe was engulfed by a series of crises (which were exacerbated by flaws in the European architecture), the public lost confidence that the European project was even viable, let alone desirable. These doubts intensified as other trends - including globalization, automation, and the emerging dominance of Big Tech - transformed economies and societies, creating new sources of insecurity.

Economies had become much broader than societies, and thus lacked the social underpinnings of the past. Add to that the expansion of the regulatory state, and citizens felt a perceptible loss of agency.

The resulting uncertainty has produced fear and frustration, fueling popular anger not just at flaws in the system, but also at the system itself - and the "elites" who had "imposed" it. Aided by opportunistic politicians, mainstream political parties have become the enemy, and experts have lost credibility. Truth itself is under attack.

An effective response to this challenge must be broad, multilayered, and robust. In European countries - and in the Western democracies more broadly - such a response requires political leaders to engage more deeply with citizens, together with efforts to build societal resilience. At the European level, it also demands the development of a clear *raison d'être* that extends beyond prosperity. But it also means the construction of a more effective, results-oriented institutional arrangement.

The EU has been an intergovernmental, rather than a transnational, endeavor since at least the financial crisis. Agenda-setting and decision-making authority lies with national governments, and, by default, powerful members, especially Germany, and disruptive mavericks, such as Hungary and Poland, dominate these processes.

During the financial crisis, Europeans looked to German Chancellor Angela Merkel, not then-European Commission President José Manuel Barroso, for a solution. Despite the declaration by Barroso's successor, Jean-Claude Juncker, that his Commission represented a "last chance" for winning back the support of citizens, Merkel has also dominated decision-making these last five years. This is exemplified by migration, where time and again decisions impacting the EU as a whole, including the bloc's agreement with Turkey, were taken in Berlin with little or no consultation. This is the reality.

And yet the European Parliament and the Commission have sought to increase their own powers. This is the wrong way to achieve a meaningfully central place in policymaking. Instead of attempting to offset the power of member states by expanding their competencies, these institutions should focus on comparative advantage.

For the European Parliament, this could mean establishing itself as a source of facts, ideas, and vision, rather than as a co-legislator, given how little appetite there is for surrendering sovereignty even over the most practical issues. At a time of disinformation and confusion, the Parliament could conduct credible studies and disseminate authoritative research, much like the House of Lords does in the United Kingdom.

For the European Commission, the goal should be to strengthen its role as protector of the spirit and vision of the EU treaties, while taking responsibility for proper policy implementation. This would require the Commission to stop trying to show at every opportunity that it is the captain of the ship. As these last years have shown, without political buy-in, it cannot follow through on any course it charts, whether on migration, energy independence, or defense. This failure undermines the EU's credibility, while wasting time and resources.

As for the European Council, it must act more as a collegium and less a loudspeaker for the views of certain capitals in setting direction. Here the role and personality of the Council's incoming president, who will set the tone, is crucial.

By focusing on rebuilding *confianza* in both its forms, the next Commission, Parliament, and Council can bolster the EU's legitimacy and facilitate progress in core areas, such as consolidating the euro and completing the single market and banking union. This new, stronger EU would be far better equipped to defend European interests and values on the world stage, which would bolster public trust further.

But if the EU institutions fail to show the needed humility and vision, no such virtuous circle will emerge. The European ship could continue to drift along aimlessly; worse, it will take on water until, ultimately, it sinks. In the stormy seas of escalating great power competition, that will happen more quickly than EU leaders seem to recognize.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Gov't to institute new policies

*By Lewis S. The*  
 Deputy Information Minister for Press and Public Affairs Eugene L. Fahngon has disclosed here that plans are underway by the government to introduce new policies that will put the country on the right trajectory

policies that put our country on par with its neighbors in the region," he said recently at the Ministry of Information's regular press briefing.

The regular press conference was initially scheduled to be addressed at

addressed by officials from the Ministry of Commerce, but the officials did not also show up.

It prompted Deputy Information Minister Fahngon alone to address the press.

Mr. Fahngon claims that the current government came to power and met bad policies all over the place.

Fahngon says the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) - led government is finding it difficult to [work] with those old policies.

He notes that President Weah is coming up with new policies because the old policies left behind did no good for the country.

According to Mr. Fahngon, the CDC led - government used the first one year in power to observe and monitor the country's situation, while at the same time making significant strides for the wellbeing of the vast majority of the population.

Mr. Fahngon concludes that if change must come early, it is the priority of every well-meaning Liberian, especially those abroad to help their country by bringing investors in the country so as to provide jobs for citizens.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



Deputy Minister Eugene L. Fahngon

and experience rapid growth and development.

"As you may be aware, the government under the leadership of President George M. Weah will in the soonest possible time institute new

the National Port Authority (NPA), but later the NPA authorities did not allow it to be held there.

Subsequently journalist were told that the press briefing would have been

# LRA to expose delinquent officials

The Liberia Revenue Authority or LRA threatens to submit to President George Manneh Weah a comprehensive list of delinquent officials, who have defaulted in paying real property tax.

LRA Commissioner General Thomas Doe Nah,urges public officials including Legislators, Justices and Judges; Heads and Deputies at Ministries, Agencies, Commissions and Public Corporations who are owners of real properties to pay all real property and

He reminds public officials that President George M. Weah had mandated them during a cabinet meeting on December 6, 2018 to be tax compliant.

The announcement notes that public officials, who are themselves beneficiaries of the taxes, have a responsibility to pay their fair share.

The LRA says it seeks to collect lawful revenues, and would expect full cooperation and compliance from everyone concerned.

Commissioner General Nah says the LRA will provide a



# Amb. Endee rallies Liberians to show love for Country

Liberia's Culture Ambassador Juli Endee is rallying Liberians to always put the country first in whatever initiative they find themselves in, regardless of any circumstances.

According to a statement, Amb. Endee says Liberia as a country, will move forward in its social and economic development drive if all Liberians demonstrate greater love for country above all things.

She observes that of late, there has been political bickering in the country heightened by the recent impeachment of Associate Justice Kabineh Ja'neh, and the state of Liberia's fragile economy.

Amid what has been perceived as boiling tension in the country, the Liberia Crusaders for Peace headed by Madam Endee has launched a great initiative aimed at encouraging dialogue over confrontation.

Under the Liberia Patriotic Initiative, otherwise known as the 'Show Love Campaign', Liberians from all walks of life are being encouraged to use advocacy, dialogue and frank exchanges in addressing

whatever problems confronting them in the society.

Madam Endee's statement continues that the Liberia Crusaders for Peace will lead

Let us be our brothers' and sisters' keeper," Amb. Endee pleads with Liberians.

According to the release, the 'Show Love Campaign' targets all Liberians,with the



Ambassador Juli Endee

outreach efforts through Community Engagements to promote the Rule of Law and peaceful co-existence by all Liberians.

"We are brothers and sisters. Liberia is all we have.

holding of special peace and Community Engagement Carnivals across the entire Country.

The Liberia Crusaders for Peace (LCP) Executive Director is encouraging Liberians to

related taxes owed the Government of Liberia.

Real Property or real estate refers to land, structures, or a combination of land and structure that are used either for residential or commercial purposes.

According to a press release, Commissioner General Nah,in a public announcement, notes that the LRA expects all appointed and elected public officials to pay their real property tax obligations no later than May 31, 2019.

comprehensive list of delinquent officials to President Weah.

Meanwhile, the release says in keeping with the revenue code, officials who refuse to cooperate with the exercise would leave the LRA with no option but to bring to bear all legal options at its disposal, including closure of premises, taking lien on properties and other legal action in line with the Liberia Revenue Code. - *Press Release*

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take the message to their respective communities by preaching respect for rule of law and love for country.

The LCP is collaborating with the local media to sustain the campaign in order to ensure that Liberia remains on the path of peace and development.

According to her, if Liberians continue to demonstrate patriotism and

show love for country, the collective development of the country will be accelerated to a level that yields greater benefits for all.

The Liberia Crusaders for Peace has always taken the lead in rallying the people to stand up in unity and find an amicable way of dealing with whatever emerging situation confronting the nation.--*Press release*



# LIBERIA AIRPORT AUTHORITY



Republic of Liberia

## ....Pictorial of LAA South-eastern Tour of Airstrips .....

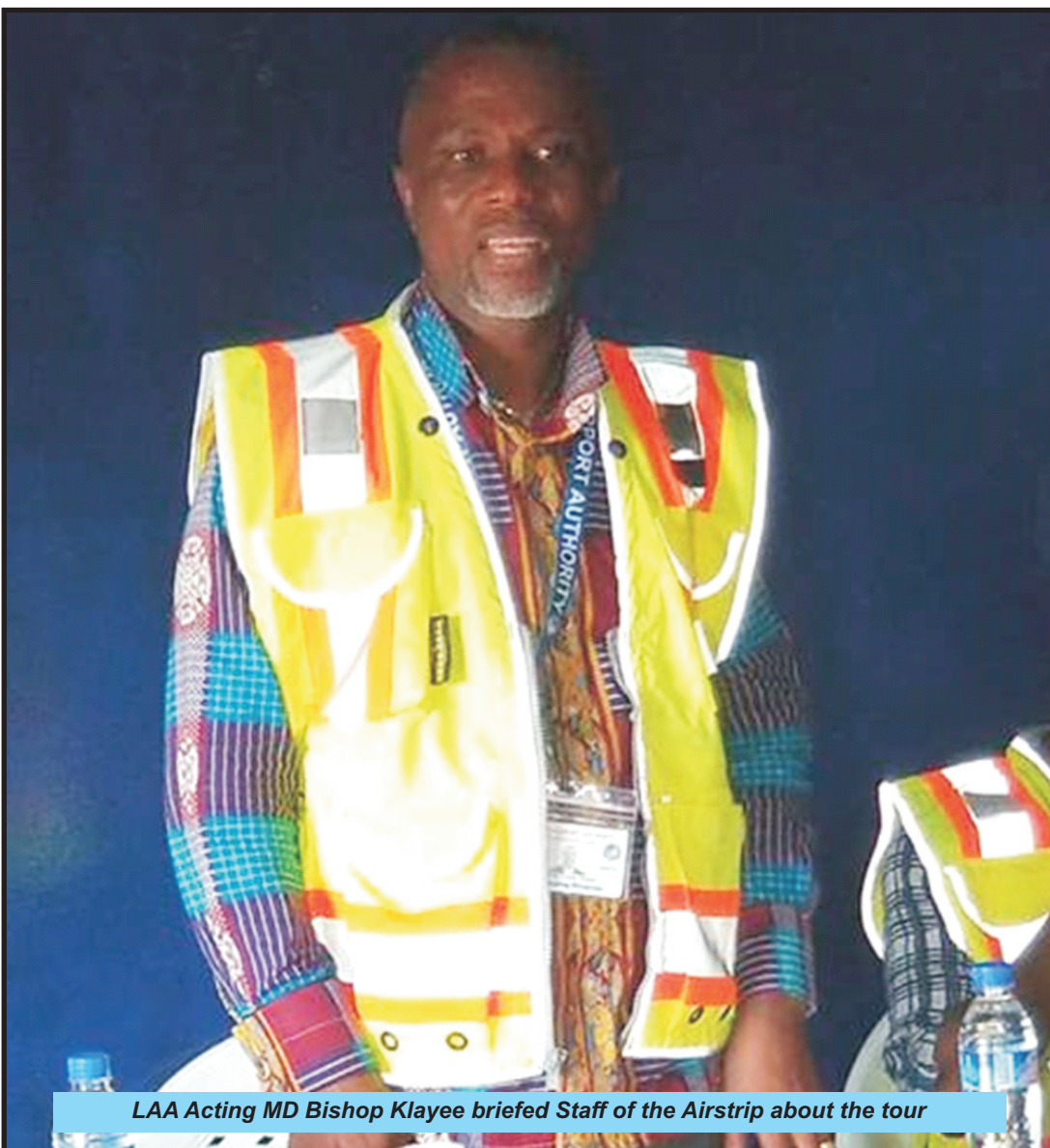
On April 9, 2019 an eleven man inspection team, headed by the Acting Managing Director of the Liberia Airport Authority, Bishop John Allan Klayee, began a tour of the southeast to assess the conditions of five airstrips in Sinoe, Grand Kru, Maryland and Grand Gedeh Counties. Member of the team include: Acting MD, Bishop J. Allan Klayee, Deputy MD-Operations, Sandra Daye, Deputy MD-Technical Services, Paula Fares, Chief Financial Officer, George Yuoh and Spriggs Port Manager with oversight responsibilities of domestic airports, Emmanuel Tarplah among others. This inspection tour comes at a time, the LAA management is keen to make these airstrips commercially viable.



LAA Management & Staff of the R.E Murrays Airstrip in Greenville posed for photo



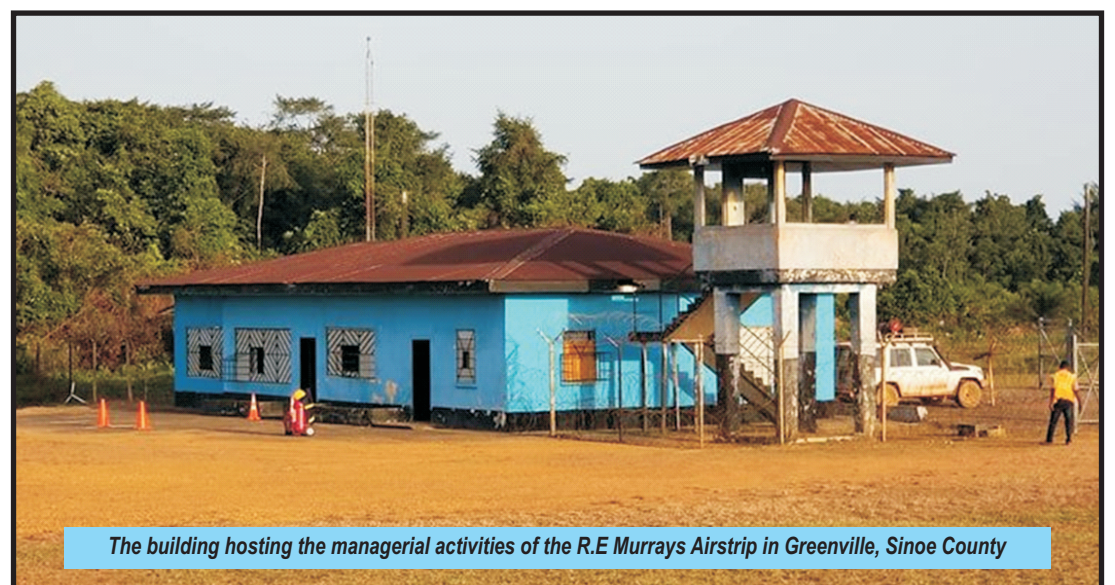
LAA Inspection Team on the Airstrip as Spriggs Port Manager Tarplah explains about the 5000/100ft airstrip



LAA Acting MD Bishop Klayee briefed Staff of the Airstrip about the tour



Deputy MD Tech. Svcs, Fares and CFO Yuoh point the length of the airstrip



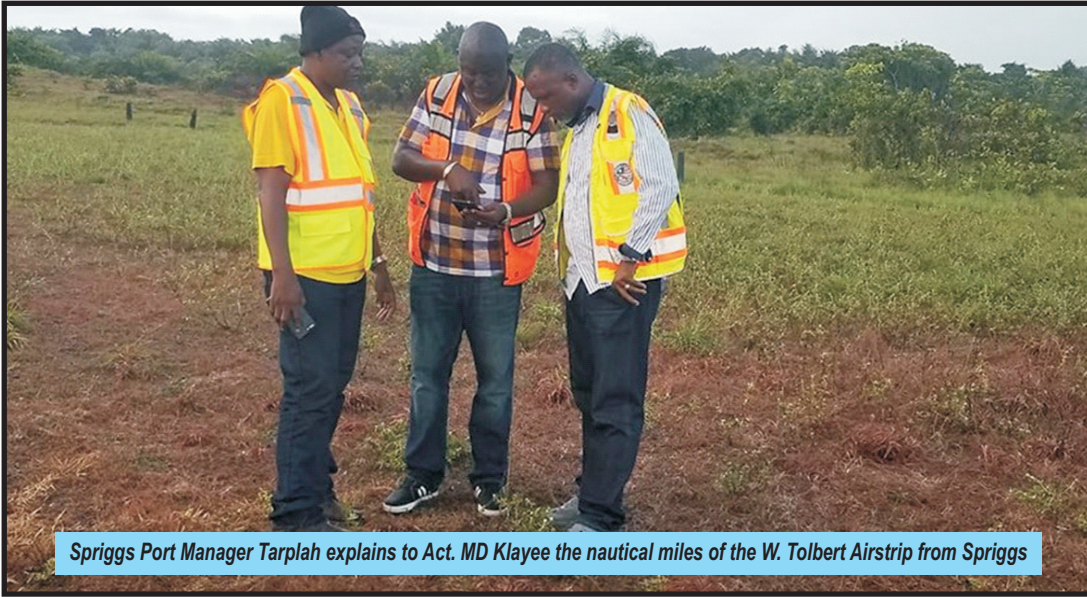
The building hosting the managerial activities of the R.E Murrays Airstrip in Greenville, Sinoe County



An aerial view of the William R. Tolbert Airstrip in Grandcess, Grand Kru County



Act. MD Bishop Klayee, DMDO-Daye, DMD Tech. Svcs. Fares and CFO Yuoh as they briefed staff of the W. Tolbert Airstrip



Spriggs Port Manager Tarplah explains to Act. MD Klayee the nautical miles of the W. Tolbert Airstrip from Spriggs



LAA Management presents a fire extinguisher to the Tolbert Airstrip



LAA Management and Staff of the W. Tolbert Airstrip in Grandcress



LAA Act. MD Klayee and M. Land Supt Proud (in African shirt) posed for photo for a meeting to secure the Alex Tubman Airstrip



DMDO Sandra Daye leads the way on the Alex Tubman Airstrip in Harper



DMDO Daye, Act. MD Bishop Klayee and DMD Tech. Svcs. Fares at the edge (approach) of the A. Tubman Airstrip



LAA Management and Staff of the William D. Coleman Airstrip in Zwedru in a photograph



Grand Gedeh Supt. Kai Farley and LAA Act. MD Bishop Klayee chat about securing the facility from encroachment by locals



Act. MD Bishop Klayee and CFO Youh shared a happy moment in the Grand Gedeh Supt. Office after a meeting on securing the airstrip

# Français

## Le tribunal prononce un non-lieu dans l'affaire Matilda

La Cour pénale « C » a rejeté les charges portées contre l'ancienne directrice générale de la National Port Authority (NPA), Matilda Parker, et son ancienne contrôleur, Mme Christina Kpabar-Paelay.

La décision de la cour a été rendue le mercredi 11 avril à la suite de la requête introduite par l'accusation qui demandait un ajournement de l'affaire pour 24 heures en raison de l'absence des témoins à charge de première ligne à l'ouverture du procès.

Les deux responsables ont été inculpées en 2015 sous le régime de l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, après qu'elles ont attribué deux contrats de dragage et d'enlèvement d'épaves du port de Greenville, dans le comté de Sinoe, à une entreprise.

Elles ont été accusées de vol de biens, de sabotage économique et de complot criminel pour avoir détourné un montant de 837 950 USD entre juillet 2011 et décembre 2012.

Rejetant la demande de l'accusation de repousser l'audience d'un jour, le juge président Boima Kontoe a déclaré que l'accusation n'avait pas donné de motif valable [pour son excuse].

Le premier procès dans ce dossier a été perturbé par une plainte du parquet qui dénonçait une manipulation du

jury sous l'administration de Mme Sirleaf. La Cour suprême, dans sa décision du 4 octobre 2017 avait imposé un nouveau procès.

Dès le début de la nouvelle procédure en septembre 2018, l'accusation a demandé à la cour de consigner dans son procès-verbal les témoignages de ses six témoins présentés

lors du premier procès.

La défense s'est opposée à cette demande, mais le tribunal a accédé à la demande de l'accusation et l'affaire a par la suite été ajournée pour être entendue le mercredi 10 avril 2019. Cependant, le parquet a de nouveau informé le tribunal mercredi qu'il souhaitait que l'audience soit différée d'un jour en raison de l'absence de témoins de première ligne.

Mais le juge Kkontoe s'est dit agacé par la demande répétée du parquet de reporter l'audience afin de contacter les témoins absents au tribunal.

Pendant le régime de Mme Sirleaf, Mme Parker et Mme

Paelay auraient attribué gré à gré deux contrats à un certain Deneah Martins Flomo et à son entreprise Denmar.

Mais Deneah a plutôt été utilisé comme témoin d'État lors du premier procès qui a été perturbé par l'affirmation du parquet selon laquelle le jury aurait été soudoyé.

L'Etat a déclaré que les contrats auraient été attribués sans l'approbation de la Commission des marchés publics et des concessions (PPCC). En vertu des contrats, Flomo et son entreprise Denmar étaient tenus d'enlever les épaves du port de Greenville et de fournir des services de consultants en matière de sécurité dans les ports de Monrovia, Buchanan et Greenville pour le compte de la NPA.

Lors du premier et du deuxième procès, les accusés ont nié toutes les charges retenues contre eux.



Former NPA Managing Director Matilda Parker

## Appel à la réintroduction de la patrouille routière

Jefferson Blama, directeur des questions sanitaires du Centre Moderne de la Santé situé le long de la route Monrovia-Kakata, a souligné la nécessité urgente pour la police nationale du Libéria (LNP) de réintroduire sa patrouille routière.

Son appel fait suite, dit-il, au constat des nombreux

accidents qui ont lieu sur les principales routes du pays, entraînant des pertes de vies humaines et des pertes de biens matériels.

S'exprimant devant son bureau à l'extérieur de Monrovia, il a attribué la plupart des accidents de circulation au fait que les agents de la police routière qui

patrouillaient et surveillaient de près le mouvement des véhicules ne sont plus actifs.

M. Blama a félicité le gouvernement pour sa récente déclaration, demandant notamment aux camions sillonnant les routes du pays de disposer d'un système d'éclairage supplémentaire, affirmant que cela va dans la bonne direction, tout en soulignant la nécessité pour la police de déployer des agents de patrouille routière pour arrêter et poursuivre les conducteurs qui se rendent coupables de violation des règles de la route.

Il s'est dit inquiet car malgré l'arrivée de la saison des pluies les conducteurs de véhicules et de motos continueront à rouler à vive allure, simplement à cause du fait qu'il n'y a pas de patrouilleurs sur les routes pour réglementer la circulation.

« Mon frère, laisse-moi te dire que tant qu'il n'y aura personne sur ces routes pour réglementer les mouvements des automobilistes et des motocyclistes, il y aura d'innombrables accidents vue

## Guinée/Sénégal : révélation sur l'appel de Macky qui a énervé Alpha Condé

Alors que la bourde des hommes chargés du protocole du palais de la République, lors de la visite du président égyptien, n'a pas encore fini de faire parler, le journal « Le Quotidien », dans sa parution du jour, signale une autre bourde diplomatique. Et c'est entre le Sénégal et la Guinée Conakry d'Alpha Condé.

En effet, le journal rapporte que le Président Sall, en voulant joindre l'opposant Cellou Dalein Diallo, une personne du Standard de la présidence de la République a tout simplement composé le numéro personnel du Président Alpha Condé.

Après avoir dit ses quatre vérités à la personne en question, le Président guinéen, qui a très mal pris la tournure de la discussion ne s'est pas gêné de rappeler



directement, son homologue, Macky Sall, pour remettre les pendules à l'heure.

Pour le moment, précise le journal, on ne sait pas si Alpha Condé a été calmé par les explications embrouillées du chef de l'Etat, Macky Sall. En tous cas, le tout nouveau ministre des Affaires étrangères, Amadou Bâ a du pain sur la planche avec sa nouvelle fonction, pour rafistoler ce télescope causé par l'administration sénégalaise.

l'attitude de certains conducteurs. Ils profiteront du manque de policiers pour faire n'importe quoi sur les routes », a-t-il expliqué.

Il croit que la présence des équipes de patrouille empêchera les automobilistes de se mal comporter sur les routes pour leur propre sécurité et la sécurité des passagers et des piétons.

M. Blama exhorte également le gouvernement à ne pas compromettre la sécurité des gens ordinaires qui passent 24 heures sur 24 sur ces routes pour aller vaguer à leurs occupations.

Son souhait, c'est que la division de la police nationale

du Libéria chargée de la circulation routière bénéficie d'un soutien accru afin de veiller à ce qu'elle s'acquitte efficacement de sa mission de protéger les vies humaines et les biens.

En raison du manque de patrouilles sur les routes, surtout pendant les heures nocturnes, le représentant du district 16 du comté de Montserrado, Adolph Lawrence, a perdu sa vie le long de la route de Robertsfield avec une passagère dans un accident tragique le mois dernier alors qu'il rentrait du comté de Grand Bassa.





# Français

## Le sénateur Grupee démissionne de l'UP

Après sa suspension de l'ancien parti au pouvoir, le sénateur Thomas Grupee du comté de Nimba démissionne.

Le sénateur Grupee a officiellement remis sa lettre de démission aux autorités de l'UP, devenant ainsi le premier législateur à avoir réagi de cette façon après sa suspension.

Le parti a récemment suspendu huit sénateurs qui avaient voté en faveur de la destitution de l'ancien juge associé Kabineh Ja'neh.

Le sénateur Grupee a expliqué que sa suspension était injuste, arguant que le parti n'a pas donné d'instruction quant à savoir s'il faut voter pour ou contre la destitution du l'ancien juge adjoint. Il croit avoir voté dans l'intérêt de la justice.

Le sénateur Grupee a ajouté en disant qu'il n'a pas de compte à rendre à qui que ce soit quant à sa décision en ce qui concerne la destitution de l'ancien juge associé Kabineh Ja'neh.

L'ancien juge Ja'neh, en août 2018, a été mis en accusation par la Chambre

des représentants de quatre chefs d'accusation, allant de l'abus de pouvoir judiciaire au vol de biens. À la suite de la mise en accusation, l'affaire a été transmise au Sénat Libérien où l'ancien juge associé a été jugé coupable et destitué.

Toutefois, quoique le sénateur n'ait pas encore annoncé sa prochaine décision, à savoir quel parti rejoindre, surtout que les élections sénatoriales à mi-parcours de 2020 sont pour bientôt, la coalition au pouvoir a récemment lancé une invitation publique aux huit sénateurs suspendus par leur parti.

Lors d'une conférence de presse tenue le 4 avril, la présidente du CDC, Mulbah Morlu, a demandé aux sénateurs suspendus de se diriger vers le pouvoir en place, où ils seront accueillis et traités avec respect et dignité, en déclarant : « Certains de ces sénateurs faisaient partie de nous et nous les appelons à revenir chez à la maison, car ici, ils seront respectés et appréciés pour leur rôle dans l'avancement du pays. »

## Affaire Kieffer en Côte d'Ivoire: quinze ans après, l'affaire risque d'être classée

En Côte d'Ivoire, à quelques jours du 15e anniversaire, le 16 avril 2004, de la disparition du journaliste franco-canadien Guy-André Kieffer sur un parking d'un supermarché à Abidjan, Reporters sans frontières (RSF) appelle les autorités ivoiriennes et françaises à tenir leurs engagements pour faire la lumière dans ce dossier. L'organisation de défense de la liberté de la presse craint que l'affaire soit classée, si rien n'est fait.

« Il serait inacceptable que ce dossier soit classé par la justice des deux pays alors que tous les témoins n'ont pas été interrogés et que les responsables n'ont pas été arrêtés », souligne Baudelaire Mieu, correspondant de RSF en Côte d'Ivoire, joint par RFI.

Guy-André Kieffer enquêtait sur les milieux troubles du commerce du cacao et sur d'éventuelles malversations dans la filière. Comme presque chaque année depuis 2004, sa

famille et ses proches regrettent l'enlèvement de l'enquête. Cette absence de progrès dans l'enquête est particulièrement inquiétante, comme l'explique Baudelaire Mieu : « L'absence de progrès dans l'enquête est d'autant plus inquiétante que certains des protagonistes cités sont morts. Michel Legré, très proche du président Laurent Gbagbo, qui avait donné rendez-vous à Guy-André Kieffer le jour de sa disparition, est mort en 2016. Il avait, dans un premier temps, avoué avoir servi d'appât pour attirer le journaliste sur ordre du régime, avant de se rétracter. L'ancien ministre des Finances de Laurent Gbagbo, Bohoun Bouabré, dont le nom a été cité dans cette affaire, est pour sa part décédé en 2012. »

« En 2016, l'ancien chef de la sécurité de Simone Gbagbo, Anselme Seka Yao dit Seka-Seka avait été accusé, par un ex-chef des milices pro- Gbagbo.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Shlomo Ben-Ami

## Israël double la mise sur la démocratie intolérante

TEL AVIV - C'est Bibi encore une fois. Après s'être allié sans réserve avec un parti raciste et juif suprémaciste, Benjamin Netanyahu a obtenu un quatrième mandat consécutif de Premier ministre d'Israël. L'Union des partis de droite indique que Netanyahu lui a promis le ministère de l'éducation et le ministère de la justice - et qui sommes-nous pour y trouver à redire ? Avec d'autres alliés de droite de Netanyahu, l'Union des partis de droite a déjà soutenu une nouvelle loi qui doit protéger le Premier ministre contre des accusations de corruption en instance.

Les dernières élections législatives d'Israël ont consolidé la position du pays au sein d'un bloc grandissant de démocraties intolérantes autour du monde. Une nouvelle fois, Netanyahu a remporté le scrutin en mobilisant le peuple contre les mêmes institutions publiques qu'il est censé faire respecter et défendre. Dans ce cycle électoral, il a fustigé sans scrupules le système juridique et la police pour avoir exercé leurs fonctions. Il a attaqué les médias pour avoir découvert son comportement inconvenant à l'égard de sa famille et de sa clientèle. Il a cloué au pilori les intellectuels publics qui ont refusé de reconnaître sa grandeur. Et il a dépeint l'ancienne « gauche » sioniste sous des traits de traîtres.

Quant aux partis arabes, ils ont perdu environ 25 % de leurs sièges, en partie à cause de l'abstention des électeurs. Alors que Netanyahu a fait passer une « loi de l'État-nation » déclarant la poursuite « de l'autodétermination nationale » en Israël comme « unique au peuple juif, » les citoyens arabes d'Israël en ont apparemment assez de croire à une démocratie de façade. Tout au long de la campagne, ils ont été traités comme des lépreux politiques par pratiquement chaque segment du corps politique israélien.

La gauche israélienne, en particulier, s'est révélée être un projet politique en déroute. En fait, l'Israël de Netanyahu s'est tant positionné à l'extrême-droite que le terme « gauchiste » lui-même est à présent devenu une calomnie. Le principal rival de son parti - l'Alliance Bleu et Blanc centriste - et le Parti travailliste se sont démarqués de cette étiquette. Et tous deux ont non seulement manqué du courage de tenir tête aux calomnies de Netanyahu à l'encontre des Arabes israéliens qualifiés d'ennemis de l'État, mais ont également refusé d'envisager de former une alliance parlementaire avec les partis arabes. Sur la question arabe, les Sionistes libéraux se sont affiliés au projet de Netanyahu de transformer Israël en un État à race unique et à parti unique.

Au total, les élections équivalent à un monumental acte d'accusation de la démocratie d'Israël. Dans une campagne dominée par les calomnies personnelles et la désinformation, aucune question de fond n'a été débattue sérieusement. Tout s'est déroulé comme si les conséquences des politiques néo-libérales cruelles de Netanyahu - un État providence affaibli et des classes moyennes comprimées - n'avaient aucune importance. Il n'y pas eu non plus la moindre discussion au sujet de la dépendance de la communauté orthodoxe improductive aux aides accordées par l'État, qui se sont considérablement développées sous Netanyahu.

Sans oublier le problème majeur passé sous silence : la question palestinienne. En craignant de perdre les voix des conservateurs, la gauche et les partis du centre n'ont pas fait une seule déclaration convaincante - sans parler d'une proposition de

programme politique - pour faire face au plus grand défi existentiel et moral posé au pays. Oui, les candidats de gauche ont reconnu le problème pour la forme et Benny Gantz, le leader terne du parti Bleu et Blanc, a marmonné quelques phrases au sujet de la nécessité d'un « geste diplomatique » destiné aux territoires occupés, mais pas davantage.

En attendant, Gantz et ceux des partis de gauche n'ont quasiment rien dit quand Netanyahu a revendiqué qu'il pourrait obtenir du Président américain Donald Trump le feu vert pour une annexion israélienne partielle de la Cisjordanie. Ils n'ont pas non plus eu la moindre réaction quand Netanyahu s'est attribué le mérite de ce que l'administration Trump ait reconnu Jérusalem comme capitale d'Israël, ainsi que la souveraineté israélienne sur le plateau du Golan.

En fait, les relations entre les États-Unis et Israël ont été un autre problème fondamental qui n'a quasiment pas été évoqué durant la campagne électorale. Qu'importe que l'alliance de Netanyahu avec Trump et les évangélistes américains ait coûté à Israël l'appui d'une partie grandissante de l'establishment du parti démocrate américain, ou que son blanc-seing à la communauté orthodoxe israélienne ait aliéné la communauté juive essentiellement progressiste de l'Amérique. Après que Beto O'Rourke, un candidat à la nomination présidentielle démocrate en 2020, ait averti que Netanyahu est un « raciste » qui cause du tort à l'alliance spéciale de l'Amérique avec Israël, des Israéliens ont répondu en prolongeant la durée de cette emprise raciste sur le pouvoir.

Tout au long de la campagne, Netanyahu s'est vanté de ses états de service en politique étrangère. En plus de se rapprocher des gouvernements intolérants d'Europe de l'Est et de Jair Bolsonaro, le nouveau président de droite du Brésil, il prétend s'être fait le champion de l'influence économique d'Israël en Asie, avoir réalisé des avancées diplomatiques en Afrique et avoir forgé des partenariats secrets avec les pays arabes voisins, en particulier avec l'Arabie Saoudite.

Là encore, les adversaires de Netanyahu ont raté le coche. Ils auraient pu faire remarquer que le but poursuivi par Netanyahu dans ses nouveaux partenariats consistait à se débarrasser de l'opposition internationale à son projet d'annexion du territoire palestinien. Au lieu d'utiliser les relations diplomatiques d'Israël pour travailler en vue d'une solution acceptable à son défi existentiel primaire, il les a exploitées au bénéfice de son ordre du jour chauvin.

Malheureusement, les élections ne laissent aucun doute sur ce qui attend Israël dans les années à venir. Une cabale menée par la clientèle de Netanyahu et par des membres de sa famille, par des colons messianiques racistes et des partis orthodoxes ayant des conceptions opportunistes sur le budget de l'État, va entraîner Israël dans la réalité d'un État unique qui va ressembler à ce qu'a été la ségrégation en Afrique du Sud.

Si une chose peut nous consoler, c'est que les partis de gauche et du centre israélien - Meretz et le Parti travailliste, les partis arabes et le parti Bleu et Blanc - représentent encore collectivement près de la moitié de l'électorat. Un leader audacieux et disposé à se battre pour l'âme d'Israël pourrait prendre l'avantage, mais seulement en s'alliant sans réserve avec les Arabes israéliens. Ce n'est pas simplement la meilleure stratégie électorale. C'est également la bonne chose à faire.

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Chief Justice cautions judicial reporters

By Winston W. Parley

Liberia's Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor, Sr. has urged journalists accredited to the Judiciary to report the truth, assuring them that nothing is done in secrecy at that branch of government.

Addressing dozens of judicial reporters at the climax of a five - day intensive Specialized Judicial Reporting training at the Temple of Justice Saturday, 13 April, Chief Justice Korkpor cautions participants to seek clarity with the Judicial Public Information office if there is an issue that they do not understand.

"We know that in a democratic situation, it's better for the people to ... speak out," he says, and emphasizes that journalists must "just report the truth."

"You and I have the responsibility to protect the institutions of government," Chief Justice Korkpor challenges journalists here.

With funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Liberia Media Development (LMD) program, Internews has provided the opportunity for Judicial Reporters to go through a five - day intensive specialized



training at the Temple of Justice in Monrovia.

The training covered the Role of the Judiciary in the Context of the Rule of Law and National Development, the Techniques and the Dos and Don'ts in Reporting Litigation, the Layers of the Court System, Legal Jargons, among others.

Chief Justice Korkpor notes that personally given his background in human rights advocacy, he thinks it is good for the democracy for the people to talk, but warns that

it shouldn't be rampantly done especially where it affects the institution.

"If you report correctly, it helps the society," he cautions journalists.

Expressing his gratitude to USAID and Internews for the training of the judicial reporters, Chief Justice Korkpor reveals that he readily welcomed the idea because he thinks there's need for more of these kinds of training "for our press people."

He re-emphasizes the need for more training of

journalists, and further stresses the need for the heads of [media] publishing houses to go so that there can be a dialogue with them to enable them to understand why certain decisions are taken in certain ways.

He observes that at times some reporters may not understand the lawyer's language, and may therefore report what they think the lawyer has said.

Chief Justice Korkpor recognizes that a good number of journalists here are professional, but he equally observes that some other journalists give the wrong impression for some other reasons.

As specialized reporters, Chief Justice Korkpor challenges judicial reporters to read a little bit more and to help them to know so that they can avoid the wrong impression.

He admonishes reporters not to feel too big to say sorry when they err, noting that it takes a great man to recognize his wrong and say sorry.

On behalf of the Trial Judges Association, Commercial Court Chief Judge and one of the lead facilitators, Eva Mappy - Morgan says judges are thrilled for this type of training that

has ensued at the Judiciary.

She notes that judges, lawyers, reporters are all advocates for the truth, and not adversaries because they do the same type of work.

With the training, she expresses confidence that some of the participants are very much prepared to do their work.

Also speaking, the Acting Chief of Party for USAID LMD Internews Mr. Musitini Tawedzegwa says trainings like these are part of the opportunities to ensure that the media and the journalists' skills are sharpened.

He notes that the training is not undermining the skills that journalists already acquired, but the organizers recognize that it is important to broaden and continue to sharpen the skills of participants to continue to develop.

Earlier, the president of the Judicial Reporters Association Mr. Abednego Davis expressed appreciation to the various institutions that supported and made the exercise successful.

He expresses hope that the opportunity will continue to be afforded judicial reporters routinely, committing the group to be objective, ethical and accurate in their reportage.

Mr. Davis however pleads with Internews to talk with its partners to help enhance the capacity of the association, saying the number of accredited reporters has now far grown to utilize the one computer provided by Chief Justice Korkpor.

Cllr. Dr. Jallah Babu and Judge Mappy served as lead facilitators, and other lawyers, some of whom have transitioned from mainstream journalism, including Magistrate Fallah Matthews, Atty. Alphonso Zeon, Atty. Philip Wesseh, Cllr. Bobby Livingstone, among others lectured during the training.

Each of the participants were awarded certificates for successfully completing the exercise.

## ADB okays \$15 million investment package for Infrastructure Credit-Nigeria

The Board of the African Development Bank has approved a \$15-million investment package to Infrastructure Credit Guarantee Company (InfraCredit), to support infrastructure financing through the domestic debt capital markets in Nigeria.

The investment package to InfraCredit is comprised of a subordinated loan of \$10

million and a risk sharing facility of up to \$5 million. This intervention will promote local currency infrastructure financing, and further development of the domestic capital market.

InfraCredit is a specialized infrastructure credit guarantee company, established to enhance local currency debt instruments - mainly bonds, to finance

eligible infrastructure projects in Nigeria. This is intended to uplift the credit rating of such bonds, allowing institutional investors to include them in their portfolios.

InfraCredit was founded by the Nigerian Sovereign Investment Authority (NSIA) in collaboration with GuarantCo (part of the Private Infrastructure Development Group). These initial investors have been joined by the Africa Finance Corporation (AFC) and KfW, the German Development Bank.

The African Development Bank's investment in InfraCredit will catalyze local institutional investor funds, including pension funds, into financing long-term infrastructure projects through the local bond markets. The investment boosts InfraCredit's qualifying capital base through the subordinated loan; it also improves its capacity to expand its guarantee business through the proposed risk sharing arrangement.

Through this intervention,

the African Development Bank is helping to stimulate local currency financing across diverse infrastructure transactions, thereby improving economic diversification and competitiveness, as well as promoting more equitable growth, strengthening local value chains and financial

markets in Nigeria. InfraCredit's operations will catalyze infrastructure investments in critical sectors such as renewable energy, housing, transportation, agricultural infrastructure, and telecommunications, which are critical for the country's economic development.



Visit: [www.thenewdawnliberia.com](http://www.thenewdawnliberia.com)

# Gov't warns planned demonstrators

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Liberia's Minister of State for Presidential Affairs Mr. Nathaniel McGill has issued a stern warning to opposition leaders here against the planned June 7, demonstration saying anything outside of the law could be counterproductive-meaning demonstrators could face the full weight of the law.

"Since we came to the helm of authority of the state, I think there have been seven protests so far as though, the opposition leaders have no option or developmental agenda for the country then to take the streets. We will not compromise the peace and stability of the state. If anything goes wrong here those that are behind protest will be brought before the laws to answer questions, that's not compromising. The interest of the country comes first.

"Some opposition leaders who took the immediate past government to court on grounds that elections' result should be overturned and



there should be rerun of the entire electoral process still acting like the country is still in political campaign mood. They must accept today's realities. We're not worry about their demonstration but nothing contrary should happen or else, they will bear

full weight of the law," he said. Speaking at a news conference in Monrovia, on Sunday morning at residence along the Roberts International Airport Highway in Montserrado County, Minister McGill said, while the government believes in

freedom of association and expression, it at the same time not compromise the peace and stability of its citizens at the expense of few opposition leaders who are reportedly the key factors behind the impending protest under the banner 'peaceful protest seeking the resignation of President George Manneh Weah'.

The former national chairman of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change accuses Cllr. Charles Walker of the Liberty Party, Alexander Cummings of the Alternative National Congress and businessman turned politician Benoni Urey as the planners and sponsors of the would-be demonstration scheduled for June 07.

There have been repeated calls both online and social media for a massive gathering of Liberians from all walks of life to join a peaceful demonstration requesting the resignation of President Weah. Planners have listed missive corruptions among dozens of allegations as the reason for their call.

However, according to Mr. McGill, the government will allow people to protest peacefully in any part of the country but not without the knowledge of the Ministry of Justice, to indicate the routs to be used on the day of the planned protest, to ensure crowd control and police escort for the free flow of traffic.

McGill expressed shock about the wave of protests

since the ascendency of Mr. George Manneh Weah to the Liberian presidency, as though demonstration or protest is the only method that the opposition community can proffer to the government.

He intimated while opposition leaders are using the airwave and some innocent Liberians to plan demonstration against the administration, some of the leaders are in bed with the government.

The chief of office staff in the president's office pointed out that the opposition leaders have nothing to offer the country only protests and nobody will be denied the opportunity to express themselves freely, but if the peaceful protest become chaotic, the laws will take its course and that will start with their leaders.

He, however, was quick to inform Liberians that the Weah's administration is working tirelessly to ensure that the needed goods and social services are delivered to the people.

The former Assistant Minister during the Unity Party led government disclosed that Weah's administration is in close discussion with World bank were US\$150 million has been committed to the construction of the coastal corridors. He also, flagged that international community has finally accepted the road connectivity plans as best and possible of bringing development to the people.

## Senators asked to halt confirmation

By Ethel A. Tweh

Four of the Senators who voted against the impeachment of former Associate Justice Kabine M. Ja'neh have called on the Senate Committee on Judiciary to suspend the confirmation of his designated successor, Judge Yussif D. Kaba until the Senate determines the penalty to impose on impeached Justice Ja'neh.

on oil and gas companies.

But four Senators are demanding that the Senate convenes to discuss the Judgment of impeached Justice Ja'neh to determine the action to be taken against him, like a warning, suspension or the maximum penalty of removal from office and further disqualification to hold public office in the

Senate's mere vote in the impeachment trial of former Justice Ja'neh to determine the verdict of guilty or not guilty is not a judgment which imposes a penalty as required by the Constitution.

They are claiming that impeached Justice Ja'neh still occupies the position of Associate Justice, in the absence of a judgment by the Senate declaring a vacancy on the Supreme Court Bench.

"The fact is that Article 43 doesn't say that upon conviction, those persons are deemed automatically removed from office; rather, Articles 43 and 71 together state very clearly that a Justice or Judge upon being impeached by the Senate may or may be removed from office," the anti-impeachment Senators say.

Article 43 of the Constitution partly says judgements in such cases [impeachment] shall not extend beyond removal from office and disqualification to hold public office in the Republic; but the party (person) may be tried at law for the same offense.

Further, Article 71 sets the basis for the removal of impeached persons on proved misconduct, gross breach of duty, inability to perform the functions of their office, or conviction in a court of law for treason, bribery or other infamous crimes.

But the Senate Committee on Judiciary has recommended that plenary confirms Associate Justice - designate

Republic.

Senators Daniel F. Naatehn, Sr (Gbarpolu County); Sando D. Johnson, (Bomi County); Conmany B. Wesseh, (River Gee County); and Oscar D. Cooper, (Margibi County) expressed their concern in a letter written to the Liberian Senate on 8 April.

According to them, the



Judge Yussif D. Kaba

Through a majority vote the Liberian Senate impeached Justice Ja'neh on 29 March, concurring with an earlier decision taken by the House of Representatives to remove the former justice from the Supreme Court Bench for issuing a writ that denied government from collecting taxes for road funds imposed

## LAA ends rural

Starts from back page

The LAA, Bishop Klayee maintains, will develop a business case to find investors for its inter-city commercial airline plan.

The five days tour had a team of eleven Liberian Airport Professionals including, Acting Managing Director Bishop John Allan Klayee, Deputy Managing

Director for Operations, Sandra Daye, Deputy Managing Director for Technical Services Paula Fares, Chief Financial Officer, George D. Yuoh and Spriggs Port Manager, Emmanuel Tarplah, among others.—Press release

See pages 6 and 7 for pictorial.

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Yussif D. Kaba on grounds that he is qualified for the position.

Judge Kaba was nominated to the position of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court

Bench by President Weah, few days after former Justice Ja'neh's impeachment.--

Edited by Winston W. Parley

# I'm a target of wrong reportage

## -Chief Justice

By Winston W. Parley

Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor, Sr. says he is a target of wrong [media] reportage, asserting that journalists here "sometimes make us look like monsters."

"I have been the target of wrong reportage," Chief Justice Korkpor declared Saturday, 13 April at the Temple of Justice in Monrovia at the climax of a Specialized Judicial Reporting training of journalists covering the Judiciary here.

He argues that since he took over as head of the Judicial Branch of government, he has allowed flexibility, provided office space for assigned journalists at the Temple of Justice to enable them to do their work easily.

He recognizes that a good number of journalists here are professional, but he equally observes that some other journalists give the wrong

impression for some other reasons.

He, however, acknowledges that in a democratic situation,

it is better for the people to speak out.

Chief Justice Korkpor assures that he is not enemy to anybody, including the reporters, as he would not have provided them an office

space if he saw them as adversaries.

"Please, I just want you to report the truth. That's all," he emphasizes.

The Chief Justice declares to judicial reporters that "we are friends of the media," and emphasizes further that the Judiciary is friend of the media also.

He encourages journalist to see their work as complementing that of the judiciary, saying "we need you" in order to get to the public (to inform them about) what has been done in the court, and you need "us" in order to be able to sell your newspapers.

"But sometimes you make us look like monsters. That is true. Some of us come from human rights background, like me. Some of you are very young to know that," he says.

Chief Justice Korkpor recalls taking cases for newspapers years ago in his capacity as human rights advocate, and financing them when they were taken to

court.

But while he is now in authority as Chief Justice, he laments that some of the reporting are making him to look like he is against the media and he is here to do bad.

He notes that the public affairs bureau at the Temple of Justice is established to work like the clearing house, challenging journalists to seek clarity there on issues that they not know or to even contact his office once they cannot get the officers at the public affairs.

The five days training was funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Liberia Media Development (LMD) program, and spearheaded by Internews.

It covered the Role of the Judiciary in the Context of the Rule of Law and National Development, the Techniques and the Dos and Don'ts in Reporting Litigation, the Layers of the Court System, Legal Jargons, among others.



Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor, Sr.

## LAA ends rural airstrips tour

### -Prospects for commercial domestic air travels in sight

Authorities at the Liberia Airport Authority (LAA) have ended a week - long assessment and inspection tour of five rural airstrips in the southeastern region of Liberia.

According to a press release issued in Monrovia, the airstrips toured included, The R. E. Murrays in Greenville, Sinoe County,

Unification in Sass Town, William R. Tolbert in Grandcress, Alexander Tubman in Harper and William D. Coleman airstrip in Zwedru.

According to the Acting Managing Director of LAA, Bishop John Allan Klayee, the tour was aimed at identifying challenges confronting those strips and how the LAA could help mitigate them.

He adds that part of the

tour was to make these airstrips commercially viable, by linking Liberian cities through air routes; something he says, could ease the burden of traveling for hours on road.

Bishop Klayee is optimistic that with this, Liberian cities could become center of attraction through tourism, trade and commerce.



## Counselor Kuku Y. Dorbor in the rearview mirror

Montserratado County District#6 former Representative Cllr. Kuku Y. Dorbor from the 52nd Legislature chaired and co-chaired various committees besides lawmaking and providing oversight while in the House.

In August 2007 to March 2008 she chaired the Judiciary Committee, making sure Committee Reports were made to Plenary for approval; ensuring that public hearings were held with input and recommendations from the public and Committee meetings were called for discussion of draft laws, among other services.

In addition to legislative work, Cllr. Dorbor is deeply involved with humanitarian and community services such as scholarship scheme, women empowerment, construction of public toilets, hand pumps, bus stop, community halls and market buildings, including donation of bundles of zinc.

She has been very instrumental in restructuring community leaderships in the Coca-Cola Factory community, giving to the physically-challenged, Christian and Muslim communities, including renovation of local police cells and distribution of generators to police depots and hosted children party.

Cllr. Dorbor achieved these services working with Non-governmental organizations and development partners as well as engaging communities to make sure developmental packages are sustained, while contributing to schools and organizations.



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