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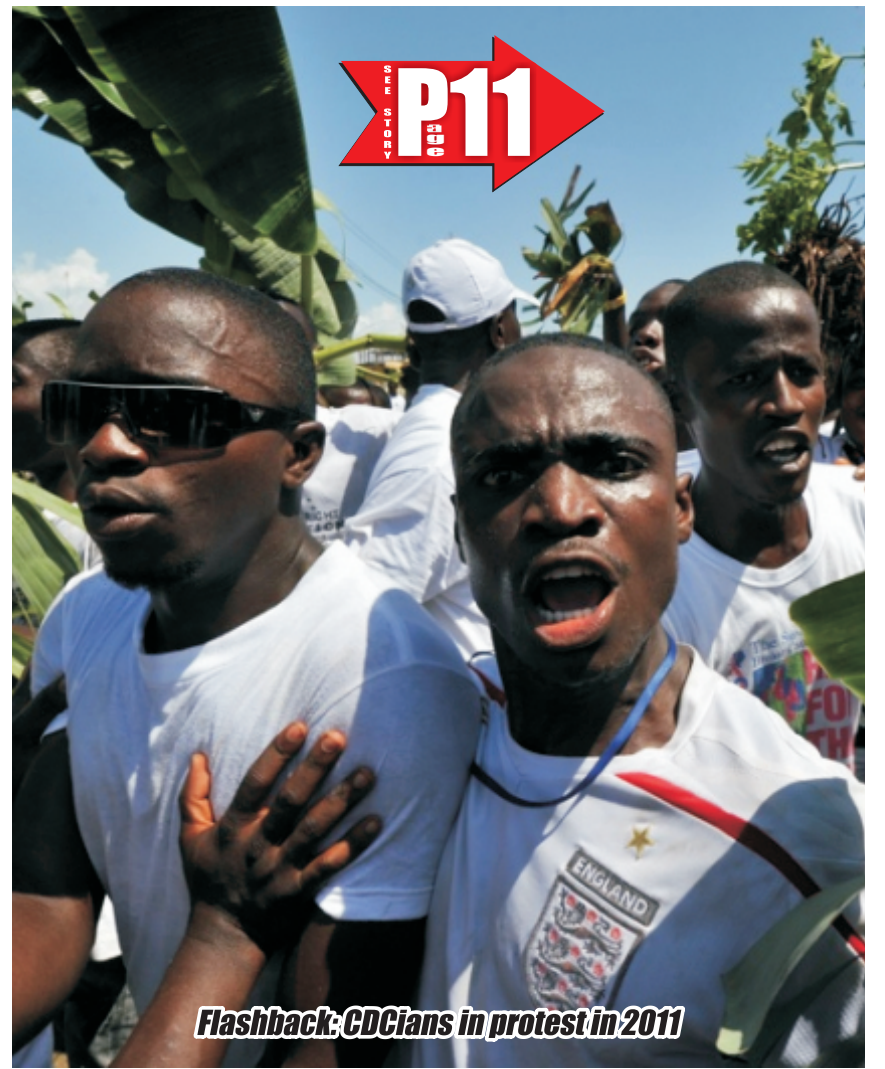
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Flashback: CDCians in protest in 2011



AFL Officer CPL Sieh Collins

AFL officer held over threat to kill protesters



Continental News

Sheep slaughtered as Sudan protesters celebrate Bashir ouster

Several cows and sheep were slaughtered Tuesday as Sudanese protesters celebrated the ouster of longtime leader Omar al-Bashir outside the army complex where they have been camped for days, witnesses said.

"We will distribute this meat among protesters. We are celebrating the dictator's ouster," a demonstrator told AFP.

Several cows and sheep were herded to a building near the army complex.

"A group of men arrived early in the morning and slaughtered the animals, and later they distributed the meat among the demonstrators at the main protest site," a witness said.

They cooked the meat as fresh supplies of bread and water were brought in by vans, an AFP photographer reported from the site.

Thousands of protesters have camped outside the army complex since April 6.

They first demonstrated to

demand the resignation of Bashir and are now insisting on a swift transfer of power from a new ruling military council to a civilian government.

"People have been continuously protesting, they didn't have time to celebrate after Bashir was toppled," said Ahmed Naji, a regular at the

sit-in. "We also have a musical evening planned later for the day where some well-known Sudanese musicians will perform."

While some groups prepared food, there were others cleaning the entire area of the protest site.

Wearing medical masks and carrying brooms, men and women cleaners worked away under a hot afternoon sun, the photographer said.

At the centre of the protest site, groups of men and women danced as musicians played African tunes, while others chanted revolutionary slogans.

But protest organisers cautioned that the "revolution" had still not achieved its goal.

"Yes, we toppled the dictator, but his laws are still there," the Alliance For Freedom and Change, the umbrella group leading the protests said in a statement.

"There's no reason for us to celebrate right now because our revolution has still not

achieved its goals. We have not achieved our victory."

Protest organisers have called on supporters to continue with the sit-in, demanding the military council be dissolved.

On Monday, protesters said the army had attempted to disperse the sit-in.

On Tuesday, a witness said several vehicles carrying members of the paramilitary Rapid Support Force were deployed on a bridge connecting north Khartoum to the protest area.

"There could be another attempt by the troops to disperse us, but we will continue," vowed one demonstrator.-AFP



Sudanese protesters cut the meat of sheep and cows that they slaughtered as they celebrate the ousting of longtime leader Omar al-Bashir outside the army complex in the capital Khartoum (AFP Photo/Ebrahim Hamid)

Equatorial Guinea 'promises to scrap death penalty'

Equatorial Guinea's President Teodoro Obiang Nguema has promised to abolish the death penalty so that the country can retain its membership of a group of Portuguese-speaking nations, AFP news agency reports.

Speaking during a visit to Cape Verde, Mr Obiang said the the Community of Portuguese

Language Countries (CPLP) has asked Equatorial Guinea to scrap the death penalty, but he did not want to act unilaterally.

"So my government will soon put this question to parliament, where my party has a majority. I am sure that this proposal will be approved," he is quoted as saying.

Mr Obiang is Africa's longest-serving ruler, having seized power in a coup in 1979.

Equatorial Guinea last carried out executions in 2014 - the year the former Spanish colony was granted membership of the CPLP on condition it introduced a series of reforms, including abolishing the death penalty.-BBC



WHO says measles cases up by 700% in Africa



Measles can lead to serious health problems such as infections of the brain and lungs.

At least 800 people have died from measles in Madagascar alone since September

Africa has seen a dramatic rise in measles cases of up to 700%, says the World Health Organization (WHO).

The UN agency also says the number of measles cases reported globally in the first three months of 2019 has tripled, compared to the same period last year.

Provisional data shows a

"clear trend", with all regions of the world seeing outbreaks, and the numbers could be higher since only one in 10 cases globally are reported, the WHO says.

Madagascar, India and Ukraine have been the worst hit by the highly infectious viral illness, with tens of thousands of cases reported per million people.

WHO says since September at least 800 people have died from measles in Madagascar alone.-BBC

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EDITORIAL

Mere prayer doesn't win election

CONTROVERSIAL NIMBA COUNTY Senator Prince Y. Johnson urges his colleagues in the senate to be more prayerful than ever before, as they prepare for midterm election in 2020.

HE SAYS SENATORS should put God first in everything they do, stressing that they need Godeveryday especially, ahead of the 2020 senatorial election.

HE RECALLS THAT in past election 15 senators went for re-election and only two came back, while 12 lost, saying, "We are in the days of uncertainty. When you meet senators, they will always boast that they have no match in their counties, but when you look at the end, it's zero; those who made those challenging remarks were kicked out."

WHO TOLD SENATOR PYJ that prostrating and calling on God when elections are around get people elected? Getting elected in a political race requires more than just vainly calling on the name of the Lord.

RATHER THAN CALLING on fellow senators to come to God and pray for re-election, the political pastor and ex-rebel leader should tell his colleagues to give account of their stewardship to the Heavenly Father.

WHAT HAVE THEY done for their people in the past nine and 18 years that God would acknowledge and therefore, grant them re-election? As senators, when last have they assessed the health conditions of the people and increase budgetary allotments to the various counties to improve the health situation or toured public schools across the county where students sit on the bare floor to take lessons due to lack of chairs?

THEY INCREASED TAXES on the already suffering masses under the pretense of raising revenue for development when in actual sense, they only want money to pursue their selfish agenda while the electorate wallop in disease, illiteracy and misery.

WHEN GOD'S PEOPLE placed in their care are dying across the country because health institutions don't have electricity, drugs, logistics and incentives for staff then Senator PYJ believes they can just call His name and get approval for another nine years of plunder, greed and mismanagement.

PERHAPS THE POLITICAL pastor, senator PYJ seems to be reading his Bible upside down, because relationship with the Father has strict principals, for He says if we do this or that, then He will answer our prayers and grant our requests.

WE CANNOT BE dining and winding in sins and at the same time expect God to give us his attention. No! It does not work that way. Our Father in heaven has principles and wants or expects His children on earth to live within confines of His precepts.

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

COMMENTARY

By Shlomo Avineri

The Roots of Right-Wing Dominance in Israel

Most commentators have focused on Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's personal qualities to explain what looked to many to be an unlikely election victory. But there are important structural reasons for Likud's durability in power, and a strong economy is just the start.

JERUSALEM - Binyamin Netanyahu's latest electoral success, winning a fifth term as Israel's prime minister, is by any measure a remarkable achievement for him and his right-wing Likud party. Serious corruption charges did not seem to diminish his popularity among his base, and his close relations with both US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin obviously enhanced his standing in the country.

Trump clearly helped Netanyahu's campaign by scrapping decades of American policies. Not only did he withdraw the United States from the Iran nuclear deal, negotiated by his predecessor, Barack Obama; he also moved the US embassy to Jerusalem and - just a few days before the election - recognized Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights.

Many may deplore Netanyahu's own Trump-style tactics - instilling fear and hatred of real and imagined enemies, delegitimizing the press, and attacking the judicial system - but they worked. This, and Netanyahu's undeniable campaign savvy, helped him beat back the challenge from the newly formed Blue and White party headed by Benny Gantz, a respected but politically inexperienced former military chief.

Not surprisingly, most commentators have focused on Netanyahu's personal qualities to explain what looked to many to be an unlikely victory. But there are important structural reasons for Likud's durability in power: Israel's economy is thriving, inflation is under 2%, and unemployment is at historic lows.

And there are some deeper trends at work as well, beyond politics and economics. The historical liberal and social-democratic nature of the Jewish state was rooted in the worldview of its founders in the early twentieth century. Zionist leaders like Chaim Weizmann, David Ben-Gurion, and Golda Meir wedded the secular idea of national self-determination for the Jewish people to a vision of social justice. Under external and internal pressure, these values were not always successfully implemented, especially during the post-1948 mass immigration, but they continued to define the ideology of a society that viewed itself as both Jewish and democratic.

That worldview is no longer shared by all Israelis. The growth of Israel from a small and poor embattled land with 650,000 Jewish inhabitants at its founding to a thriving nation of almost eight million people today resulted from demographic changes that gradually but decisively altered the country's social structure and politics. It is now clear how dramatic the impact of those changes has been.

One million immigrants from the former Soviet Union who have arrived since the late 1980s are enriching Israeli science, technology, music, and culture. But their political attitudes also reflect decades of life under Soviet rule: though mostly secular, many of them believe in a strong state with a hierarchical leadership structure, having little patience for outsiders or enemies (in this case, Arabs). As one of them quipped to me, "I do not want to live under Putin, but I want my leader

to be like Putin."

The wishy-washy social-democratic ethos of Israel's Labor movement looked to them like a variant of bolshevism, and the kibbutz reminded them of a Soviet kolkhoz. Consequently, many of them felt much more comfortable with Netanyahu's robust nationalism than with left-wing supporters of Palestinians' right to self-determination.

Likewise, earlier immigrants from North Africa and the Middle East - the Mizrahi and Sephardi communities that now comprise almost half of Israel's Jewish population - found the secular, egalitarian ethos of Labor to be deeply at odds with their religiosity and patriarchal values. For many, kibbutzim mean the breakup of the family and enforced secularization. And many brought with them memories of oppression in their Arab-majority countries of origin. Menachem Begin, the first Likud prime minister, capitalized on these immigrants' resentment of the hegemony of the left-wing establishment.

Their descendants, together with immigrants from the former USSR, still form the backbone of support for Likud. And, given Likud's natural alliance with orthodox and ultra-orthodox Jewish parties, the right-wing has gained a built-in advantage which will not disappear when Netanyahu leaves the scene. Israel is not on its way to becoming a Hungarian-like "illiberal democracy"; its democratic structures and norms remain resilient (though this will be tested by Likud's looming attempt to grant Netanyahu immunity from the corruption charges he faces). But the institutional edifices that once made its liberal and social democratic sectors dominant have been significantly weakened.

The Labor Party - which led the country for decades - has suffered from the general erosion of center-left forces currently characterizing Western democracies. These tendencies are strengthened by the Palestinian leadership's inability to convince many Israelis that they are truly willing to accept the Jewish state. By elevating suicide bombers and other terrorists to the status of "soldiers of the nation" and granting their families official pensions, the Palestinian Authority is not encouraging more Israelis to support a two-state solution. Nor does the latent civil war between the Palestinian Authority on the West Bank and the Islamist Hamas movement, which controls Gaza, bode well for any future peace with Israel.

Yet the fact remains that Gantz's Blue and White finished in a near dead heat with Likud, winning 35 of the Knesset's 120 seats (to Likud's 36). Together with a diminished Labor Party (six seats) and the small left-wing Meretz party (four seats), Blue and White could mount a vigorous opposition to Netanyahu's right-wing nationalist and religious coalition, which will control 65 seats. But Netanyahu's opponents will have to come up with coherent alternatives to Likud's attacks on the press and the judicial system if they wish to regain the traction lost in recent elections. Demographics do not favor a center-left alternative in the immediate future, but it is not impossible: the electorate is split right down the middle.

O-PED

By Andrei Kolesnikov

Putin's Art of the Purge

MOSCOW - High-level political purges are gathering pace in Russia. The latest evidence came in late March, with the arrests of Mikhail Abyzov, a former minister for open government affairs, and - two days later - Viktor Ishayev, a former Far East minister and ex-governor of Russia's Khabarovsk region. Unsurprisingly, the arrests of such senior figures is having a chilling effect among the country's elites.

The authorities have now arrested or imprisoned three former federal government ministers and a supporting cast of regional officials - all on corruption or fraud charges. A former economic development minister, Alexei Ulyukayev, is currently serving an eight-year prison sentence. The former head of Russia's Komi Republic, Vyacheslav Gaizer, is on trial and faces up to 21 years in jail. Alexander Khoroshavin, previously governor of the Sakhalin region, was sentenced to 13 years, while his Kirov region counterpart Nikita Belykh - who led the now-defunct liberal political party SPS - got eight years. And Senator Rauf Arashukov is under investigation for a range of serious crimes.

High-level purges were relatively rare in the Soviet Union following the death of Joseph Stalin in 1953. Until a few years ago, the same had been true of post-Soviet Russia, although several senior statistics officials were imprisoned for corruption in 2004, after a six-year trial. This brought back memories of an earlier era: from 1918 to 1941, there were eight heads of the statistics service, five of whom were shot between 1937 and 1939, under Stalin's watch.

True, lower-level purges, dismissals, and prosecutions are par for the course in Russia. According to the political analyst Nikolai Petrov, the authorities launch 18-20 criminal investigations per year into governors, deputy governors, and mayors.

But in the post-Soviet era, former prime ministers, deputy premiers, and ministers generally considered themselves more or less safe from this risk. They counted on crony solidarity, and assumed that the system would not discredit itself by allowing the arrests of retired high-ranking officials. Even the opposition politician Boris Nemtsov, who was gunned down in central Moscow in 2015, believed that he was in no danger from the state because he was a former deputy prime minister.

Whether or not the state was involved in ordering Nemtsov's murder, the recent arrests of Abyzov and Ishayev have shattered these assumptions. They signal that Putin's purge now extends to former members of the federal government, who have appeared in numerous official photographs alongside Putin, Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev, and other members of Russia's ruling class.

At first glance, these latest arrests would seem to discredit the authorities. After all, Russia's law-enforcement agencies were gathering evidence against Abyzov and Ishayev for years while they continued to serve as ministers. Furthermore, Abyzov's last position in 2018 was as an adviser to Putin. Are we really to believe that the head of state knew nothing about the business shenanigans (if indeed there were any) of a high-ranking Kremlin official?

Yet public opinion remains indifferent. Most Russians do not see a connection between the prosecution of key figures and the credibility of the authorities. On the contrary, people seem to identify with Putin's message that the establishment is finally tackling corruption.

But it is the message to Russia's shaken elites that is more relevant. And that message is straightforward: no one is safe from prosecution, even if - like Abyzov and Ishayev - they have retired from public service and no longer have any influence.

Moreover, selective repression has become harsher. A few years ago, the guilty party would simply be disgraced - as the former head of the Federal Customs Service, Andrei Belyaninov, was when the authorities released a video of their search of his luxury mansion, complete with images of shoeboxes full of dollars. These days, suspects are arrested immediately, especially if Putin is entirely unconcerned about them. This was the case with Ulyukayev and Belykh, who belonged to the group of in-system liberals, and Abyzov, who was considered to be a Medvedev man. And if Abyzov's arrest keeps Medvedev on edge, all the better.

For Putin, reminding Russia's elites that no one is untouchable is the best way to keep them on their toes. Any sensible people's commissar serving under Stalin kept a bundle of essentials packed and ready in case of sudden arrest. Putin's underlings would be well advised to do the same. Moreover, they should understand that dismissal from their post, far from being the end of an unpleasant episode, may turn out to be just the start of something worse.

The current purges also send a message to Russia's next generation of officials, namely that inappropriate political behavior or excessive focus on their own business interests will be punished. Purges played nearly the same role under Stalin. Back then, fresh-faced people's commissars and their deputies knew that they had drawn a winning ticket when their former bosses were arrested (or worse). But the young commissars also understood that in this state-sanctioned lottery, their ticket might just as easily become an arrest warrant.

Similarly, Putin prefers to have new technocrats in ministerial and gubernatorial positions. They are loyal officials aged between 40 and 50, preferably unconnected to any local elites, driven to meet their targets, and with no ambition to tackle political issues.

These newcomers are already scared by the continuing purges, and will not undertake anything without the leadership's approval. That will put any genuine modernization in Russia on hold - just as Putin intends.

OPINION

By Robert Skidelsky

The Good Life After Work

LONDON - Almost all "robots are coming" stories follow a tried-and-true pattern. "Shop Direct puts 2,000 UK jobs at risk," screams a typical headline. Then, quoting from authoritative reports from prestigious institutes and think tanks, the article in question usually alarms audiences with extravagant estimates of "jobs at risk" - that is, percentages of workers whose livelihoods are threatened by high-tech automation. To quote another representative example: "A new report suggests that the marriage of [artificial intelligence] and robotics could replace so many jobs that the era of mass employment could come to an end."

Sometimes, this bleak outlook is softened by distinguishing between "jobs" and "tasks." Only the routine parts of jobs, it is said, will be replaced. In these more upbeat assessments of the "future of work," humans will complement machines, not compete with them.

This sanguine scenario is based partly on what has happened in the past: over time, mechanization has created more jobs at higher wages than it has destroyed. It is also based on more sober assessments of what robots can do now (though there is disagreement on what they will eventually be able to do). Moreover, automation, some optimists believe, will raise the average level of human intelligence. And a richer and aging population will require ever-larger armies of human carers, nurses, cleaners, trainers, and therapists.

But there is an important caveat to all this: left to the market, the gains from automation will be captured mainly by owners of the technology companies and highly educated "knowledge workers," leaving the rest of the population unemployed or in physical and intellectual servitude. (The need for expert lawyers, consultants, accountants, psychiatrists, and human relations experts will be greater than ever.)

So, the prevailing narrative warns, the process of automation must be carefully managed to avoid massive redundancies and/or widening income inequalities. The analyses usually then conclude with a ringing affirmation that more "creative" jobs and exciting new products such as driverless cars are waiting in the wings. Provided that we can learn as we earn, a utopia of satisfying work and prosperity beckon to all.

If not, the ecstatic prophecies turn dark: professions or countries that fail to embrace automation with sufficient enthusiasm face economic and cultural extinction. In short, while automation is a threat to work, it is a threat that can and must be overcome within the existing wage-labor framework.

There is little echo in this narrative of the older view that machines offer emancipation from work, opening up a vista of active leisure - a theme going back to the ancient Greeks. Aristotle envisaged a future in which "mechanical slaves" did the work of actual slaves, leaving citizens free for higher pursuits. John Stuart Mill, Karl Marx, and John Maynard Keynes comforted their readers with the thought that capitalism, by generating the income and wealth needed to abolish poverty, would abolish itself, freeing mankind, as Keynes put it, to live "wisely and agreeably and well."

Likewise, in his essay "The Soul of Man Under Socialism," Oscar Wilde claimed that with machinery doing all the "ugly, horrible, uninteresting work," humans will have "delightful leisure in which to devise wonderful and marvelous things for their own joy and the joy of everyone else." And Bertrand Russell extolled the benefits of extending leisure from an aristocracy to the whole population.

None of these nirvanic muses disdained work. On the contrary, all of them were workaholics. What they objected to was "working for hire." But, today, "working for a living" has come to be viewed as humanity's moral destiny, while leisure is implicitly linked to doing nothing. The Protestant work ethic still has us in its grip (and not only in the West).

Economists have always been ambivalent. On the one hand, they regard paid work as a cost for consumption. Machinery lowers the cost of work. As people become more productive and therefore prosperous, they will work less. More precisely, they will have the choice to work less for the same income or as much as before for more income. The historical pattern has been that they "traded off" time and money, so hours of work have fallen as income has risen.

But the concept of growing abundance, articulated by Keynes and others, has been over-riden by economists' commitment to inherent scarcity. People's wants, they say, are insatiable, so they will never have enough. Supply will always lag behind demand, mandating continuous improvements in efficiency and technology. This will be true even if there is enough to feed, clothe, and house the whole world. Poised between the profusion of their wants and the paucity of their means, humans have no option but to continue to "work for hire" in whatever jobs the market provides. So the day of abundance, when they can choose between work and leisure, will never arrive. They must "race with the machines" forever and ever.

There is a way out of this trap, but only if we make two crucial distinctions: between needs and wants, and between means and ends.

The distinction between needs and wants was central to the older thinkers. But in contemporary economics, preferences are taken as "given," and therefore are not subject to further investigation regarding their value or source. The older thinkers distinguished between the "needs of the body" and the "needs of the imagination," emphasizing the irreducible character of the former and the malleability of the latter. If we can be induced to want whatever the advertisers put before us (now online), then we will never have enough.

The older thinkers also distinguished between means and ends. The products of machines are what the economist Alfred Marshall called "the material requisites of wellbeing." Human wellbeing is the end. We invent machines to achieve it. But in order to control these inventions, we must have ends that are more compelling than merely wanting more and more products and services. Without an intelligent definition of wellbeing, we will simply create more and more monsters that feed on our humanity.

National Road Fund Poised to Improve Road Network

By Media Hub Liberia

Like many developing countries, Liberia is challenged on countless fronts. Be it art, culture or politics, the Country must overcome the challenges by doing concrete, tangible and measurable work to improve the lot of its people. Even though there may be competing priorities, those that lend to opportunities for the people to fend for themselves and triumph economically deserve utmost attention. Transport economists suggest building and maintaining elaborate road network is one of the answers and surest ways to economic growth and prosperity. They add that where there are good roads, new jobs come about, trade and commerce flourish, travel time and cost lessen, cost of operating vehicles lower, and remarkably, the governed and governors, in good faith, exchange thoughts to enhance participatory democracy. Unfortunately, Liberia's primary roads remain dismal and miserable. Whereas mere 574km are paved; a mammoth 1,752km remains unpaved and requires maintenance.

Liberia, with the land surface of 43,000 square/miles has the total of 9,916km. Although WorldPop, a global population distribution dataset, says the Country's road network reaches approximately 73 percent of the total population, mere 734km are paved while a mammoth 9,182 unpaved. The survey shows that more than 90 percent of paved roads are in good or fair condition as 60 percent unpaved ones lie in poor or very poor state.

This can as well be said of the surface type of 11,423km roads surveyed. Of the lot, the survey added, 615km are excellent, 498 good, distressingly 4,038 and 4,765 are fair and poor respectively while 1,507 feebly very poor. Compounding this is the deplorable condition of bridges and culverts the survey uncovered. In all, 2,884 bridges and 7,651 culverts were found. Of the bridges, approximately half, at the time of the survey, lied in poor or very poor condition requiring reconditioning.

The deplorable or unimproved thoroughfares of the Country partly impede human interaction that comes with business transactions to boost the economy; strains family ties because people hardly pay visits to decide or plan profitable ventures; kills the creative industry as unreachable talents embedded with educational and scientific innovations remain undiscovered and untapped; and hampers agricultural activities that lead to food scarcity and ultimately shortage.

The bleak picture must and will change. The National Road Fund (NRF) put in place will do the trick when the required or necessary steps are taken to improve the road network. It only needs to function uninterrupted. The Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee (IMSC) chaired by the Minister of Public Works with the Ministers of Finance & Development Planning, Commerce & Industry, Internal Affairs, and Transport as members must lead efforts to remove or prevent any impediments that will hinder realization of the good objectives of the 'National Road Fund Act of 2016'.

Key objectives of the NRF are to finance the maintenance of roads and bridges; ensure proper governance and oversight of monies to the extent of giving approbations to annual road maintenance expenditure programs road and bridge work agencies submit; and put in place administrative structures to collect; manage and disburse funds to and on behalf of road and bridge work agencies in Liberia. Also, the NRF must raise capital through Government-approved appropriations, Government-arranged grants, loans and levy road user charges.

The goals require the NRF to charge vehicles plying the roads based on each automobile's mass, length, width, height, loading, axle and distance. With time, the NRF must install tolls at different points of the roads or bridges; impose fees on foreign vehicles entering Liberia; charge registration and license fees on vehicles and drivers; and levy petroleum products imported to Liberia. All this could generate financial resources to build and maintain the roads and bridges; create new jobs; and help boost Government's revenue flow.

In pursuit of the milestones, a Government of Liberia and National Road Fund team toured Ghana, Tanzania, Uganda, and in March, 2019, attended the 17th General Meeting of the African Road Maintenance Funds Association (ARMFA) in Namibia. During the gathering, the ARMFA established in 2003 in Libreville, Gabon with a consortium of thirty-four African States as members enrolled the National Road Fund of Liberia as its newest associate. Prior to the NRF's admittance, the ARMFA has been a platform for sharing best experiences in road maintenance and safety practices, and created an important network among African Road Managers and several stakeholders that work on infrastructural development, maintenance and safety across the continent. It must be stated that as a result of Liberia's enrolment, it's National Road Fund will benefit from older Funds lesson learned during implementation of their early days, and knowledge-sharing and

technological improvements or techniques used in other counties in road maintenance as the ARMFA strives to design a uniform system in terms of how Road Fund Management would operate.

Under its Road Fund Act of 1997 (Act 536), Ghana, for example, has left overseeing administering the Fund's office solely to the National Road Fund Board. That means the Board ensures the office collects monies meant for the Fund; requires the office to identify other sources of funding, coordinate total and timely accountability of the Fund. Also, the Board obliges the Fund's office to recommend to Cabinet the level of the road levies and other road user charges paid into the Fund, and to improve arrangements for the collection of road user charges.

Similarly, the Board entreats the Fund's office to prepare and publish procedures for the disbursement of the Fund; determine the certification necessary to ensure that work is completed according to specification; review the annual expenditure programs of the road implementing departments and bodies; determine how much of the financing of the expenditure programs of the road agencies should come from the Fund taking into consideration existing cost-sharing formulas; and perform such other functions as may be incidental to its functions under the Act. All this generates money for the Ghana transport sector. For example, according to *The Ghanaian Times*, the Fund made whopping GHC627.4 million for Ghana in 2016 alone.

Similarly, Tanzania established a Road Fund Board in compliance with the **Road and Fuel Tolls Act of 2006 (Chapter 220)**. The Board's nine members include the public and private sectors; Permanent Secretaries of Works, Transport and Communications; Finance and Planning, President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government. Others are the Director from the Ministry of Works, representatives from the Tanzania Truck Owners Association, Tanzania Association of Tour Operators, Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, and Tanzania Confederation of Co-operatives. The tenure of the Board is 3 years.

On its part, the parliament of Namibia established a Road Fund Administration (RFA) through the Road Fund Administration of 1999 (Act 18). The law charges the outfit to put in place and manage the Road User Charging System and the Road Fund to secure and allocate sufficient funding for the payment of expenditure with the view to achieve a safe and economically efficient road network in Namibia. To actualize this, the RFA instituted fuel levies, vehicle registration and annual licensing fees cross border charges, mass and distance charges, and abnormal load fees. Like Ghana, *The Namibian* reported that the Road Fund Administration accrued N\$4.51 billion between 2016 and 2018 for the Namibia transport sector.

Lessons learned from tours of the other road fund outfits continue to propel the level of work being undertaken at Liberia's National Road Fund. Since it became operational in May, 2018, for example, it has been able to levy US\$0.30 on every gallon of petroleum products brought into the Country and in collaboration with the Liberia Revenue Authority and Liberia Petroleum Refining Corporation collected more than US\$63 million. In January, 2019 alone, the collectors recorded US\$13.3 of which US\$8.8 was remitted to the NRF enabling the Fund's office to pay US\$5.5 million to the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) as partial payment of Liberia's contribution to the Matching Road Maintenance Fund.

According to an unimpeachable source at the MCAL, the payment is Government's initial matching contribution of US\$8.8 million to the MCC Liberia must complete by June, 2019 in order to access the Compact's US\$15 million intended to maintain its primary roads. Nonetheless, donor partners fear that with transfers to the NRF's accounts lagging 2 to 3 months behind schedule with the risk that Government will be tempted to increasingly rely on the road fund levy to cover non-road related expenses. It is potential hindrances like this all and sundry must endeavor to prevent if the NRF must survive and achieve its objectives.

Thankfully, the Country satisfactorily met some of the Compact's eleven Conditional Precedents (CPs). Of the CPs Liberia has already satisfactorily fulfilled are the establishment of the National Road Fund now fully functional with a highly professional 15-member staff recruited in compliance with the laws of Liberia. Also, the Fund has completed a Five-Year Road Maintenance Plan (2019-2023) now being executed by the Ministry of Public Works, beginning with a 15-county tour of engineers, and an upcoming chip-seal road work covering Bomi, Gbarpolu, Grand Kru and Sinoe Counties. Significantly, the NRF has created a transparent financial system plus the adoption by the IMSC of manuals of administrative, financial, auditing, and accounting procedures. To compliment this worthy undertaking, the World

Bank provided US\$500,000 to digitize the entire financial system of the Fund to ensure transparency. Indeed, this is a key component to the NRF fulfilling or meeting its targets.

Also, the NRF has been able to open an independent commercial bank account for receiving the Government's contribution towards the MRMF, a basket into which Liberia has already started to drop monies including the payment of US\$5.5 million, already. Similarly, the MCC has accepted the NRF's governing by-laws and procedures as well as its operational strategy both of which have already been endorsed by the IMSC.

As remarkable as the accomplishments are Liberia still has in the pipelines some of the CPs. To date, a draft template grant agreement between MCAL and the NRF is being perused by the MCC; and a draft MoU between the NRF and the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) is being finalized having been endorsed by the MCC. On the other hand, the MCC has received, and not objected the procurement manual prepared by the NRF. So also is the financial manual the IUU submitted to the MCC being reviewed as the draft of the IEA between the MCAL and MPW is being studied by the ministry. Importantly, it must be mentioned for public notice that funds have been deposited into the NRF's commercial accounts, and the Government of Liberia will provide evidence that at least 90 percent of fuel levies collected has been deposited in the NRF's accounts.

Had significant efforts not exerted to meet the CPs, the MCAL source predicted Liberia would forfeit the funds MCC set aside for periodic maintenance of primary roads across the Country. "As far as I am concerned, international donors are very impressed with the management team at the National Road Fund. It only needs total independence to do its work. Any mistake on the part of Government or any of its functionaries will wreck all that has been achieved", the source added.

Because constant maintenance will keep roads in pliable condition, the MCAL along with some local and international partners trained 13 staff of the Ministry of Public Works to the usage of the Highway Development Management (HDM-4). According to the MCAL staff, the highly complex software that uses data analysis to inform routine and periodic road maintenance which has been difficult for road engineers in other Countries, the MPW trainees did and are ready to roll with it in maintaining the primary roads. This is why the current management team of the National Road Fund should not or made to botch.

Another marked progress the NRF has made is keeping the confidence international donors reposed from the onset. They are the Deutsche Gesellschaft Fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), World Bank (WB), Millennium Challenge Account Liberia (MCAL), European Union (EU), African Development Bank (AfDB) and the United States Aid for International Development (USAID). The donors have good impression of the tremendous work underway at the NRF. For example, a highly placed source at the Deutsche Gesellschaft Fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) thought the system and structures being put in place will significantly lead to Liberia having sustainable and long-lasting roads and admonished road users to follow the rules and regulations on road usage. However, the GIZ official suggested the need for transparency of internal processes to award road work contracts particularly to Liberian groups.

It must be said that from the onset, the German international development agency donated equipment and chairs as well as a vehicle costing US\$22,579.63 to help put the Fund's office on its feet. Also, under its pillar road project, the GIZ has, to date, provided 300,000 EUR to recondition 41km of Monrovia-urban roads and a bridge covering the Caldwell to Louisiana; Clara Town to Jamaica Road; Neezoe to Parker Paint & Zazay Community; A.B. Tolbert Road to DuPort Road & Dillon Avenue; Oldest Congo Town to SKD Boulevard & GSA Road as well as the infamous St. Paul's Bridge.

In spite the herculean task before the Fund and the impressive initial turnover, some importers and lifters owe the NRF more than US\$20,894,620 and show little sign to settle that the matter was dragged to the Supreme Court of Liberia remedy. However, the matter was withdrawn for out of court settlement after President George Weah intervened in August, 2018. The oil companies in question are Conex, Srimex, Mayoubah & Sons Incorporated, Kailondo Petroleum, Petro Trade, Aminata & Sons and Monrovia Oil Transport Corporation. Others are Nexium Petroleum, West Oil Investment and National Petroleum Liberia. This distraction is needless, unhealthy, and must be checked otherwise it would undermine the aims and objectives of the NRF and by extension, the overall economic activities good and pliable road networks propel.



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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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EX-generals warn

By Lewis S. Teh & E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Former generals of three disbanded warring factions here, including the defunct National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), Liberia United for Reconstruction and Democracy (LURD) and the Movement for Democracy in Liberia or MODEL warn Montserrado County District#10 Representative Yekeh Kolubah, to refrain from uttering threats that have the propensity to derail peace in Liberia.

The ex-generals in a news conference held Monday, April 15, at the former Ministry of National Defense building in Benson Street, Monrovia said threats coming from Representative Kolubah, including insults to President George Weah is something that could jeopardize the peace citizens are enjoying.

Addressing the news conference, ex-general Siafa Norma of the defunct NPFL said they do not support anything that would derail peace, distancing themselves from utterances by Rep. Kolubah, also a former fighter, and a planned protest being announced by talk show host Henry Costa.

He said recent statements by the Montserrado lawmaker drew their attention as former generals, noting, "We will not sit and watch people to bring back the old memories; all we want is peaceful co-existence in this country."

He continued that their record as former generals and



frontline commanders, including their principal lieutenants from the three former warring factions, have been recognized by the international community, adding that they fought for freedom, which has been achieved, followed by successive democratic elections.

The former rebel generals denounce any form of hostility which has the propensity to disrupt public peace.

Also speaking, a former chief of staff of MODEL Benjamin Taylor said Rep. Kolubah and Henry Costa are two individuals who want to disrupt the peace.

"We want to caution the two people not to include us in their political game; we have no intent and it is our right to support any legitimate government like the way we

did for Madam Sirleaf; this time no one will be used for little or nothing, they referred to us as Ex-combatants but we are the same people they want to use to cause problem. But we will not form part of any violence that will derail the peace."

Meanwhile, the chairman of the group, General Ofori Diah says anybody that goes contrary to the peace of Liberia will never get their support, saying "You must go thru the democratic process to carry out whatever demonstration."

The press conference brought together former generals, commanders, and lieutenants, including General Ofori Diah (MODEL), Christopher Vambo aka 'General Mosquito' (NPFL) MODEL chief of staff Benjamin Taylor, General Kofi Doe and

General Siafa Norma (NPFL), among others.

Meanwhile, Montserrado County Legislative Caucus Chairman, Representative Thomas Fallah similarly warns here that Representative Yekeh Kolubah risks expulsion or suspension by the House of Representatives, unless he desists from his disrespectful and disorderly manner as demonstrated in recent weeks.

Speaking to the NewDawn Tuesday, April 16, at the Capitol, Representative Fallah in a rather angry tone notes that gross disrespect being displayed over a year period by Rep. Kolubah needs to be stopped in accordance with Rules of the House of Representatives or else he (Kolubah) will further disgrace the House, which could bring that august body to public disrepute.

"Representative Kolubah, since his ascendancy here, he continues to embarrass us with his unrefined public statements. I dare him to make those statements he made on Sunday afternoon at the Unity

Party headquarters or to dress the way he dressed on Sunday, he will be expelled and if he's too lucky, will be suspended. Kolubah cannot continue embarrassing us with his reckless statement, insulting everybody including the Speaker, me, some lawmakers and the presidency", says Rep. Fallah.

He continues: This must stop and I'm prepared to lobby for his removal from office or have him suspended by the full plenary of the House of Representatives. In fact, I challenge him to respond to this interview, Kolubah will be called former lawmaker within few weeks.

On Sunday afternoon, April 14, Rep. Kolubah, who got elected as an Independent Candidate, dressed as a 'revolutionary' wearing a red beret and army uniform as he led a crowd to the headquarters of the former ruling Unity Party (UP) in Congo Town.

"We have come to say that we want us to hold together. We have come to strengthen our older people in persons of Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakai, Benoni Urey, Cllr. Charles Brumskine and Alexander Cummings," he said.

He alleged that President Weah, in less than two years of his administration, has taken the country to sad days rather than a period of joy without an achieving anything.

"We have observed that this footballer, this merit maker has taken our country to the mud and we will not continue to sit and allow things to continue to be this way. This is why I have come to join you, so you can use me at any time to force Weah and his crooks to do what is right," he told the opposition coalition. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Man loses one eye in attack

By Thomas Domah/Nimba

Police in Ganta, Nimba County have arrested and charged a 36-

year-old man for allegedly removing his friend's eye.

Emmanuel Quoi, a resident of Lao Zao Town, district#8

was arrested Monday after he took a knife and dismembered the victim, identified as Diamond Nehway, 31.

The victim, currently receiving medication at the Ganta United Methodist Hospital, narrates that he and a friend were in discussion about two communities being established in Ganta with one referred to as "Work for Belleh" and the other "Gehpa" but suspect Emmanuel Quoi, apparently enraged by the assertion, suddenly joined the conversation, denying the existence of such communities thus, attacking the victim with a knife and removing his left eye.

Ganta city has a total of 28 communities, including "Work for Belleh and Gehpa Communities" which are the two oldest settlements in the commercial city. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*



Victim Diamond Nehway

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Seed Production Training ends at CARI

By: Joseph Titus Yekeryan
in Bong County

An inclusive weeklong seed production training for technical and extension staff under the Ministry of Agriculture has ended at the Central Agricultural Research Institute-CARI in Suakoko District.

The training was facilitated by the Small Holder Agriculture Productivity Enhancement and Commercialization project with sponsorship from AfricaRice.

Under seed production, Participants discussed, seed system, seed certification, Traditional seed system, community based seed system (CBSS) amongst others.

Participants also learned the steps to threshing of rice, rice harvesting using combine harvester and important diseases of rice and management.

In a welcome address, Bong County Agriculture Coordinator KollieNahn thanked AfricaRice and



partners for organizing the training to enable participants learn new techniques in properly securing quality seeds to improve the agriculture sector.

Mr. Nahn intimated that they as county agriculture coordinators, technical and extension staff must attach a lot of seriousness to the training in order to perfectly perform at their assigned areas.

The Bong County

Agriculture Coordinator said the need for serious attention to be placed on the production of quality seeds cannot be over-emphasized.

Also making remarks at the close of the training, Africa Rice Country Representative to Liberia Dr. InousaArkontayo extended commendations to participants for the time and urged them to take the knowledge serious by implementing what they have learned.

Dr. Arkontayo stated that they as an organization are committed to buttressing the efforts of the Liberian

government through the Ministry of Agriculture to make Liberia a surplus food environment.

He cautioned the participants to get more involved into research activity to find the amicable solution to Liberia low food production most especially rice.

According to him, if that is done, Liberia stands to benefit a lot on grounds that it will stop the Country from spending huge sum of money to import rice.

All of the fifteen counties of Liberia were represented by their county agriculture coordinators, District Agriculture Officers and focal persons from the Ministry of Agriculture respectively.

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Lonestar Cell MTN is excited to announce the launch of Morning Gees, a free data tasting experience that gives customers free data to enjoy from 1 a.m. to 7 a.m. each day.

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To enjoy Morning Gees, Lonestar Cell MTN's customers must dial *352#

every day to subscribe to the offer. Once subscribed, customers will get free 200MB data to enjoy from 1 a.m. until 7 a.m. After 7 a.m. customers can browse from their active data bundle if they are subscribed to one. If they do not have a data bundle, customers can buy one of Lonestar Cell MTN's data bundles by dialing *352# to continue browsing throughout the day. Subscription must be done daily. This offer is totally free and is available to everyone.

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Biney's expulsion remains enforced -NPP Chairman Gray

By Emmanuel Mondaye

The Chairman of the National Patriotic Party (NPP), John Gray says the expulsion of former party chairman Mr. James Biney remains in force.

He made the disclosure to reporter on the grounds of the National Elections Commission (NEC) Monday, 15 April after the NEC declared Liberia's Vice President Jewel Howard - Taylor the legitimate leader of the NPP.

The case bordering on NPP's internal leadership crisis has been ongoing at the NEC for several months after a faction of the party loyal to Madam Taylor was complained by another faction loyal to expelled Chairman James Biney, alleging wrongful expulsion of the latter.

Mr. Biney was still battling his own expulsion from the NPP when a faction of the party that is loyal to him announced a rather retaliatory expulsion of NPP political leader Vice President Taylor last year.

Madam Taylor and Mr. Biney have been battling for control of the NPP, a party founded and taken to victory in the 1997 post war elections by the Vice President's estranged husband, now imprisoned former President Charles Ghankay Taylor.

But the NEC, having heard the case that grew out of a rift within the NPP finally says it recognizes the leadership of Vice President Taylor.

NPP is a member of the three collaborating parties government of Liberia,

inclusive of President George Manneh Weah's Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) and ex-Speaker Alex Tyler's Liberian People Democratic Party (LPDP).

These three parties made up the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) that won the second round of the presidential election in 2017 in an opposition collaboration.

According to Mr. Gray, the National Executive Committee of the party has commenced the process leading to the holding of the party's National Convention to meet the deadline prescribed the NEC.

The NEC has mandated the NPP to hold a convention in 40 days, with a further request for NPP political leader Vice President Taylor to officially submit the names of elected officials that will govern the affairs of the party.

Chairman Gray laments that Biney betrayed the confidence of the party by his action to plot against the Political Leader Vice President Taylor.

He adds that Mr. Biney should never dream of returning to the NPP because the party has no room for traitors who desire confusion within the institution for their own selfish interest.

He expresses gratitude to the party's legal team and the National Elections Commission for the transparent manner in

which the hearing was conducted, thereby legitimizing his leadership.

Mr. Gray warns politicians and political actors in the habit of undermining the existence of the political parties for their selfish motives to learn a lesson from the expulsion of James Biney.

He then assures NPP partisans across the 15 political subdivision of the country that the party's leadership remains committed to the Constitution and Bylaws of the party which seek to protect every partisan, regardless of their positions.-- Edited by Winston W. Parley



Mr. James Biney

Français

Un premier remaniement ministériel de Weah ?

Les informations qui sont parvenues au New Dawn indiquent que le président George Manneh Weah est sur le point de faire sa première grande réforme de son équipe gouvernementale. Plusieurs sources ont informé ce quotidien que le remaniement ministériel imminent devrait toucher les ministères des Travaux publics, de la Défense et de la Justice, entre autres.

Des rapports non confirmés indiquent également que le remaniement pourrait donner lieu à un remu ménage au ministère du Commerce et de l'Industrie.

Des sources proches du pouvoir ont indiqué que le ministre des Travaux publics, Mobutu VlahNyenpan, serait l'un des premiers à partir. Le ministre Nyenpan, ancien sénateur du comté de Sinoe, est un proche de la vice-présidente Jewel Howard Taylor.

Son remplacement éventuel à la tête du ministère n'arien à voir avec sa proximité avec la vice-présidente, selon

nos sources. Les relations entre la vice-présidente Taylor et le président Weah ont été fragiles depuis la prise du pouvoir de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) en janvier 2018. La vice-présidente Howard Taylor qui, selon les sources, a toujours eu en sa possession une copie de la Constitution libérienne lors des

réunions de haut niveau du cabinet pour rappeler le président de son rôle constitutionnel, n'est pas en bons termes avec ce dernier. Certaines sources croient que la vice-présidence ne semble plus lui suffire. Elle aurait des ambitions bien au-delà.

En ce qui concerne le ministère de la Justice, il

semble que le poste de solliciteur général continue de faire l'objet de convoitise et risque d'échapper à Darku Mulbah, ancien procureur de Montserrado sous le régime de la présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

Quant à la situation au ministère de la Défense, elle reste toujours incertaine. Une décision finale sur le changement est toujours envisageable, selon des sources. Mais il semble y avoir plus d'incertitude qu'il

n'apparaît à l'œil nu.

Par contre, le ministre des Finances et de la Planification du développement, le ministre Samuel Tweah, semble toujours jouir de la confiance du président Weah qui avait mis plusieurs mois pour compléter son cabinet après sa prise de fonctions en janvier dernier. Des sources affirment que le président étudie attentivement les CV des candidats qu'il est sur le point de nommer.



Prince Johnson invite les sénateurs à la prière

Le sénateur Prince Y. Johnson du comté de Nimba exhorte ses collègues sénateurs à se rapprocher de Dieu et de le placer au-dessus de tout ce qu'ils font, soulignant qu'ils ont besoin de Dieu tous les jours en particulier pour leur réélection aux élections sénatoriales de 2020.

Le sénateur PYJ, ancien chef de guerre du Front national patriotique indépendant du Libéria (INPFL) et deux fois candidat malheureux à la présidentielle, a exhorté ses homologues à beaucoup de prière car les élections sont proches, citant la Sainte Bible, Ecclésiaste 3 : 1 « Il y a un temps et une saison

pour tout ».

Il a indiqué qu'il y a eu un temps pour que les sénateurs élus travaillèrent pour le peuple libérien et maintenant arrive le temps où le même peuple libérien décidera du sort de chacun de ces sénateurs.

« En me levant ce matin, je me demande combien d'entre vous ont déjà prié, beaucoup des gens ne prient pas quand ils se lèvent le matin. Dieu est la source de la vie, tout ce que nous faisons il est la source à qui on dit beaucoup et nous laissons tout entre ses saintes mains », a affirmé l'homme qui a juré de retourner dans la brousse et de mobiliser ses partisans avec des fusils pour résister à toute tentative d'arrestation.

Le sénateur Johnson a rappelé que lors des dernières élections sénatoriales, sur 15 sénateurs, seulement deux ont été réélus, les 13 autres ont été battus. « Nous sommes au temps de l'incertitude. Certains sénateurs, quand vous leur posez la question de savoir s'ils sont sûrs qu'ils seront réélus, ils vous diront 'il n'y a pas de match', mais quand



Soudan : l'ultimatum de l'Union africaine

La pression monte pour le gouvernement militaire de transition au Soudan. L'Union africaine lui a donné un ultimatum lundi. Le Conseil paix et sécurité, qui s'est réuni à Addis-Abeba, a annoncé par communiqué qu'il laissait 15 jours à l'armée soudanaise pour remettre le pouvoir aux civils, sans quoi le pays serait suspendu de l'organisation continentale. Cette décision intervient alors que la pression de la rue continue.

Dans son communiqué le Conseil paix et sécurité de l'UA est clair : il « condamne fermement et rejette totalement la prise de pouvoir par l'armée soudanaise, ainsi qu'une période de transition de deux ans ». L'Union africaine accorde donc deux semaines à l'armée soudanaise pour rectifier le tir, sans quoi « certains protocoles seront mis en place ».

La suspension d'un pays de

l'organisation africaine est quasi automatique, dès lors qu'un coup d'État militaire est reconnu par l'institution. En 2015, le Burkina Faso avait subi le même sort, comme l'Égypte et la Centrafrique deux ans plus tôt. Tous trois ont depuis lors réintégré l'Union africaine.

Des sanctions peuvent également être prises à l'encontre des individus identifiés par l'Union africaine comme contribuant au maintien d'une situation inconstitutionnelle. Après le coup d'État de 2012 au Mali, plusieurs militaires ont ainsi vu leurs avoirs gelés et se sont fait signifier une interdiction de voyager sur le continent.

Dans les rues de Khartoum, les Soudanais, eux, s'impatientent. L'Association des professionnels soudanais, fer-de-lance de la contestation a demandé ce 15 avril la dissolution du Conseil militaire de transition et son remplacement par un conseil civil.

vous regardez à la fin, c'est zéro. Ceux qui ont tenu ces mêmes propos ont été battus lors des élections passées », a-t-il prévenu.

Le Sénateur du comté de Nimba a aussi exhorté les Libériens à mettre tout ce qu'ils font dans les mains de Dieu, car l'homme propose mais Dieu dispose. « Tout le monde fait des plans, mais il faut que Dieu approuve ces plans avant qu'ils puissent être mis en œuvre avec succès. Nous dépendons donc tous de Dieu, ce n'est pas notre savoir ou notre niveau d'études ».

Fondateur et pasteur d'une église à Paynesville, le sénateur prêche tous les

dimanches. Dimanche dernier, il a pris pour référence le livre de Jean chapitre 15 et expliqué à ses fidèles que : « Dieu est la vigne et ses créatures (l'homme) sont les branches, nous ne pouvons rien faire sans lui, mais si nous demeurons en lui et qu'il demeure en nous, tout ce que nous demanderons à son père en son nom, il le donnera pour que son nom soit glorifié ».

Le sénateur du comté de Nimba est lui-même à la fin de son second mandat. Il avait été élu pour la première fois en 2005 et pourrait probablement solliciter un troisième mandat auprès de sa base de soutien à Nimba.

Français

Crise au NPP : La vice-présidente Taylor gagne le procès

La vice-présidente Jewel Howard-Taylor a été reconnue en tant que chef légitime du Parti patriotique national (NPP) dans une décision rendue le lundi 15 avril par la Commission électorale nationale (NEC), ce qui met fin à la crise de leadership qui secoue le parti depuis quelques temps.

Dans sa décision, le responsable des audiences de la NEC a demandé au NPP de tenir un congrès dans 40 jours. La vice-présidente Taylor, présidente du NPP, est aussi demandée de soumettre officiellement les noms des élus qui gouverneront les affaires du

MannehWeah et du Parti démocratique du peuple libérien (LPDP) de l'ex-président de la chambre des représentants Alex Tyler.

Ces trois partis qui forment la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) ont remporté le deuxième tour de l'élection présidentielle en 2017 grâce au soutien des autres partis de l'opposition.

Mais la NEC, après avoir écouté les deux parties en conflit, a finalement déclaré qu'il reconnaissait le leadership de la vice-présidente Taylor.

Dans sa plainte, la faction fidèle à Biney a accusé le parti d'avoir expulsé son



Vice President Jewel Howard-Taylor

parti.

Depuis des mois, la crise qui secoue la direction du NPP fait l'objet de procès au niveau de la commission électorale qui avait été saisie par la faction loyale à l'ancien président national James Biney. Elle dénonçait une expulsion illégale de leur mentor par la faction fidèle à la vice-présidente.

Alors que M. Biney se battait contre son expulsion du NPP, la faction du parti qui lui est fidèle a annoncé l'expulsion de la vice-présidente Taylor, chef politique du NPP, l'année dernière.

Mme Taylor et M. Biney se disputent le contrôle du NPP, un parti fondé par l'époux de la vice-présidente, l'ancien président Charles Ghankay Taylor, actuellement emprisonné. Le parti avait été victorieux aux élections d'après-guerre de 1997.

Le NPP est membre de la coalition au pouvoir au même titre que le Congrès pour le changement démocratique (CDC) du président George

président national sans que ce dernier ne fit l'objet d'une procédure régulière. Pour cette faction, le président Binet a été expulsé de manière arbitraire. Elle a ainsi prié la Commission électorale de suspendre les activités du parti jusqu'à ce que la procédure qu'elle a engagée arrive à son terme.

M. Biney était absent lorsque la Commission Électorale rendait sa décision finale lundi. Son avocat a refusé de faire des commentaires sur la décision de la NEC.

Par ailleurs, la NEC a également rendu une décision définitive concernant une affaire intentée contre l'ancien parti au pouvoir, le Parti de l'Unité (UP), par un groupe de responsables du parti qui étaient en colère contre le président du parti, Wilmot Paye.

La décision de la Commission dans l'affaire UP reconnaît également Paye en tant que dirigeant légitime du parti pour l'unité.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Shlomo Avineri

Aux racines de la domination de la droite en Israël

JÉRUSALEM - Le dernier succès électoral de Benjamin Nétanyahou, qui lui assure un cinquième mandat de Premier ministre, est, de quelque façon qu'on l'aborde, une réussite remarquable, pour lui et pour son parti, le Likoud. Les graves inculpations de corruption dont il fait l'objet n'ont pas altéré, semble-t-il, sa popularité auprès de sa base, et sa proximité tant avec le président des États-Unis Donald Trump qu'avec le président russe Vladimir Poutine a évidemment renforcé son prestige en Israël.

Trump a indéniablement aidé Nétanyahou en renonçant à des décennies de politique américaine. Non seulement il a retiré les États-Unis de l'accord sur le nucléaire iranien, négocié par son prédécesseur Barack Obama, mais il a aussi déménagé l'ambassade des États-Unis à Jérusalem et - quelques jours seulement avant le scrutin -, reconnu la souveraineté d'Israël sur le plateau du Golan.

Si beaucoup déplorent la tactique de Nétanyahou, qui évoque celle de Trump - distillant la peur et la haine d'ennemis réels ou imaginaires, délégitimant la presse et attaquant la justice -, elle a néanmoins fonctionné. Elle lui a permis, jointe à un indéniable talent pour faire campagne, de relever le défi lancé par le parti Bleu Blanc, nouvellement créé, dirigé par Benny Gantz, ancien chef militaire respecté mais inexpérimenté en politique.

Sans surprise, la plupart des commentateurs ont mis en avant les qualités personnelles de Nétanyahou pour expliquer ce qui paraissait à beaucoup une improbable victoire. Mais la pérennité du Likoud au pouvoir a d'importantes raisons structurelles : l'économie du pays est prospère, l'inflation est inférieure à 2 % et le chômage est à un niveau historiquement bas.

Au-delà même de la politique et de l'économie, des tendances plus profondes sont également à l'œuvre. La nature historique libérale et sociale-démocrate de l'État juif était consubstantielle à la vision du monde de ses fondateurs au début du XXe siècle. Dans l'idée laïque du droit à une autodétermination nationale pour le peuple juif, des dirigeants sionistes comme Chaim Weizmann, David Ben Gourion et Golda Meir embrassaient une vision de justice sociale. Soumis à des pressions extérieures et intérieures, ces valeurs n'ont pas toujours été appliquées avec succès, notamment durant la période d'immigration massive après 1948, mais elles ont longtemps continué à définir l'idéologie d'une société qui se considérait elle-même comme juive et démocratique.

Cette vision du monde n'est plus aujourd'hui partagée par tous les Israéliens. L'essor du pays, petit territoire pauvre attaqué de toutes parts à sa création, peuplé de 650 000 habitants juifs, devenu une nation prospère de presque huit millions de personnes, résulte d'évolutions démographiques qui ont peu à peu mais irrémédiablement bouleversé sa structure sociale et sa vie politique. On comprend aujourd'hui à quel point l'impact de cette évolution est considérable.

Le million d'immigrants venus de l'ancienne Union soviétique à partir de la fin des années 1980 fut un apport à la science, à la technologie, à la musique et à la culture en Israël. Mais des dizaines d'années sous la férule soviétique ont donné à ces citoyens récents une mentalité politique particulière : quoique laïcs pour la plupart, beaucoup croient aussi en un État fort, avec une structure de direction hiérarchisée, et n'ont guère de patience à l'égard des tiers ou des ennemis (en l'occurrence les Arabes). Comme l'un d'entre eux me l'a confié : « Je

ne veux pas vivre sous Poutine, mais je veux que mon dirigeant soit comme Poutine. »

L'éthos social-démocrate falot du parti travailliste israélien leur apparaît comme une variante du bolchevisme, et le kibboutz leur rappelle le kolkhoze. Nombre d'entre eux se sentent par conséquent plus à l'aise avec le solide nationalisme de Nétanyahou qu'avec les soutiens de gauche au droit des Palestiniens à l'autodétermination.

De même, les premiers immigrants d'Afrique du Nord et du Moyen-Orient - les juifs d'Orient, les mizrahim, et les communautés sépharades, qui forment presque la moitié, aujourd'hui, de la population juive d'Israël - perçoivent l'éthos égalitaire et laïc du parti travailliste comme une atteinte à leur religiosité et à leurs valeurs patriarcales. Beaucoup associent les kibboutz au démantèlement de la famille et à une laïcisation forcée. Beaucoup ont aussi ramené avec eux la mémoire de l'oppression vécue dans les pays à majorité musulmane. Menahem Begin, premier ministre du Likoud à accéder au poste de Premier ministre, a construit sa popularité sur le ressentiment de ces immigrants envers l'hégémonie des élites de la gauche.

Leurs descendants forment encore, avec les immigrants de l'ancienne URSS, la colonne vertébrale des partisans du Likoud. Si l'on considère qui plus est l'alliance naturelle du Likoud avec les partis juifs orthodoxes et ultra-orthodoxes, la droite jouit d'un avantage structurel qui ne disparaîtra pas lorsque Nétanyahou quittera la scène. Israël ne se dirige pas vers une « démocratie illibérale » à la hongroise ; ses structures et ses normes démocratiques demeurent solides (même si elles seront probablement mises à l'épreuve par un Likoud qui tentera d'en appeler à l'immunité de Nétanyahou pour le protéger des chefs d'inculpations dont il doit répondre). Mais l'édifice institutionnel qui avait autrefois permis la domination de ses secteurs libéral et social-démocrate est significativement affaibli.

Le parti travailliste - qui a dirigé le pays pendant des décennies - souffre de l'érosion générale des forces de centre-gauche qui caractérise actuellement les démocraties occidentales. Ces tendances sont renforcées par l'incapacité de la direction palestinienne à convaincre nombre d'Israéliens que les Palestiniens sont réellement disposés à accepter l'État juif. En discernant aux responsables des attentats-suicides et aux autres terroristes le statut de « soldats de la nation » et en accordant des pensions officielles à leurs familles, l'Autorité palestinienne n'encourage pas les Israéliens à soutenir en plus grand nombre une solution à deux États. Quant à la guerre civile latente entre l'Autorité palestinienne établie en Cisjordanie et le mouvement islamiste Hamas qui contrôle la bande de Gaza, elle n'augure pas non plus d'une paix future avec Israël.

Le fait est, pourtant, que le parti Bleu Blanc de Gantz a fini au coude-à-coude avec le Likoud, remportant 35 sièges sur les 120 que compte la Knesset (contre 36 attribués au Likoud). Avec un parti travailliste affaibli (six sièges) et le petit parti de gauche Meretz (quatre sièges), Bleu Blanc pourrait constituer une opposition vigoureuse à la coalition de droite, nationaliste et religieuse, dirigée par Nétanyahou, qui contrôlera 65 sièges. Mais les opposants à Nétanyahou devront présenter des solutions crédibles pour contrer les attaques du Likoud contre la presse et la justice s'ils veulent regagner le pouvoir d'attraction perdu lors des derniers scrutins. La démographie ne plaide pas en faveur d'une alternance et d'un prochain retour du centre-gauche au pouvoir, mais celui-ci n'est pas impossible : l'électorat est très exactement coupé en deux.

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Weah upbeat about development

-Presidency

By Winston W. Parley

The Executive Mansion here says President George Manneh Weah is upbeat about the country's growth and development, citing moves being made with external investors to

President Weah has been holding separate meetings with partners from Israel and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to resuscitate the growth of the country in the wake of his travels.

According to Mr. Tobey, "There's been a team coming in from Israel" that will focus

Weah and his technical team here to talk about energy which aims at finding ways to boost support to the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC).

In further efforts to see the economy booming, Tobey says discussions are being held to work on the Freeport of Monrovia, the Ports of

The Deputy Press Secretary further explains that President Weah is still focused on roads development, assuring the public that government is far on course with the asphalt pavement of the Johnsonville Road in Montserrado in fulfilment of his promise to Liberians.

Tobey says roadworks are taking place in southeast Liberia, while construction has also started for the president's 200 housing unit project in the southeast.

Mr. Tobey earmarks the 14 Military Hospital in Schiefflin

as one of the projects that President Weah will dedicate around the July 26, 2019 Independence Day celebration.

On other national issues, Mr. Tobey says President Weah urges Liberians to remain peaceful as he is concerned about security.

According to Tobey, President Weah is taking criticism against him in good faith because they help good governance, except for those ones that are becoming "rude and sending" [bad] signals out there.



Pres. Weah

resuscitate the growth of Liberia.

At a press briefing held Tuesday, 16 April, Deputy Presidential Press Secretary Smith Tobey announces that

on agriculture, while also acknowledging another team from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) that has just left Liberia.

He notes that the UAE team is working with President

Buchanan, Sinoe and Maryland Counties.

He adds that President Weah is concerned about the economy, security, the health sector and the day - to - day happenings on the streets.

3 brothers die in Nimba accident

-fourth sibling in critical condition

By Thomas Domah/Nimba

A terrible motor accident along the Ganta-Saclepea highway has left three students dead, all of the same siblings, while a fourth victim is admitted at the Ganta United Methodist Hospital.

Eyewitnesses narrate to the New Dawn that the four brothers, who were students

transported goods from Monrovia to Saclepea, and was returning to Monrovia when its driver lost control and ran into the students.

The lone survivor, identified as Archie Miaway, was riding the bike.

The accident occurred near Flumpa Town on the Ganta-

91 years old woman dies after assault

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

A woman in her early 90s Esther Yarkpawolosaid to have been allegedly assaulted by a young man identified as Jonathan Dolo, has died in Kpaai District, Bong County.

Suspect Dolo is believed to be in his early 20s, allegedly stabbed the two arms of Ma Esther Yarkpawolo, whose real age has now been determined to be 91, with cutlass and allegedly damaged the victim's right eye in early March.

Our correspondent says doctors in the county have attributed the death of victim Esther Yarkpawolo to the pains that she suffered from the incident.

The accused, it is alleged, told local authorities that he was provoked by his colleagues George Tokpa, Mitchel Kollie and Emmanuel Juah on Sunday, 3 March when they alleged that he was in a loving relationship with the 91 year - old victim Ma Yarkpawolo.

Following the alleged provocation, suspect Dolo

allegedly inflicted wounds on the old lady with cutlass while she was in bed, leading to serious bleeding.

He alleged that his friends intended to denigrate his long - time - built character.

According to him, he did not act alone, alleging that there was a conspiracy between he and some of his colleagues from Palala, Kpaai District.

Police arrested Dolo and those he accused about a month ago and place them behind bars.

However the two persons that were alleged to have supported the act were later released, while the prime suspect, Jonathan Dolo remains behind bars awaiting court trial.

Suspect Dolo has stated that his intention was to kill the lady so that his colleagues can stop provoking him of having love affairs with her.

He says he jumped through the window and used an old cutlass to assault the old lady at a time he knew that there was no one around.

The incident, according to our correspondent, created

fear among residents of the Kpaai District, with many calling for the death penalty to deter the further killings of innocent people..

91 - year - old victim Esther's killing brings to two, the reported killings in Kpaai District alone in recent times.

Another woman identified as BabygirlBallah was recently killed and placed in a rice bag by her boyfriend Samuel Dolo. Samuel Dolo is also behind bars awaiting court trial.

The victim, Babygirl was buried over the weekend in Dota, Kpaai District.

In a related Development, Bong County Police Superintendent Frederick Nappy has reaffirmed the Police's commitment to battling criminal activities in Gbarnga, Bong County.

Commander Nappy says the police will do all it can to minimize criminal activities in Bong County.

He has called on residents of the County to work alongside the police. --Edited by Winston W. Parley



The truck that allegedly killed three students

of the A.M. Gonquoi school in Boe Community, Ganta had gone for weekend to their parents in Cocopa, district#8 and were returning to the city in readiness for school when the truck allegedly ran into the bike that was bringing them, killing three instantly.

A load bell truck with plate number LB10313 had

Saclepea highway. The three siblings pronounced dead include 20-year-old Bill Miaway, who was a sixth grader, Franklin Miaway, 17, and Peterson Tokpah, 23.

Archie Miaway, who is the eldest brother, is currently in critical condition at the Ganta United Methodist Hospital.

- Editing by Jonathan Browne

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Weah: You on your own

By Winston W. Parley

Amidst speculations that the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change or CDC is amassing supporters for a counter protest on June 7, President George Mannah Weah has been quoted as saying his government will not support any counter protest, suggesting that any group of individuals doing so will be acting on their own.

Speaking to journalist Tuesday April 16, Deputy Presidential Press Secretary Smith Toby said there is no civilized society or government of this world that will allow a counter protest on the same day [that others are protesting].

“So to not be contributing to counter protest, the government ... will not support a counter protest on the day of a protest or an assembly to present ... concern to the president or to the government or the partners of the government,” Toby says.

Counter protest, is a protest which takes place within the proximity of another protest that is



Flashback: CDCians in protest in 2011

ideologically opposite.

Objective of a counter protest can range from voicing opposition to the objective of the other protest to drawing nearby media outlets' attention toward the counter-protestors' cause and seeking to disrupt the other protest

through violent or nonviolent conflict.

In the past few weeks Liberians have heard of plans by some citizens announcing plans to protest on 7 June for a number of reasons, including poor economic conditions, doubts over a controversial

US\$25 million mop-up exercise, mob violence and demands for action against some presidential appointees, among others.

However, there are other who are said to be against such protest and are said to be planning a counter protest due on the same day, prompting concerns here about possible violence.

But Mr. Toby assures that the government of President Weah who was a Peace Ambassador before becoming president, has promised to jealously guide and protect the peace.

He says, what would happen is that the government will hold the organizers and planners of the protest accountable should it turn violent.

“The government will leave no stone untouched if the protest or the protesters turn violent,” says Toby.

If the protest will remain peaceful as planned, he says the security will provide the

peaceful corridor.

He argues that those who are requesting [to protest] know their constitutional obligation, and that the government of President Weah will not infringe on the rights of people.

Toby, however, reminds the protest organizers that there is a laid down procedure to assemble people, especially when you are opting to take the public space.

According to him, organizers are to go through the proper channel, the Ministry of Justice which is responsible to provide security protection.

Toby indicates that he has not seen on the president's desk, any official communication concerning the planned protest.

He states that it is the right of the people under the Constitution to assemble, and the government is equally responsible to protect the peace of the country.

AFL officer held over threat to kill protesters

The Ministry of National Defense through the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) is holding AFL Officer Cpl. Sieh Collins liable for allegedly threatening through his

Code of Military Justice, Article 92, Failure to Obey Order or Regulations and General Article 134, Threat Communication.

The post from Cpl. Collins'

kill you with happiness.”

Officer Collins' alleged Facebook post comes at a time some Liberians are planning to stage a protest on 7 June over the nation's poor economic conditions, doubts over government's controversial mop-up exercise using millions of US dollars, mob violence and demands for action against some presidential appointees, among others.

While the planned June 7 protest is being announced here, another group of Liberians are said to be planning a counter protest due on the same day, prompting concerns here about possible violence.

Officer Collins' alleged threat to kill protesters could further explain why some members of the public get panic and raise concerns over security issues whenever they hear of plans by individuals to protest or stage counter-protests.

Meanwhile the Ministry of National Defense reiterates that the Armed Forces of Liberia will continue to exhibit good morals and professionalism in the execution of its national obligations.

The Ministry stresses that the AFL will not compromise acts that may undermine the image of the military as a “Force for Good.”

It explains that through the AFL, it has completed the investigation of Cpl. Sieh



AFL Officer Cpl. Sieh Collins

Facebook account to kill protesters here on 7 June.

In a press release issued in Monrovia Tuesday, 16 April, the Defense Ministry says Officer Collins is liable for contravening the Uniform

alleged Facebook account reads: “I will never regret killing anybody on the street of Monrovia to keep my country safe. Remembering our children are in school and Liberia is safe, trust me, I will

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Collins for allegedly posting threatening statement from his Facebook profile against individuals planning to protest on June 7, 2019 in Monrovia.

According to the Ministry, the investigation report held Cpl. Collins liable for contravening Uniform Code of Military Justice.

He has therefore been subjected to the Disciplinary Board of the Armed Forces of Liberia.

At the same time, the Ministry of National Defense cautions personnel of the Armed Forces of Liberia to use social media with prudence and avoid acts that will cast aspersion on the image of the Armed Forces of Liberia, and the Ministry of National Defense.

In concluding, the Ministry says it will update the general public on subsequent proceedings.--Press release

Messi masterclass ends Man Utd's dreams



Barcelona's legendary No.10 produced another incredible performance as the Blaugrana comfortably put Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side to the sword. Manchester United came to Camp Nou hoping for a miracle to rival their 1999 Champions League final victory over Bayern Munich. Then super-sub and now coach Ole Gunnar Solskjaer scored the second of two stoppage time goals to stun the Bavarians and complete an historic treble for the Red

Devils. Twenty years later, trailing 1-0 from the quarter-final first leg, against a Barcelona side unbeaten in their previous 30 Champions League home matches, they needed a similar freak outcome to progress to the semis. Barcelona have only twice failed to go through after winning the first leg away from home in Europe, in 41 ties. And perhaps most importantly, they are led by the one man in world football who is capable of making

miracles happen - Lionel Messi. Solskjaer said on the eve of the clash that he believes in sport you get what you deserve. The truth is Barcelona's inimitable genius deserves far more than the four Champions Leagues he has to his name. The best player in the world, in the history of football, produced another decisive, debilitating display, ripping Manchester United's defence apart to score twice in Barcelona's 3-0 win, 4-0 on aggregate. Messi ended a freak 12-match run of Champions League quarter-final games, dating back to 2013, without a goal, driving Barcelona into the semi-finals for the first time since they won the tournament in 2015. Despite that curious drought, throughout that time he has shone while others around him, from the coach to his team-mates, have not delivered, even if he is willing to shoulder his share of the responsibility.



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Ronaldo's CL dream ended as Ajax stun Juventus

The Italian side's huge investment in the Portuguese to try and secure Champions League glory has ended in failure. Cristiano Ronaldo's hopes of Champions League glory with Juventus are over, for this year at least, after yet another stunning performance by Ajax in their quarter-final second leg in Turin. Goals from Donny van de



Beek and Matthijs de Ligt cancelled out Ronaldo's opener and sealed a 3-2 aggregate victory for the Dutch side, who knocked out Ronaldo's former club Real Madrid in the previous round.

Juventus splashed out €100 million (£86.4/\$133m) to bring Ronaldo to Turin with the expectation it could fuel a charge for European glory. The Portuguese forward is a five-time winner of the Champions League, first lifting the trophy with Manchester United in 2008. He has since gone on to win the competition four times with Real Madrid, including the last three.


Looking from the past to present

Clr. Kuku Y. Dorbor is not only a former lawmaker from the 52nd Legislature, but an entrepreneur humanitarian, and trusted public servant. While serving in the 52nd Legislature she represented the House of Representatives to several regional functions, the first meeting of Women Parliamentarian in Africa and from the Arab World held in Abuja, Nigeria; The Revision of the African Action Plan of the World Bank, in Abuja, Nigeria; the International Conference on the International Population Development (ICPD) held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; the Eighth Annual Conference of the Parliamentarian Network of the World Bank in Paris, France and a seminar on Accountability and Legislative Oversight held in Helsinki, Finland, respectively.



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