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The New Dawn

French Version Inside

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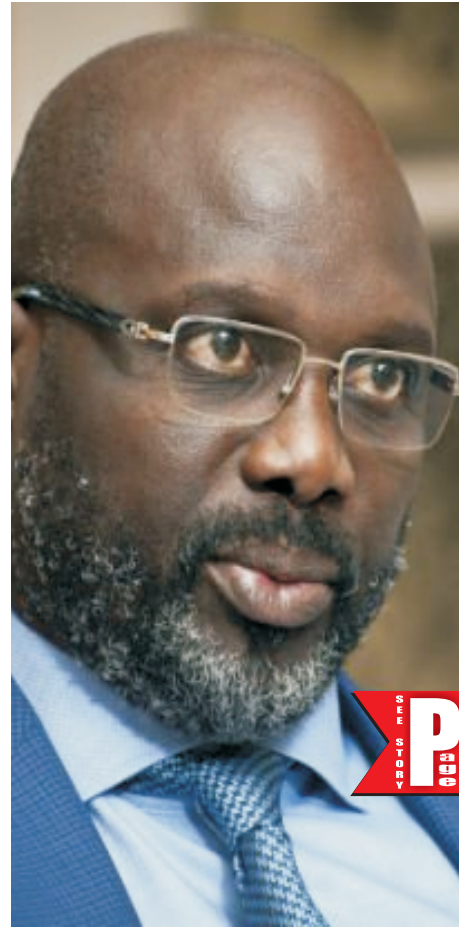
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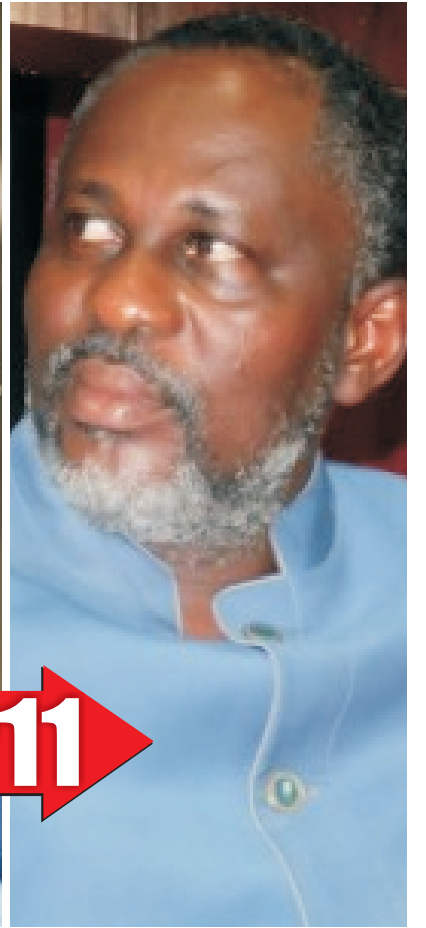
MONDAY, APRIL 29, 2019

PRICE LD\$40.00

Weah faces more challenges



Pres. Weah



Min. Nathaniel McGill

-As UN threatens to withhold funding if...



The widow of the late Rep. Lawrence (Middle)

CDC boycotts lawmaker's Church funeral



Continental News

Cyclone Kenneth: Entire villages wiped out, says UN

A powerful cyclone has "entirely wiped out" villages in Mozambique, according to a UN official.

Gemma Connell, the head of the regional Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (Ocha), said it looked from the air like areas had been "run over by a bulldozer".

Cyclone Kenneth struck on Thursday with winds of 220km/h (140mph).

It came barely a month after Cyclone Idai killed more than 900 people across three countries.

In a video posted on Twitter after flying over the affected area, Ms Connell pledged to work with local authorities "to get people the supplies they need". "The weather is still bad, it is still raining," she said. "But thankfully the winds have died down." The BBC's Pumza Fihlani reports that damage to power lines in parts of northern Mozambique is making communication difficult.

Almost 20,000 people have taken shelter in makeshift displacement centres, including schools and churches, our correspondent adds. A UN spokesman said a total of five people have now died, quoting

Mozambique's government, according to reports.

One person was earlier reported to have been killed when Cyclone Kenneth struck after being crushed by a falling tree. The storm also killed three people on the island nation of Comoros. UN weather experts say it is unprecedented for two cyclones of such intensity to hit Mozambique in the same season.

The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) also said

that no previous records show a cyclone striking the region as far north as Kenneth.

It said a fact-finding mission would examine the "impact of climate change and sea-level rise on Mozambique's resilience" to extreme weather. Amnesty International's secretary general Kumi Naidoo said the two storms were "exactly what climate scientists warned would happen if we continue to warm our planet beyond its limits".



Families have been left displaced by the cyclones

Nigeria police die as Shell workers seized

Two senior employees of the oil company Shell have been kidnapped and their police escorts killed in Nigeria's restive Delta region, police said. The attack took place as the workers were returning from a business trip on Thursday on a road in Rivers

state.

Gunmen killed the guards, one of whom was driving the vehicle, and seized the two workers, officials said.

A police spokesman said efforts were under way to rescue the Shell employees.

Their names and nationalities have not been

released. "The Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited (SPDC) regrets to confirm the attack on its staff and government security escort at Rumuji, Rivers State, on the East/West road," an SPDC spokesman said.

The workers had been returning from an official trip to Bayelsa state.

Kidnapping for ransom is common in Nigeria, with foreigners and high-profile Nigerians frequently targeted.

Earlier this month, a British woman was one of two people shot dead by gunmen who stormed a holiday resort in the northern city of Kaduna. Three others were kidnapped during the attack.

In January last year, two Americans and two Canadian citizens were abducted while travelling from the town of Kafanchan in Kaduna state to the capital Abuja. Two of their police escorts were killed.

The four kidnap victims were later freed unharmed in a joint military and police operation. BBC



Shell is involved in oil and gas production in the Niger Delta

"There is one inescapable and burning injustice we cannot stress enough," he said, adding: "The people of Mozambique are paying the price for dangerous climate change when they have done next to nothing to cause this crisis." Kenneth made landfall on the northern province of Cabo Delgado on Thursday evening, with wind speeds equivalent to a category four hurricane.

Winds eased on Friday, but France's meteorological agency said up to 800mm of rain was expected to land on Mozambique over the coming days - nearly double the 10-day accumulated rainfall that flooded the port city of Beira during Cyclone Idai.

The UN's World Food Programme said it was working on an "emergency preparedness plan" with the Mozambican government and other

humanitarian groups. "The most difficult thing is transportation - we don't have helicopters yet," Capt Kleber Castro from a Brazilian rescue team said. "We need a lot of support." Mozambique's National Institute of Disaster Management (INGC) said 30,000 people had been evacuated from affected areas. Cabo Delgado province is not as densely populated as the area hit by Cyclone Idai, and there is apparently more high ground there.

But reports said many thousands of homes had been flattened by the winds, and the area has been hit by militant Islamist violence in recent months, which could complicate humanitarian operations.

Thousands of people had already fled their homes to seek shelter from violence in camps for displaced people. BBC

South Africa marks Freedom Day

KWA-THEMA, South Africa - Calls for more jobs for South Africa's black majority and respect for the rights of the LGBTI community marked Freedom Day celebrations on Saturday commemorating the 25th anniversary of the end of apartheid.

Singing and dancing punctuated one gathering of about 3,500 people on the outskirts of Johannesburg.

A quarter-century ago South Africa's blacks finally were able to vote, bringing democracy to the country. But long after the brutal apartheid system of racial discrimination, speakers said many still struggle to find a decent life. "What is the meaning of freedom if many people in a township are unemployed?" asked David Makhura, premier of Gauteng province, which includes South Africa's largest city, Johannesburg, and the capital, Pretoria. "What is the meaning of freedom if you don't have a job? Or if you don't have a house or land?" Makhura said the government of the African National Congress party is working to get title deeds for black South Africans: "The land must belong to our people!"

All South Africans must respect the rights of the country's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual and intersex citizens, the premier

added, saying many in the LGBTI community still suffer violence and discrimination in their workplaces, in church and elsewhere.

Makhura honored Eudy Simelane, a star on South Africa's women's national soccer team and a gay rights activist who was gang-raped and murdered in Kwa-Thema in 2008. "Eudy did not die in vain," he said.

Kwa-Thema, a black township that was prominent in the struggle against apartheid, joined the Freedom Day celebrations as the anniversary was marked in a low-key way across South Africa. Much attention was focused on the upcoming elections on May 8.

The rally was marked by the bright yellow, green and black colors of the ruling ANC party of the late Nelson Mandela, who was crucial in the decades-long fight to end apartheid.

"I was born in the struggle," said Lucky Ntshabele, 34. "My father was an activist and as a boy I knew the smell of tear gas."

From the land of suffering we have come to Canaan, the land of plenty. But plenty still needs to be done."

Wearing a rainbow T-shirt, Bontle Muhapi said she was celebrating Freedom Day but added that troubling issues must be addressed. BBC

EDITORIAL

The writing on the wall...

THE GOVERNMENT OF Liberia risks losing the confidence of the UN system in the country in the wake of reported delays in accounting for funds received and implemented on specific projects in the public sector under the National Implementation Modality (NIM), according to UN Resident Coordinator, Yacoub El Hillo.

THE UN IS warning the Weah administration of financial malfeasance and mismanagement of funds provided in the wake of failure to account for UN-funded projects and activities.

THIS IS SERIOUS and should claim government's attention immediately, for Liberia cannot afford to get in bad book with the UN and yet expect direct funding from UN agencies, which this country badly needs at the moment.

RESIDENT COORDINATOR EL HILLO has made this know to the government thru a letter written to Liberia's Minister of State for Presidential Affairs Nathaniel McGill, dated April 25, 2019.

"SEVERAL [UN] AGENCIES have experienced challenges in getting timely and accurate reports from their Government counterparts thereby delaying implementation of essential services and advisory support to the people of Liberia", he complains in the letter.

THE COMPLAINT COMES with warning of withholding fund and other adverse consequences in the long-run.

IT IS ABOUT time government listens and acts accordingly, to advert a possible worst case scenario that could leave devastating consequences, for government needs partners' intervention for some life-saving programs, especially, when the national economy is not promising.

IN A DISMALLY performing economy as Liberia currently exists, such negative posture from the international community as a result of government's apparent lack of accountability and transparency could plunge this country to further stagnation and hardship.

WE CALL ON President Weah to intervene immediately by ensuring that all government ministries and agencies concerned comply accordingly in order to continuously enjoy the confidence of our international partners.

FROM ALL INDICATIONS, the writing on the wall is not encouraging all, and government must do something about it without delay.

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

COMMENTARY

By Mary Fitzgerald

America's Dark-Money Bid for Europe's Soul

In the run-up to next month's European Parliament elections, the bloc's leaders are focusing on preventing or neutralizing Russian interference. Unfortunately, they are turning a blind eye to another outside player that doesn't mean well for the future of Europe.

LONDON - Russian efforts to influence European elections have received plenty of media attention. But the same cannot be said of interference by conservative Christian groups based in the United States, some with links to President Donald Trump's administration and his former adviser, Stephen Bannon.

As a recent report by openDemocracy has found, America's religious right spent at least \$50 million on "dark money" campaigns and advocacy in Europe over the past decade. And yet, despite obvious grounds for concern about the integrity of next month's European Parliament elections, almost all the attention has been on the Kremlin.

The US religious right's support for campaigns against legal abortion, LGBT rights, sex education, and other causes in Africa and Latin America has been well documented over the years. But the scale of its engagement in Europe is new. In the first analysis of its kind, openDemocracy examined the financial records of leading US Christian organizations and found that several have been increasing their spending in Europe significantly.

Among the biggest spenders, the American Center for Law and Justice, which dished out \$12.4 million from 2008 to 2017, lists as its chief counsel Jay Sekulow, one of Trump's personal attorneys. Likewise, the Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty, which spent \$1.7 million in this period, has worked with the controversial Bannon-backed Dignitatis Humanae Institute outside Rome.

The largest spender of all appears to be the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, which dispensed over \$20 million from 2008 to 2014 (the last year for which data are available for this organization). The group's leader, Franklin Graham, recently traveled to Russia to meet with Kremlin officials who are currently subject to US sanctions. According to Graham, his trip was fully endorsed by US Vice President Mike Pence.

None of these US-based groups discloses its donors. But at least two are known to have ties to famous conservative billionaires, including the Koch brothers and the family of Trump's education secretary, Betsy DeVos. And, like Bannon, all harbor varying degrees of suspicion, if not outright hostility, toward fundamental values of the European Union, including respect for universal human rights.

A few weeks ago, representatives and supporters of many of these groups met with European far-right politicians at the World Congress of Families in Verona, Italy. This year's lineup of speakers featured Matteo Salvini, Italy's deputy prime minister and leader of the far-right League party, who praised the WCF for showcasing "the Europe that we like." Among the event's "co-conveners" this year was an Italian anti-abortion group linked to the neo-fascist Forza Nuova (New Force) party.

Over the past decade, the WCF - founded by the International Organization for the Family (formerly the Howard Center for Family, Religion, and Society), which is based in Rockford, Illinois -

has hosted at least seven major meetings in Europe. Its gatherings have been attended by hundreds of conservative religious activists and a growing list of far-right stars, including Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, who opened the WCF's 2017 meeting in Budapest.

The WCF's push into Europe is no accident. According to the IOF's latest tax filings, its directors include an ultra-conservative Spanish activist with ties to the far-right Vox party, a close associate of a Russian oligarch who has sponsored other meetings of European far-right leaders, and an Italian politician facing corruption charges in his country.

Concerns about "outside interference" by hostile powers (namely, Russia) are of course nothing new in Europe (though they have grown more acute now that Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg has all but admitted that he cannot control how his platform is used). But now, Europeans also have to worry about US-based advocacy groups that conceal their funding sources.

Following the release of the openDemocracy report, a cross-party group of 40 MEPs sent a letter to the European Council, the European Commission, and the European Parliament demanding that further action be taken to protect the upcoming elections "against nefarious outside influences." Of particular concern, they write, is "the specific matter of US Christian fundamentalists," whose escalating involvement in Europe "must be addressed as a matter of urgency."

But this is a hard issue to tackle, because different EU member states have different rules for ensuring financial transparency in elections and by political campaigns and NGOs. Still, requiring that all organizations lobbying in Brussels declare their funding sources on the EU transparency register would be a good start, provided that there are measures in place to prevent political organizations from hiding behind front groups. Europe also needs tougher EU-wide rules for social platforms, which should be held to the same standards of transparency as lobbying groups. Any political ad that runs online should come with a clear and accurate disclosure of its source and funding.

Reacting to openDemocracy's findings, Neil Datta of the European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development points out that "It took [these fundamentalist groups] 30 years to get to where they are now in the White House." Now, he worries that a similar campaign in Europe "is happening even faster and on a grander scale than many experts could have ever imagined."

With the EU facing unprecedented internal and external challenges in the years ahead, the outcome of the upcoming European Parliament elections could well determine the bloc's fate. That is why European leaders are focusing on preventing or neutralizing Russian machinations. Unfortunately, they are turning a blind eye to another outside player that doesn't mean well for Europe's future.

O-PED

By Daron Acemoglu

Where Do Good Jobs Come From?

CAMBRIDGE - Around the world this May Day, policy proposals that would have appeared radical just a few years ago are now on the agenda. In the United States, for example, high marginal tax rates, wealth taxes, and single-payer health care have become mainstream ideas. Yet unless policymakers get their priorities right, the opportunity for meaningful reform could be squandered, leading to even deeper social and political divisions.

In fact, while the reforms that are needed are radical and sweeping, they are not the ones currently in vogue. The top priority should be creating high-wage jobs, and this goal should guide policymakers' approach to everything from technology, regulation, and taxes to education and social programs. Historically, no known human society has created shared prosperity purely through redistribution. Prosperity comes from creating jobs that pay decent wages. And it is good jobs, not redistribution, that provide people with purpose and meaning in life.

Creating such jobs requires that technological innovation be directed toward boosting demand for workers. Good jobs do not emerge naturally from free markets. Rather, they require labor-market institutions that protect and empower workers, generously funded education systems, and effective social safety nets. This is the institutional architecture that furnished the US and other advanced economies with four decades of strong, inclusive growth after World War II.

The massive growth in labor demand during that era rested on three pillars. First, businesses deployed technology in ways that increased labor productivity, thus fueling wage growth and demand for workers. At the same time, governments provided crucial support, by funding education and research, and (in some cases) becoming major purchasers of high-tech equipment. Most of today's defining technologies owe something to government-funded innovation from this period.

Second, governments during the postwar era shaped the business environment with minimum wages, workplace-safety regulations, and other labor- and product-market regulations. Such measures are often blamed for choking off employment. But they can actually create a virtuous cycle of growth, because the cost floor for labor creates an incentive for firms to rationalize and upgrade their production processes, thereby increasing productivity and thus demand. Similarly, by ensuring that product markets remain competitive, governments can prevent firms from charging monopoly prices and reaping higher profits without having to hire more workers.

Third, governments in the post-war era expanded access to education, which meant that more workers had the skills that were in demand. In the US, for example, the federal government made higher education and vocational training available to millions of citizens with the G.I. Bill, Pell Grants, support for research, and other measures. Yes, all of this investment in innovation and education required higher tax revenues. But moderately higher tax rates and economic growth itself were sufficient to make up the difference.

A similar institutional architecture took hold across much of the industrialized world during the postwar era. For example, in Scandinavia, shared prosperity was achieved not through redistribution, as is commonly assumed, but as a result of government policies and collective bargaining, which created an environment conducive to the creation of high-wage jobs.

This is not to suggest that the 1950s and 1960s were perfect. In the US, discrimination against African-Americans and women remained deeply ingrained, and educational opportunities were not equally distributed. Still, in many other ways, economic conditions then were better than they are now, particularly when it comes to the availability of high-wage jobs.

Having averaged about 2.5% per year between 1947 and 1987, private-sector wage growth in the US decelerated sharply after 1987, and ceased altogether after 2000 - a full seven years before the Great Recession. This stall has coincided with a period of weak productivity growth and a reorientation of investment toward automation, and away from the creation of new, higher-productivity tasks for humans. As a result, high-wage jobs have dried up, wages have stopped growing, and a larger share of prime-age adults have dropped out of the labor force.

More broadly, the institutional architecture that once underpinned job creation crumbled during this period. Protections for workers were steadily weakened, market concentration in many sectors increased, and the government abandoned its previous support for innovation. By 2015, federally funded research and development had fallen to 0.7% of GDP, down from 1.9% in the 1960s.

Many regard the falloff in the creation of high-wage jobs as the inevitable result of advances in artificial intelligence and robotics. It isn't. Technology can be used either to displace labor or to enhance worker productivity. The choice is ours. But to ensure that such decisions benefit workers, governments need to coax the private sector away from its singular focus on automation.

In the US, this might start with fixing tax policy, which is far too favorable toward capital income. Because firms can reduce their tax burden by deploying machines, they often have an incentive to pursue automation, even in cases where hired workers would actually be more productive. Government also needs to get back into the business of supporting technological innovation, in order to provide a counterweight to the big tech firms, whose business models are overwhelmingly geared toward automation at the expense of job creation. And, of course, expanding educational opportunities across the board is essential.

As in the postwar era, this institutional architecture will require higher tax revenues, especially in the US, where annual tax revenue relative to GDP is around 27%, well below the OECD average (34%). In raising that figure, the point should not be to punish the rich, but to remove distortions such as the favorable treatment of capital. That means broadening the tax base and increasing tax rates modestly (to avoid discouraging investment and innovation).

A society powered by shared prosperity is not out of reach. But getting there will require urgent action to align technology with workers' needs, prevent monopolization, and fix the tax code so that we can fund the investments we need. Restoring the post-war institutional architecture will be a job for humans only.

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Mr. Alexander B. Cummings Meets Montserrado Independent Senatorial Hopeful Mrs. Massa Massaquoi Kanyon & Leaders of TEAM-MASSA



The Lady Mrs. Massa Massaquoi Kanyon continues to prove to political pundits that she is a force to reckon with in the upcoming Montserrado Senatorial By-Election.

Evident by this fact, she and her team were granted audience by Mr. Alexander B. Cummings, the Political Leader of the Alternative National Congress (ANC) and a major player in the Liberian political discourse.

Massa and her TEAM-MASSA had also requested audience, with other major Stakeholders in the Liberian political echelon and Mr. Cummings who happens to be a member of that class, was one of the firsts to grant her such audience.



It remains unknown what was discussed in that meeting as the meeting was held behind closed doors, but Massa, when asked said:

"The meeting went well, we are excited about this meeting and we appreciate Mr. Cummings for this invitation, we also look forward to meeting with other Stakeholders we wrote concerning the same. We are reaching out to everyone - we intend of 'Bridging Our National Divide' as we make Montserrado County go Independent this election."

Both Massa and Cummings happen to be in and from the cooperate world, probably a reason why Cummings could seem interested in her candidacy for which he would want to hear her out.

Major Samokai, head of TEAM-MASSA, thinks the Cummings meeting is welcoming and that it could be the signal for the beginning of great things for the candidature of the decorated Banker.

With the National Election Commission (NEC) yet to announce the date of the said election, the Fred Umojah's "Zion Baby" and her TEAM-MASSA have no plan of "making hard work lazy."

OFFICIAL

By: Media Relations, TEAM-MASSA

PERSPECTIVES PERSPECTIVES

Public Policy . Economics . Democratic Politics . Political/Economic Decentralization . Public Dishonesty . Dual Citizenship

CDC-PROPOSED “PRO-POOR AGENDA”: A REACTION

With Bai M. Gbala, Sr.
March 26, 2019

Introduction

The fanfare, pomp and pageantry that characterized the presentation and, later, wide distribution and circulation of the proposed Pro-Poor Agenda by the CDC Coalition led by President George Weah prompt this article of critical Analysis and the Commentary on the issues in the following pages.

We will show and inform the Liberian People, their Partners-in-Progress and friendly Donors of the International Community that the Pro-Poor Agenda is a poly and deceptive. It is planned/designed based on a set of political beliefs and philosophy deeply-rooted in graft/greed and massive theft of public resources – the roaring, rampant Liberia Corruption, Incorporated.

But Firstly, what are the relevant, significant meanings of the English-Language terms of “pro” & “poor”?

The term *pro*, a prefix, means, in this context, “for or on behalf of”; while, *poor* “is the condition of lack of material wealth and/or inability to acquire such wealth”, in relative terms. The term *poverty*, “is the condition of being poor”, used, often, to express the same condition.

International Convention has described *economic poverty* by determination of a level represented by number that denotes and known as being the acute crisis condition or *Level of being poor* designated as the “Poverty Line”. Poverty conditions found to be equal to or greater than this number or much more acute and damaging to human well-being is said and determined to be below the Poverty Line. It is this Level or Number that is unacceptable to liberal, progressive and democratic governments, under law, committed to reduce, control and, eventually, eradicate through application of rational public policy.

The CDC-Proposed Pro-Poor Agenda

The Proposed Agenda is a Four-point plan designated as Pillars, a comprehensive, holistic program of work for social, cultural, economic and political development of the Liberian nation for prosperity, justice, freedom and Liberian “human freedom from want” as the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity & Development (PAPD).

The Program asserts that “It is about the people, how to strengthen their capacity to thrive; how to draw all Liberians living at home and abroad into the national development process; that over the next five years, addressing the basic needs of Liberians for income security, better access to basic services, and greater opportunities for self-improvement in an enabling environment that is inclusive and stable will be at the core of the pro-poor agenda”; and that “while one of the aims, over the long term remains raising per capita income levels and economic status to a middle-income country as outlined under the Vision 2030 framework, the focus over the next five years will be on removing the binding constraints to reaching that goal” and constitute the following.

Goals of the PAPD

In view of the foregoing, the objectives of the PAPD are to:

- a) “Build more capable and trusted state institutions that will lead to a stable, resilient and inclusive nation embracing its triple heritage anchored on its African identity; and
- b) “Provide greater income security to an additional one million Liberians, and reduce absolute poverty by 23 percent across 5 out of 6 regions through sustained and inclusive economic growth driven by scaled-up investments in agriculture, in infrastructure, in human resource development, and in social protection”.

Pillars of the PAPD

Accordingly, to make progress towards the PAPD and, eventually, the Vision 2030 goals over the next five years, the strategies and interventions built around four pillars which will form the pathways for the next five years are:

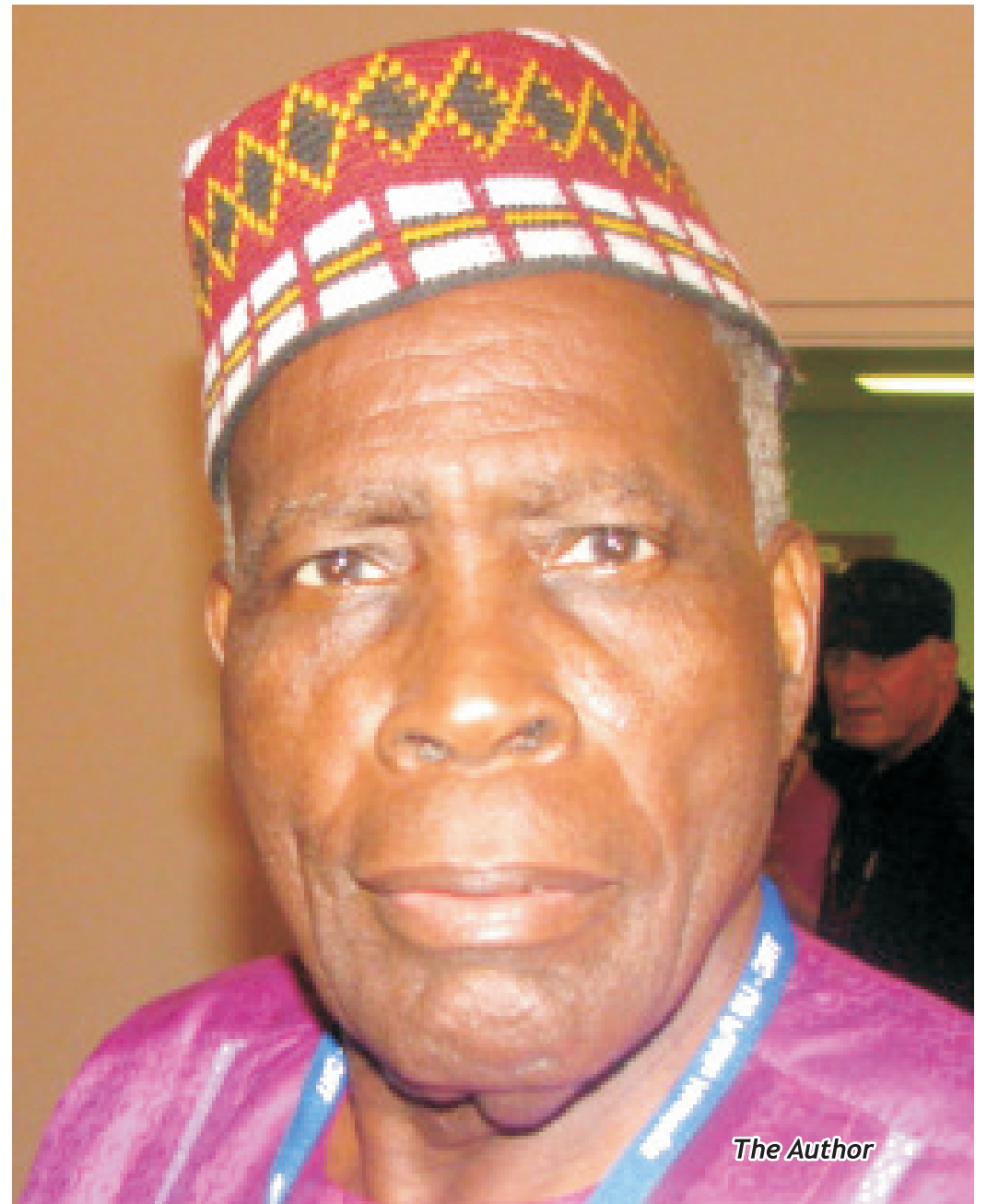
1. “Power to the People”, to empower Liberians with the tools to gain control of their lives through more equitable provision of opportunities in education, health, youth development, and social protection;
2. “The Economy and Jobs”, economic stability and job creation through effective resource mobilization and prudent management of economic inclusion;
3. “Sustaining the Peace”, promoting a cohesive society for sustainable development and Governance; and
4. “Transparency”, an inclusive and accountable public sector for shared prosperity and sustainable development. The second priority for the government under this pillar is reducing corruption. Corruption undermines the capacity of the state and increases the cost to deliver basic services. To achieve this, the government commits to strengthening anti-graft institutions as the foot soldiers.

The Proposed Agenda for Development & Prosperity (PADP)

Indeed, this proposal as written is a professional masterpiece of comprehensive, macroeconomic public policy analysis, planning and development program of work activities designed for socio-economic and political prosperity of the Liberian nation and People. But...

Who are the Proponents or Proposers?

In the light of the facts of history of Liberia's turbulent past, recent past and the present-prevailing decadent socio-economic and political activities of Liberian GOVERNMENT & GOVERNANCE, answers to this question are and will be critical and crucial.



For integrity, creditability – transparency, accountability, training/experience, commitment to the rule of law are axiomatic expectations/requirements of an individual or organization, government or private, particularly, government in this case. These variables are a function of or depend upon the character (acts of commission/omission or a set of belief systems or policy expressed or implied) of the leader or leaders of such organization(s). The Proposers of the Pro-Poor Agenda are leading members of the CDC Government led by the President of Liberia, His Excellency, George M. Weah:

A. Mr. George M. Weah

According to public record, Mr. Weah was elected President of Liberia on October 10, 2017 and inaugurated as President on January 20, 2018. But President Weah is citizen of two foreign countries, a violation of Liberian Law by a sitting President; further:

- 1) As President, Mr. Weah flirted with and became close friend of a flamboyant, playboy politician, the former President of Liberia, Mr. Charles M. Taylor, African Chief political criminal serving a 50-year sentence in prison for political crimes against humanity. Mr. Weah, as candidate, selected Mrs. Jewel Howard-Taylor, estranged wife of the former President as running mate/Vice President on his CDC political Party ticket. Mrs. Taylor is, now, Liberia's Vice President while, simultaneously, Flag Bearer of the notorious National Patriotic Party of massive human rights violations and corruption.
- 2) President Weah vowed, publicly, that there will be no War Crime Tribunal in Liberia, a solemn commitment to the prevailing “culture of impunity”, official protection of the civil war suspects from prosecution, a deeply-troubling statement.
- 3) President Weah declared recently that “If you know book but you do not own a house or bicycle, etc, you are stupid”, in an apparent rebuke or criticism-mockery of Liberian academics, practicing political party politicians. Moreover, the President's public refusal to declare his assets is violation of and disobedience to law and, also, his reluctance-refusal to demand loyalists in high government positions declare assets say volumes to the people that public service is an opportunity to steal public resources, especially, at this time when he (the President) and associates are actively-engaged in massive acquisition of wealth.
- 4) President Weah has been, and is, in close, troubling alliance with some of the most deadly perpetrators of human rights violations – rapes, maiming, beatings, arrests, ethnic cleansing, massacres, and above all, summary executions without trial of innocent men, women and children.
- 5) In a public outburst in an apparent retaliation to criticism by Liberian academics/intellectuals, the so-called “political progressives, the President said, again, that “if you know book and you have no

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Amb. Patten Calls for Trade Mission from Minnesota to Liberia

The Ambassador of the Republic of Liberia to the United States, H.E. George S.W. Patten, Sr., has called on the State of Minnesota to undertake a trade mission to Liberia with a focus on health, education, tourism, agriculture, and job creation.

According to a dispatch from the Liberian Embassy in Washington, Ambassador Patten was speaking on April 25, 2019, during a meeting with the Governor of Minnesota, Hon. Tim Walz, at the Minnesota State Capitol in St. Paul, Minnesota. Ambassador Patten is in Minnesota on his first visit to engage with the Liberian community and to further enhance the relationship between the Republic of Liberia and the State of Minnesota.

Ambassador Patten lauded



U.S. Pres. Donald Trump and Amb. George S.W. Patten, Sr.

the State of Minnesota and Governor Walz for the strong support to the Liberian community, especially in the effort to finding a solution to

the immigration challenges faced by many Liberians on Deferred Enforcement Departure (DED).

Ambassador Patten

applauded the Governor for supporting the Liberian community in Minnesota, and he assured that the Liberian Government would do everything possible to ensure success of the trade mission.

The Liberian envoy noted that the government of President George Manneh Weah is focused on efforts to bring about infrastructural and economic development. Accordingly, he said, the government is focused on road construction, agricultural development, health and education, in order to improve the conditions of the Liberian people.

Ambassador Patten indicated that the Liberian Honorary Consulate in Minnesota and the Embassy in Washington, D.C. will work closely with the Governor's office to ensure that the trade delegation goes to Liberia as soon as possible.

Ambassador Patten also expressed the need to further strengthen and expand sister-city relationships between cities in Liberia and Minnesota.

For his part, Governor Walz said that there are many areas in which the Republic of Liberia and the State of Minnesota can partner, which

would be mutually beneficial to both sides.

Governor Walz described the Liberian community in Minnesota, which is estimated to be about 40,000, as a critical part of Minnesota economically and professionally, and he assured that his administration would do all that is necessary to develop close partnership with Liberia.

"Minnesota is a much better place because of the vibrant Liberian community," said Governor Walz. "This is why we look forward to a strong partnership with Liberia in trade and other areas that would be mutually beneficial."

As an example of the growing importance of the Liberian community in Minnesota, Mr. Mike Elliott, a Liberian-born, was elected Mayor of the City of Brooklyn Center on November 7, 2018, while another Liberian-born, Wynfred Russell was also elected as Councilman for the City of Brooklyn Park.

Governor Walz recalled that the United States and Liberia have a unique relationship, dating from the founding of Liberia.

The Governor welcomed the establishment of an Honorary Consulate of Liberia in Minnesota, which is a sign of the importance of the growing relationship between his state and Liberia. He also lauded the Honorary Consul of Liberia, Hon. Jackson K. George, Jr., for working assiduously to elevate the cause of Liberia in Minnesota.

Those who accompanied Ambassador Patten at the meeting with Governor Walz included, Honorary Consul Jackson George, Liberia's Consul General in New York, Hon. Rudolph Sherman; and the President of the Liberian Business Association (LIBA), Mr. James M. Strother, who traveled from Liberia as guest of the Liberian Business Association in the Diaspora.

Minister Kruah boosts ICT girls' confidence

By Ben P. Wese

The Minister of Post and Telecommunications Cllr. Cooper Kruah has assured Liberian girls in the field of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in working with the administration of the University of Liberia to establish a degree program in computer science at the University.

He made the disclosure over the weekend in Tubmanburg, Bomi County at the program making the celebration of girls in ICT.

Minister Kruah discloses that the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications has written the ICT policy that schools across Liberia should be in readiness to consider ICT

curriculum in their programs.

He indicates that gender disparity around the world remains a major concern to the United Nations.

According to him, the United Nations has highlight this concern in many documents including, the famous Millennium Development Goal, where education is emphasized as a tool for eliminating the gender disparity.

Minister Kruah narrates that it is reported that over 357, 000 girls and young women have already taken part in [about] 11,100 celebrations of international girls in ICT Days in 171 countries worldwide.

He continues that the program was taken to Bomi in line with his plan of taking ICT

Day celebrations outside Monrovia in recognition of the importance of women and girls in other counties here.

According to him, support is needed for the programs being offered because several girls that were trained in ICT have become professional people in computer operation. "With your help, this county can be ICT based society in Liberia," Minister Kruah notes.

For her part, Bomi County Hub Project Manager HawaFlomo discloses that recent research shows that girls are five times less likely than boys to consider a career related to technology.

In Europe's fast-growing ICT sector, she adds that girls are less than 30% of workers and only 19% of entrepreneurs are women.

"Preparing girls for a career in ICT is not only a matter of gender equality, but also an urgent development imperative," she continues.

According to Madam Flomo, ICT empowers women and girls through increasing their access to health, banking services, education and helping to facilitate political participation.

Meanwhile, Madam Flom says more than 300 computers and other equipment are needed to run an easy access computer program for students in Bomi County. The program brought together Ministers, Directors, marketers, ICT organizations, county authorities and students from both Monrovia and Bomi Counties.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



Cllr. Cooper Kruah

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Universities urged to shift education toward agriculture

By Winston W. Parley

Liberia's higher education institutions have been admonished to shift their thought process towards agriculture education that considers market participation and value addition. The call came during the climax of a symposium in Monrovia on Liberia's higher education under the auspices of Africa's higher education group Regional Universities Forum (RUFORUM) for Capacity Building in Agriculture.

RUFORUM which has expanded its network to 105 universities across Africa, had three days engagements with Liberian higher education institutions including state-run University of Liberia (UL) to push for collaboration among universities here to support human capital development and to develop a new generation of scholars who love and believe in the African continent.

Delivering a keynote address Friday, 26 April at Bella Casa, Nimba County District #9 Rep. Prof. Johnson



Members and executives of RUFORUM in a group photo

N. Gwaikolo suggests that higher education institutions must look at preparing students not only to produce agricultural products abundantly, but to add value and market them.

"Farmers or agriculturists must be trained to know that pork sausages are made out of hog meat; that cereals for babies can be made out of plantain," Rep. Gwaikolo says.

In further emphasis, Rep. Gwaikolo calls for a higher

education that will inspire in Liberians [and other Africans] the importance of agriculture, and trigger robust investment in agriculture and thereby curtail the reliance on the importation of agriculture products.

According to him, quality in higher agriculture education brings about food security, as "study has shown that the problem of food is one of the greatest challenges for mankind."

To better education in Liberia, Rep. Gwaikolo recommends increasing education budget very substantially; developing curriculum in agriculture education that connects the school or students with everyday life in rural areas; and encouraging enactment of legislation that criminalizes unprofessional and indecent academic behavior and practices.

He also recommends investment in research programs at universities and disseminating research findings in rural areas; investing in agriculture colleges and providing the requisite infrastructure, among others.

Earlier, UL president and co-chair of the forum, Prof. Ophelia Weeks said the meeting provided the opportunity for higher education institutions here to come together to begin the conversation on "how we can improve" and promote higher

education here.

RUFORUM Board Chair and Vice Chancellor of Malawi's Lilongwe University Agriculture and Natural Resources, Prof. George Kanyama - Phiri says they are looking forward for exchange of staff and students from UL to other universities where they find programs that they want to promote.

Liberia's Education Minister Prof. Ansu D. Sonii encourages universities in Liberia to begin the initiative of joining RUFORUM, saying the initiative that started with five universities and now covering almost 37 countries can begin the change that "we want to see."

"Because a change without change of attitude and perception of oneself is no change. We must begin to see ourselves as counterpart in the world and on the world stage," he says.

"We must begin to evaluate ourselves as equals; but we cannot become equals if we do not develop the minds of those that are either on stage now and those that will come after us," Minister Sonii adds.

He says he understands that the population of Africa is likely to be in excess of five billion, and half of that will be young people.

He argues that those young people, in the absence of developed mind will become a liability to this continent and a liability for the rest of the world. Minister Sonii indicates that the development of the minds of Africans will make all the difference, applauding RUFORUM and Liberian universities for their participation.

Maximize your God-given talents

-Senator Tornolah urges Liberian artists

By Lewis S. Teh

Margibi County Senator Jim Tornolah urges Liberian artist to maximize their God-given talents, if they are to succeed.

"With a cause of maximizing your talent, it gives the concept to believe that talent comes from God; man cannot give you talent; many can only capacitate you, education will capacitate you as well."

Speaking on the topic, "Maximizing your talent" at the Barrack Young Controller

or BYC Sport pitch in Monrovia during observance of World Intellectual Property Day over the weekend, he said the day gives an insight of creativity with reference to intellectual development, stressing, "We have the privilege to call on every artist to maximize their talent."

The day was celebrated under the auspices of the Liberia Intellectual Property Office or LIPO with the theme: "Reach for Gold IP& Sport."

It brought together members of the creative sector, including musicians

and movies producers, among others.

Senator Tornolah explains that talent is something that is planted within a person, saying, "The more you create an effort in maximizing, it creates in you a sense of direction, which way to move."

He says talent is connected to vision. "If you have a vision, it should match your talent, and you can't have a vision that is opposite to [your] talent, because if you have a vision that's opposite to a talent, such individuals won't be successful."

Senator Tornolah continues, "Once your vision is in line with a talent, it creates an opportunity for the achievement of goals, I have come to realize today, many young people have not been able to read their value system and ask themselves what am I capable of doing?"

He points out that if young people will sit and evaluate themselves, they will realize that no one came into the world with an empty head and "Everyone has one talent or another."

At the same time the Director General of LIPO Attorney Adelyn Cooper, in her IP Day message notes that in previous years people only thought on sport as the only creativity, but later did they

know that there were additional things behind sports, including technologies, design, trademark, branding, and copyrights.

She says it was from those things that the world Intellectual Property decided to give this year's celebration the theme; Reach for Gold IP& Sport.

"Some of us watch football games, and we did not know that the jersey generates revenues because of the creativity, and innovation of those that produced the jersey." She explains that all those things are brand, and that's why intellectual property is so much imbedded into sports.

Meanwhile, the president of the Movies Union of Liberia

Frank Artus expresses delight over the celebration, but emphasizes there is more work to do. We should go beyond just a celebration; we all want to see good come out of the creative sector of this country", he adds.

"We should also focus on our talent, because it comes from God, like the guest speaker said; if we have a vision that is opposite to our talent then we won't realize our goal."

The Liberia Intellectual Property Office or LIPO is a governmental institution with a mandate to protect and promote works of inventors and innovators through the Industrial Property laws of Liberia in collaboration with



Senator Jim Tornolah

Français

La CDC et le LP perturbent les funérailles du député Adolph A. Lawrence

Ce qui devrait être une occasion solennelle pour faire ses adieux au député du district n° 15 du comté de Montserrado, Adolph A. Lawrence, s'est soudainement transformé en un affrontement entre la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) au pouvoir et le Liberty Party (LP) pour le contrôle de la cérémonie. Tout a commencé ce jeudi 25 avril lorsqu'un cadre du Liberty Party, le sénateur Steve Zargo, et son groupe ont tenté d'entrer par la force dans la rotonde du Capitole en dépit des efforts de l'huissier de la Chambre des représentants, le général Martin Johnson, de les empêcher, comme quoiseul le président du LP en avait le droit. Pourtant, quelques instants plus tôt, les partisans du parti au pouvoir, avec à leur tête leur président Mulbah K. Morlu, qui avaient eux aussi tenté de s'introduire dans la rotonde du Capitole en scandant le slogan du parti ont été

immédiatement rappelés à l'ordre par le général Martin Johnson.

Et comme les partisans du LP insistent, les militants du parti au pouvoir y sont opposés, provoquant ainsi un tohu-bohu. Il s'en est suivi un affrontement entre militants des partis rivaux.

La veuve du député décédé, la sénatrice du comté de Grand Bassa, Nyonblee Kargat Lawrence, n'a eu d'autre choix

qu'elle demande immédiatement que le corps de son mari fût transféré à son domicile à Logan Town, dans la banlieue de Monrovia.

Elle a eu gain de cause et le corps a été transféré par des hommes vêtus de t-shirts multicolores.

Le représentant du district 1 du comté de Bomi, Edwin M. Snowe, a décrit la scène comme une situation "embarrassante".

Le regretté représentant Adolph Lawrence est décédé le 25 mars 2019 dans un accident de circulation le long de la route Robertsfield, après avoir fêté son cinquième anniversaire à Buchanan, dans le comté de Grand Bassa, d'où est originaire sa veuve, la sénatrice Nyonblee Kargat Lawrence.

Entre-temps, un membre du bureau du représentant du comté de River Cess, T. Melvin

Cephas, aurait été battu par des militants de la CDC pour avoir dit que les locaux du parlement Libérien n'est pas le siège du parti au pouvoir.

Le défunt représentant Adolph A. Lawrence fut militant de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique. Mais il avait démissionné avant sa mort. Le président George Manneh Weah était mardi à la tête d'une délégation de hauts cadres qui a signé le livre de condoléances au parlement.



Articles traduits

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Corporate Development Bank, qui fournira des microcrédits aux agriculteurs.

Il a déclaré que le gouvernement du président George Weah considère l'agriculture comme le principal moteur de la croissance et que l'accent sera donc mis sur ce secteur.

Réalisant une évaluation optimiste de la récente assemblée de printemps du FMI, le ministre Tweah a déclaré que le gouvernement libérien n'a participé à aucun des programmes du FMI depuis la clôture de son dernier programme en 2017.

Il a déclaré qu'une partie des défis économiques auxquels le pays est confronté réside dans la pression en faveur du remboursement des principes sur les prêts garantis sous le gouvernement précédent.

Cependant, le ministre a noté que des discussions étaient en cours sur le contenu et le cadre d'un programme qui permettra au Libéria de bénéficier d'une partie des mesures de relance du FMI.

M. Tweah a également annoncé une harmonisation des salaires et des réformes plus larges de la gouvernance et de la gestion des finances publiques, ce qui contribuera également à placer l'économie du pays sur la bonne trajectoire.

Il a en outre prévenu que la présentation du budget de cette année sera retardée d'un mois en raison des problèmes structurels, parmi lesquels l'opération d'harmonisation des salaires.

Il a ajouté que l'objectif de l'harmonisation des salaires est de rapprocher les dépenses publiques du résultat de l'exercice 2019, ainsi que d'une stratégie de mobilisation des revenus.

Le Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) a selon lui

réitéré son engagement envers le Libéria par le biais du pacte et de la compréhension voulus pour placer le pacte dans le contexte des défis existants, notamment l'engagement du gouvernement à respecter les conditions préalables.

La gestion de la société d'électricité du Libéria (LEC) fait partie du programme du MCC. Selon le ministre Tweah, la LEC a déjà rempli ses obligations en remboursant les dettes contractées sous le gouvernement précédent et est train de mettre en place des mesures pour lutter contre le vol d'électricité. Le gouvernement va introduire une législation qui criminalise le vol d'électricité.

Quant au directeur Général de la Commission fiscale du Libéria, Thomas Doe-Nah, parlant des mesures prises pour renforcer le régime fiscal et faire en sorte que toutes les personnes physiques et les entités imposables paient les impôts légitimes à l'Etat, il a déclaré que la Liberia Revenue Authority a déjà introduit plusieurs mesures strictes.

D'après lui, les taxes sur l'immobilier constituent l'un des sujets de préoccupation du gouvernement. Il a fait savoir que le processus de collecte des impôts immobiliers commencera par les cadres du gouvernement avant de toucher le citoyen ordinaire.

En ce qui concerne les exonérations de taxes dont bénéficient certains responsables de l'Etat, elles seront désormais l'objet de contrôles stricts afin qu'elles ne soient pas un autre moyen de voler l'Etat.

De même, le gouverneur exécutif de la Banque centrale, Nathaniel Patray, a également annoncé un certain nombre de mesures pour stabiliser le taux de change à court et à moyen termes.

Le gouvernement annonce des mesures radicales

Le gouvernement libérien a annoncé jeudi une série de mesures qui, selon les responsables, permettront de sauver l'économie libérienne qui est aujourd'hui dans un état piteux.

Le taux d'inflation actuel est estimé à 25%, tandis que le taux de change entre le dollar libérien et le dollar américain est de 172,5 LRD contre 1 USD sur le marché noir. Le taux de chômage a augmenté avec le temps, la plupart des

entreprises ayant mis en place une politique de réduction des effectifs ou tout simplement plié bagage ou encore fait faillite. Les exportations du Libéria sont faibles, avec la chute des prix du caoutchouc et du fer (deux produits de base d'exportation) sur le marché mondial, les recettes en devises sont faibles, ce qui a un impact négatif sur le taux de change.

Le ministre des Finances et de la Planification du développement, Samuel Tweah, accompagné de plusieurs

membres clés de l'équipe de gestion économique du gouvernement, s'est dit convaincu que les nouvelles mesures amélioreront les performances économiques et stimuleront la croissance.

« Dans le cadre de ces mesures », a-t-il déclaré, « le gouvernement envisage de mettre en place des politiques qui stimuleront l'agriculture, créeront un environnement propice aux investissements - suspendre les concessions sur les terres inutilisées, supprimer les goulots d'étranglement bureaucratiques qui affectent l'importation des biens et des services -, tout en réintroduisant le service 24 heures sur 24 au port autonome de Monrovia.

Le ministre Tweah a déclaré que les programmes qui aidaient les agriculteurs par le passé et qui avaient vu la création de la société de commercialisation de produits libériens (LPMC) qui a disparu aujourd'hui, seront réintroduits afin de stimuler le secteur du cacao et d'autres produits agricoles. M. Tweah a également annoncé que le gouvernement envisage de rouvrir la Agriculture



Français

Côte d'Ivoire : L'armée de l'air acquiert un aéronef neuf

L'armée de l'air ivoirienne a acquis depuis jeudi 25 avril 2019, un aéronef neuf de type Casa C295.

L'appareil a été réceptionné, après une année de discussions et de tractations, au Groupement aérien de transport et de liaison (Gatl) sis à Port-Bouët par le ministre d'État, ministre de la Défense, Hamed Bakayoko. L'aéronef avait à son bord le colonel-major Touré Fama et a atterri peu après 10 heures, sous le regard approbateur de nombreux invités.

Caractéristiques de l'avion. Selon Bernard Brenner, directeur de vente et marketing d'Airbus Defence and Space, le C295 a démontré ses performances exceptionnelles dans les conditions extrêmes propres à l'Afrique subsaharienne et changera la donne pour la Côte d'Ivoire. «Nous sommes vraiment fiers que notre famille C295 compte désormais un nouvel opérateur», a-t-il ajouté. Le Gal de brigade aérienne, Koffi N'Guessan Alfred, chef d'état-major de l'armée de l'air, a exprimé sa fierté et sa gratitude au chef de l'État, Alassane Ouattara, par ailleurs chef suprême des armées.

Le Casa C295 est un avion cargo tactique militaire développé en Espagne par la société Airbus Defence and Space. L'avion a connu un grand succès par ses performances améliorées en autonomie et en charges alaires. C'est un avion long de 24,45 m, haut de 8,66 m avec une envergure de 25,81 m. Ses performances sont telles qu'il peut voler jusqu'à près de 10.000 m d'altitude avec sa capacité à transporter jusqu'à 71 passagers et près de 9250 Kg de fret, avec une vitesse de croisière maximale de 482 Km/h.

Il permettra aussi mais surtout d'accroître la capacité de projection de l'armée ivoirienne avec son autonomie de près de 1300 Km (pour illustrer cette autonomie, il peut faire un aller-retour Abidjan-Tengrela-Abidjan sans approvisionnement). Tout ceci est possible grâce à ses

deux puissants moteurs qui lui fournissent une énergie de près de 3060 chevaux. La Côte d'Ivoire est le 28e pays à exploiter le C295.

Le ministre d'État, ministre de la Défense, Hamed Bakayoko, est convaincu qu'avec cet appareil, la Côte d'Ivoire écrit une page historique de l'armée de l'air.

Missions du Casa C295. Parlant des missions, M. Bakayoko a souligné que cet avion assurera le secours à des soldats en détresse ou accidentés parce qu'il a la capacité d'être transformé en avion d'évacuation avec une trentaine de civières. Cet appareil, a-t-il ajouté, pourra aller au secours, très rapidement, de soldats en difficulté et soutenir leur déplacement dans les meilleures conditions. «L'armée de l'air de Côte d'Ivoire pourra également apporter sa contribution à toutes les missions onusiennes et inter-États. On pourra assister le Groupement présidentiel de sécurité quand le chef de l'État est en déplacement par le largage et le convoyage de matériels et de personnels militaires dans des pays où le président de la République effectue des missions. Nous pourrions faciliter l'entraînement de nos parachutistes», a encore dit le ministre.

Outre l'aéronef de type Casa C295, la Côte d'Ivoire dispose de plusieurs aéronefs dont 3 Mi-24 hélicoptères, un Mi-17, 2 avions Kinger parfaitement rénovés, un hélicoptère de la police, 2 Antonov. «L'armée de l'air ivoirienne est en train de monter en puissance», a fait remarquer le ministre d'État, précisant que l'objectif du président Ouattara est de faire de la Côte d'Ivoire un pays «sécurisé» et «stable».

Hamed Bakayoko a également demandé au général de brigade aérienne de faire en sorte que les troupes utilisent l'avion de façon harmonieuse afin qu'il puisse traverser plusieurs générations. Plusieurs officiers de l'armée de l'air ont été décorés au cours de cette cérémonie.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Mary Fitzgerald

L'« argent obscur » américain veut s'offrir l'âme européenne

LONDRES - Les tentatives russes d'influencer les élections européennes reçoivent beaucoup d'attention des médias. Mais on ne peut en dire autant de l'ingérence de groupes de chrétiens conservateurs établis aux États-Unis, dont certains sont liés à l'administration du président Donald Trump et à son ancien conseiller, Stephen Bannon.

Comme l'a établi openDemocracy dans un enquête récente, la droite religieuse américaine a dépensé au cours des dix dernières années pas moins de 50 millions de dollars en Europe dans des campagnes d'opinion financées par de l'« argent sombre ». Pourtant, malgré d'évidentes raisons d'inquiétudes quant à l'intégrité des élections du mois prochain au Parlement européen, les regards ne sont presque tournés que vers le Kremlin.

Le soutien de la droite religieuse américaine aux campagnes menées notamment contre la légalité de l'avortement, les droits LGBT ou l'éducation sexuelle en Afrique et en Amérique latine est depuis des années chose avérée. Mais l'ampleur de sa mobilisation sur le terrain européen est nouvelle. Dans la première analyse de ce type, openDemocracy a étudié la comptabilité financière [sur la foi de leur déclaration fiscale] des principales organisations évangéliques américaines et constaté que les dépenses effectuées en Europe de plusieurs d'entre elles avaient augmenté significativement.

Parmi celles qui ont déboursé les sommes les plus importantes, l'American Center for Law and Justice, ayant versé plus de 20 millions de dollars de 2008 à 2014 (dernière année pour laquelle les données sont disponibles) dans diverses campagnes européennes, mentionne comme principal conseil Jay Sekulow, l'un des avocats personnels de Trump. De même, l'Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty, qui a dépensé 1,7 million de dollars au cours de cette même période, a travaillé avec le très controversé Dignitatis Humanae Institute outside Rome, soutenu par Bannon.

La Billy Graham Evangelistic Association apparaît comme le plus gros contributeur, avec plus de 20 millions de dollars versés de 2008 à 2014 (dernière année pour laquelle les données de cette organisation sont disponibles). Franklin Graham, qui dirige le groupe, s'est récemment rendu en Russie pour rencontrer de hauts responsables du Kremlin qui font actuellement l'objet de sanctions des États-Unis. Selon Graham, ce voyage avait le soutien total du vice-président des États-Unis, Mike Pence.

Aucun de ces groupes établis aux États-Unis ne rend public l'identité de ses donateurs. Mais deux au moins sont connus pour avoir des liens avec de célèbres milliardaires conservateurs, dont les frères Koch et la famille de la secrétaire de Trump à l'Éducation, Betsy DeVos. Et, comme Bannon, tous expriment à différents degrés leur défiance, sinon leur franche hostilité envers les valeurs fondamentales de l'Union européenne, et notamment son respect des droits humains universels.

Voici quelques semaines, des représentants et des partisans de nombre de ces groupes ont rencontré des politiciens européens d'extrême-droite au Congrès mondial des familles, à Vérone, en Italie. Parmi les orateurs présents lors de cette édition figurait Matteo Salvini, le Vice-Premier ministre italien et dirigeant de la Ligue, qui a loué l'organisation, représentant à ses yeux l'« Europe que nous aimons ». Au nombre des « co-organisateurs » de l'événement, on comptait cette année un groupe anti-avortement lié au parti néofasciste Forza Nuova.

Au cours des dix dernières années, ce Congrès

mondial des familles (fondé par l'Organisation internationale pour la famille, ex Howard Center for Family Religion and Society, dont le siège est à Rockford, dans l'Illinois) n'a pas tenu moins de sept grands rassemblements en Europe, auxquels ont participé des centaines de militants religieux conservateurs, dont des stars, de plus en plus nombreuses, de l'extrême-droite, notamment le Premier ministre, qui a prononcé le discours d'ouverture du rassemblement de 2017 à Budapest.

Les efforts déployés en Europe par le Congrès mondial des familles n'ont rien de fortuit. Selon sa dernière déclaration d'impôts, l'Organisation internationale pour la famille compte parmi les membres de son conseil d'administration un militant espagnol ultra-conservateur, lié au parti d'extrême-droite Vox ; un proche collaborateur d'un oligarque russe, ayant financé d'autres rassemblements de dirigeants européens d'extrême-droite ; ainsi qu'un homme politique italien poursuivi pour corruption.

Les inquiétudes soulevées par l'« ingérence extérieure » de puissances hostiles (en l'occurrence la Russie) n'ont bien sûr rien de nouveau en Europe (bien qu'elles connaissent un regain d'acuité depuis que Mark Zuckerberg, le PDG de Facebook a pour ainsi dire reconnu qu'il était incapable de contrôler les utilisations de sa plateforme). Mais les Européens doivent aujourd'hui se préoccuper aussi des groupes de pression installés aux États-Unis qui maintiennent le secret sur leurs sources de financement.

À la suite de la publication de l'enquête réalisée par openDemocracy, un groupe pluripartite de quarante députés du Parlement européen ont envoyé un courrier aux présidents du Conseil européen, de la Commission européenne et du Parlement, exigeant que des mesures soient prises pour protéger les scrutins à venir « contre d'injustifiables influences extérieures ». Particulièrement préoccupante, écrivent-ils, est « la [...] question des fondamentalistes chrétiens aux États-Unis », dont les activités de plus en plus manifestes en Europe « doivent être instamment contrées ».

Mais le problème est difficile à résoudre, car les États membres de l'UE n'ont pas tous la même législation pour ce qui concerne la transparence des élections, la réglementation des campagnes électorales et les obligations des ONG. De fait, exiger de tous les groupes de pression à Bruxelles qu'ils déclarent aux institutions de l'UE leurs sources de financement constituerait un bon début, sous réserve de mesures interdisant aux organisations politiques d'utiliser des paravents. L'Europe doit aussi mettre en place, à l'échelle de l'UE, une réglementation plus stricte des réseaux sociaux, qui devraient être tenus aux mêmes règles de transparence que les groupes de pression. Toute publicité politique diffusée en ligne devrait être accompagnée d'une information claire et précise concernant son financement.

Comme le souligne Neil Datta, président du Forum parlementaire européen sur la population et le développement, réagissant aux révélations d'openDemocracy : « Il a fallu trente ans [à ces groupes fondamentalistes] pour parvenir où ils sont aujourd'hui à la Maison Blanche. [On peut craindre qu'en Europe] cela survienne encore plus vite et à une plus grande échelle que de nombreux experts ne l'envisagent. »

L'UE devra faire face, dans les années qui viennent, à des défis, intérieurs et extérieurs, sans précédents, et les résultats des prochaines élections au Parlement européen pourraient à cet égard être déterminants. C'est pourquoi les dirigeants européens se préoccupent de prévenir ou de neutraliser les manœuvres de la Russie. Il semble malheureusement que cela les ait rendus aveugles à celles d'un autre acteur extérieur qui n'entretient pas pour l'Europe et son avenir de bons sentiments.

PERSPECTIVES

CDC-PROPOSED

Cont'd from page 5

house or bicycle you are stupid". In this context, that statement translates to **if you are an academic/intellectual and former or present employee of government but own no property, then you must be or that you are a fool, because public service is opportunity to acquire or amass wealth by stealing public resources.**

- 6) The Government of President Weah is a different political party from all others, though not ideologically and, therefore, dominated by loyalists of the former President, including major war crimes suspects. **Importantly**, as indicated earlier, President Weah is, reportedly, not only citizen of foreign countries, a violation of Liberian law, but also, refuses, publicly, to declare assets as required by an Act of Legislature, the **Code of Conduct**, also law violation by a sitting President.

B. Samuel D. Tweah, Jr., Minister of Finance & Development Planning (MFDP)

This Agency of government was formerly the **Ministry of Finance** charged with responsibility only for **Fiscal Affairs** and known, historically, with its former section or division of the **Revenue Agency**, as the nation's **centers forget-rich-quick schemes of graft/greed or the gurus of Liberian government stealing of public resources.** Almost all wealthy land and related property owners of Mamba Point and new suburbs of Sinkor and elsewhere were executives or employees of the **Ministry of Finance or the Revenue Agency.** The Ministry of Finance is, now, the **Super Ministry of Finance & Development Planning (MF&DP)** and the Revenue Agency has, now, become **Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA).**

The Honorable Samuel D. Tweah is Minister and Head of this Agency of Government that prepared and presented the Pro-Poor Agenda:

- 1) **As Minister of Finance & Development Planning, Honorable Samuel Tweah** was appointed by President Weah as Chairman of the Technical Economic Management Team (TEMT), in association of economic management cooperation/coordination with the Central Bank of Liberia for implementation of Government's **Mop-Up Exercise** designed to buy out Liberian-dollar banknotes in excess circulation with 25 million US dollars.
- 2) But according to national/international investigation conducted and reports by Kroll Associates, Inc. and Liberia's Presidential Investigation Team (PIT), TEMT, chaired by **Minister Samuel Tweah**, was found guilty of avoiding organized commercial banks and licensed foreign-exchange traders and **not using accepted/acceptable "best practices"** to achieve best results.
- 3) Consequently, the Liberian people are up in arms, including, almost, all political parties and calling for the arrest and dismissal of the Minister of state for Finance & Development Planning, Hon. Samuel D. Tweah. The Politicians threaten a national protest demonstration.
- 4) The **MF&DP** and **LRA** are **over-staffed, over-paid and dominated by dual citizens who do not live in Liberia, with families living, permanently, in the foreign countries.** They travel periodically to these countries in which they maintain fabulous bank accounts with money "earned" in Liberia, transferred regularly out of Liberia.
- 5) **They are paid 6-figured salaries and salary/wage allowances** for housing, portable electricity generators and service, top-of-the-line, late model automobiles, local travel expense, telephone scratch cards, reported insurance coverage, newspaper allowance, etc., **although they plan and develop nothing.**
- 6) **The MF&DP is known widely to retain and pay itself huge sums from social, economic funds allocations for the counties; pay out huge sums to non-existent "educational" institutions; and huge sums as business/development loans to politically-connected, ineligible entities. The "Loans" have, now, become uncollectible.**

C. Nathaniel R. Patray, III, Executive Governor, Central Bank of Liberia

The Honorable Nathaniel R. Patray, III, is Executive Governor of the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL). He was appointed Vice Chairman of the Technical Economic Management Team (TEMT) for cooperation/coordination with the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning for implementation of the **Mop-Up exercise**:

- 1) According investigation and reports by national/international agencies, TEMT was found guilty of unsuitable management practices in the use of US \$25 million in implementation of the Mop-Up exercise. Therefore, Liberian political parties threaten national protest demonstrations with demand, also, for the arrest and dismissal of Honorable Nathaniel Patray, III.
- 2) Together, **Central Bank of Liberia** and the **Ministry of Finance**, have legal responsibility for **Fiscal/Monetary Affairs of Liberia.** In other words, the prevailing Fiscal/Monetary, macroeconomic **paralysis**, and must be, laid at the feet of the **CBL and Ministry of Finance. Both the MF&DP and CBL were found guilty of avoiding organized commercial banks and licensed foreign-exchange traders or not using accepted/acceptable "best practices"** to achieve best results. It is very important, indeed mandatory, that we note that **the conditions of 18-20 years ago continue and repeated/prevaling today.**

For example, in our reaction to the printing of huge, but undisclosed, quantity of Liberian "Liberty" Banknotes, placing them in circulation and the withdrawal of highly-mutilated "JJ" banknotes some 18 years ago in 2001, we wrote an article while in the "comfort" of former President Taylor's Monrovia Central Prison entitled, **"Now That We Printed New Liberian**

Banknotes . . . dated June, 2001, basically on macroeconomic analysis with emphasis on:

Liberia's foreign exchange rate regime; circulation of another country's national currency in tandem with one's own, the negative economic impact; arbitrary equivalence of foreign exchange rates based not on the interaction of market forces of supply/demand; basic economic reasons for depreciation of foreign exchange rates; the absence in Liberia of planned, developed industries for production of goods & services for local consumption to discourage Liberia's dangerous, excessive dependence on imports and encourage export trade to reduce Liberia's balance of trade deficit; and improve Liberia's terms of trade; pay keen attention to and improve investment incentives and regulatory activities to attract direct foreign investment; and many others.

We sent a copy of our Paper to the Central Bank of Liberia. A response by the **CBL Analyst, a Mr. Nathaniel R. Patray, III, dismissed the Paper as "Academic Exercise".** That Analyst is the **Executive Governor of the CBL today and faces the same problems of some 18 years ago.**

Observations

Not only that past turbulent, deadly facts of history of Liberian **Government and Governance** are clear, comprehensive and validated record by many world-class historians (needs no repetitive citation here) that prompted the **April, 1980 Event**, but also, the most recent past **25-30 years** of the Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf-sponsored **civil war of destruction, population displacement as refugees, human suffering and death of quarter of a million Liberians, and the unprecedented high level of graft/greed or corruption question the integrity, credibility and transparency of the proposed pro-Poor Agenda.**

Former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf Regime

Billed as "democratically-elected", but her government secured political power by undemocratic methods – the overthrow of the legitimate government by **force of arms, gruesome live-torture and murder of the President by insurgents** sponsored and led by the Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf's **Association for Constitutional Democracy in Liberia (ACDL):**

- a) She was booted out of the Political Party – **UNITY PARTY** – that secured political power, wealth and fame. She is, now, the reported **"power"** behind the **Presidential Throne of President George Weah** having, reportedly, paid and supported the political campaign of candidate George Weah for protection from prosecution for alleged war and economic crimes. Her loyalists and major war crime suspects dominate most of the important ministries and agencies of the current Weah government.
- b) Her Government must be credited with the highest level of population growth, explosion and movement - **Rural-to-Urban Economic/Political Migration - without rational policy planning, guidance and control.** This has been, and is, the result of hundreds of thousands or millions of young Liberians and their parents crammed and trapped in over-populated **Ghetto and Slums of Monrovia's "suburbs"**, due to mind-boggling corruption in government much, much more than any other previous government in the history of Liberia.
- c) There is, now, **abject poverty, un-informed or high illiteracy rate, hunger, lack of adequate healthcare with unaffordable drug prices where and when available (highly pronounced in rural Liberia), unemployment, unsanitary living conditions, lack of safe drinking water, electricity, drug abuse, prostitution (sex, gay sex, any sex), high crime, etc., etc.** In fact, international economic analysts and experts declared Liberia (its government) is the most corrupt government in a worldwide comparative analysis.

Conclusion

The foregoing analysis shows clearly that **Governments of the Republic of Liberia did not, and do not, possess the required Moral Rectitude of Honesty, commitment/dedication to democratic Rule of law, loyalty and patriotism to the Liberian State and People; did nothing to defend and preserve the abiding quest for human freedom, justice and respect for the dignity of the human person throughout the 171-year history of the Republic as an independent, sovereign state up to this day and age.**

It is very important, **for posterity**, to note that the **Founding Fathers** of the Republic who controlled and dominated all governments and major public policy decision-making were **Black African-American Colonialists. They ruled the Liberian State/Nation in a black-on-black system of colonialism on the black African Continent and joined later by emerged/emerging indigenous, black political class.**

Indeed, the proposal, **Pro-Poor Agenda**, prepared/presented by the current government is a **copy** from the works of international financial institutions, **copy like almost all of Liberian laws, political/economic activities - social, cultural beliefs systems modelled on and/or copied from US/Western prescriptions - because Liberia does not possess nor maintain macroeconomic record of economic activities, trends of economic performance or non-performance. Moreover, the previous politicians/political leaders and the current government are not ready because they lack the resolve necessary to plan, organize and implement the so-called proposed "Pro-Poor Agenda".**

We submit that detailed, comparative economic assessment will prove **Liberian Government's un-readiness.** The **Agro-Industrial experience and success of the neighboring, former colonial states – La Cote d'Ivoire and the Republic of Ghana, although with Liberia they share similarities of soil, abundant, lush green forest, annual rainfall, sunshine energy, streams, creeks, rivers, etc., for cocoa, coffee, oil palm and many other tropical products economic success, while Liberia remains, still, a dependent copycat.**

Therefore, the **Pro-Poor Agenda** is a poly and deceptive; it is a copy, not home-grown, from international financial institutions, planned and designed based on a set of political beliefs and philosophy deeply-rooted in **graft/greed and massive theft of public resources – the roaring, rampant Liberia Corruption, Incorporated.**

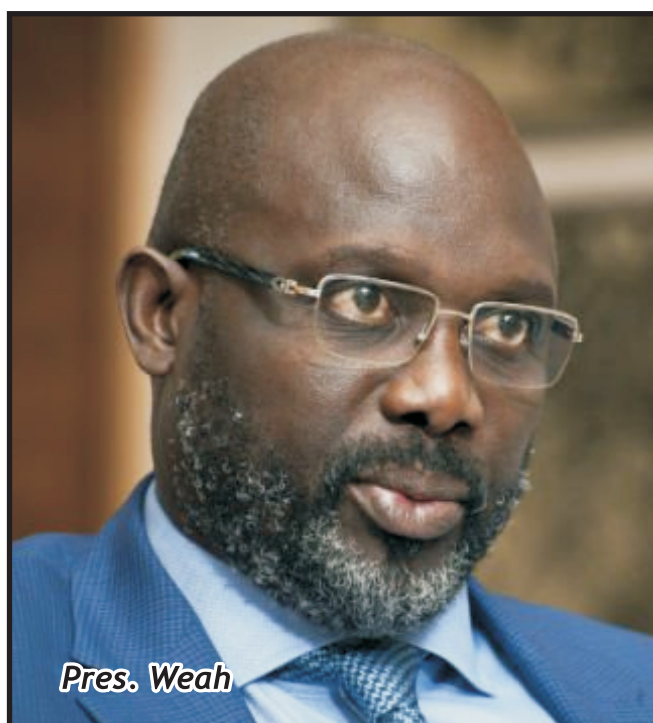
Weah faces more challenges

By Othello B. Garblah

President George Manneh Weah appears to be facing challenges from all fronts including the international community as his administration struggles to bring some relief to the crippling economy.

The latest is a warning from the United Nations System in Liberia to withhold funding for projects here if agencies of government continue to delay in submitting reports of the proper and prudent use of project resources committed to them.

In a letter dated April 25, 2019 addressed to the Minister of State, Mr. Nathaniel McGill, the UN Assistant Secretary General's Resident Coordinator for Liberia, Mr. Yacoub El Hillo said several agencies of the UN System here have been faced with the challenge of getting timely and accurate reports from their



Pres. Weah



Min. Nathaniel McGill

government counterparts thereby delaying the implementation of essential services and advisory support to the people of Liberia.

In the letter in which the UN envoy request that Minister McGill pass the necessary directive to all government implementing partners to

expeditiously resolve any outstanding obligations, Mr. El Hillo said the delay in compliance by the government could lead to "withholding of funding by our partners in for UN programmes in Liberia with all the attendant negative consequences."

He said in the extreme

situation where the cash advance modality is not being use correctly by implementing partners, the UN Agencies, Fund and Programmes may discontinue and revert to Direct Implementation Modality (DIM).

The UN System according to Yacoub's letter, migrated from the Direct Implementation Modality (DIM), to National Implementation Modality (NIM)

to strengthen national ownership and accountability for development result under the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT).

Under the NIM it is expected that implementing partners assume full responsibility for effective use of the resources advanced to them and for reporting fairly and accountably on project progress against agreed work plans in accordance with reporting schedule.

But it appears that the Coalition for Democratic Change or CDC Government is delaying in ensuring that these reports are deliver in a timely fashion, something which has forced the UN Resident Coordinator to seek Minister McGill's intervention.

"In the last few months, several agencies have experienced challenges in getting timely and accurate reports from their government counterparts thereby delaying implementation of essential services and advisory support to the people of Liberia," El Hillo wrote.

CDC boycotts lawmaker's Church funeral

By Bridgette Milton

Lawmakers from the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) including House Speaker Bhofal Chambers Friday, 26 April boycotted the funeral rite of Montserrado County District#15 fallen Representative Adolph A. Lawrence, at the Sacred

The widow of the fallen lawmaker, Grand Bassa County Senator Nyonblee Karnga Lawrence was left with no alternative, but immediately instructed that her husband's body be taken to his district in Logan Town, a Monrovia suburb instead, effectively canceling the funeral at the Capitol.

political battle between the governing CDC and the opposition LP.

At the Church funeral organized with the family held in the Sacred Heart's Cathedral in Monrovia, the conspicuous absence of top level government officials, including CDC Standard Bearer,

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Cont'd from page 7

conventions, protocols and treaties relative to intellectual property rights protection to which Liberia is signatory.

Part of LIPO function is also to assure that all invented works; innovative works are registered and protected at the advantage of their owners, ensure the owners of such works benefit justly from their sales, ensure that government benefits from tax deduction of royalties earned from the sale of such works.

The Industrial Property Office (IPO) further registers

and protects patents, trademarks, service names, industrial designs, traditional knowledge (herb, etc.) geographic indications encourage quality control and fair competition in the sale of copyright products and services.

LIPO began the celebration with a parade before convening at the BYC Sport pitch to climax the day's activities with kickball and football matches. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**



The widow of the late Rep. Lawrence (Middle)

Heart's Cathedral in Monrovia.

The ruling Coalition and the opposition Liberty Party had fiercely contested for supremacy at state funeral organized for the deceased at the Capitol Thursday, disrupting the occasion much to the disappointment of sympathizers and friends, Legislators, members of the diplomatic corps and other foreign guests.

Bomi County District #1 Representative Edwin M. Snowe, Jr., describes the scene last Thursday at the Capitol as "embarrassing."

Many ordinary Liberians blame the authorities here, particularly the leadership of the House of Representatives headed by Speaker Bhofal Chambers, for losing grip of what was supposed to be a State funeral, allowing it to have degenerated to a

President George Manneh Weah, Speaker Chambers, Montserrado County Legislative Caucus Chair Representative Thomas Fallah, and the ruling Coalition Chairman, Mulbah K. Morlu raised a lot of concerns amongst sympathizers and friends.

Many wondered how could the ruling Coalition which had vehemently contested to take charge of State funeral of its

fallen member just a day earlier at the Capitol, be conspicuously absent the next day at his Church funeral.

However, in a tribute on behalf of the House of Representatives, Deputy Speaker Prince K. Moye notes, the late Rep. Lawrence was a good man and a floor fighter, and he will be missed by his colleagues in the House.

He recalls that the late Rep. Lawrence was always pushing for the rights of the Liberian people, lamenting that the House of Representatives of the 54th Legislature has lost a great man.

In 2011, the late Representative Adolph A. Lawrence was overwhelmingly elected on the ticket of the CDC by the people of District# 15 to represent them in the 53rd Legislature. Due to his level of work in the district, in 2017 he got re-elected thru the

CDC.

He served as Chairperson of the House Committee on Hydro Carbon and a member of the committee on Claims and Petitions up to his death.

But since the inception of this government, he became a strong critic of President George Weah and House Speaker Bhofal Chambers to the place that many days he was thrown out of session by the Speaker of his stance on national issues.

The late Representative Adolph A. Lawrence died in a car crash on the early morning of March 25, 2019 near Tower Hill community along the Robertsfield highway enroute to Monrovia from celebrating his 50th birthday with his now widow, Senator Nyonblee Karnga in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Ronaldo beats Messi to 600 club goals



Cristiano Ronaldo has scored the 600th goal of his impressive club career after netting for Juventus against Inter, beating Lionel Messi to the major landmark.

The Bianconeri star struck in the 62nd minute to equalise for his side after Radja Nainggolan had put the hosts in

front at San Siro.

The Portuguese star was set up by Miralem Pjanic as part of a neat one-two, finding the bottom-right corner with a powerful low drive from the edge of the penalty area.

The 34-year-old chalked up the milestone before Barcelona star Messi, with the Argentine currently sat on a tally of 597

for the Catalan club.

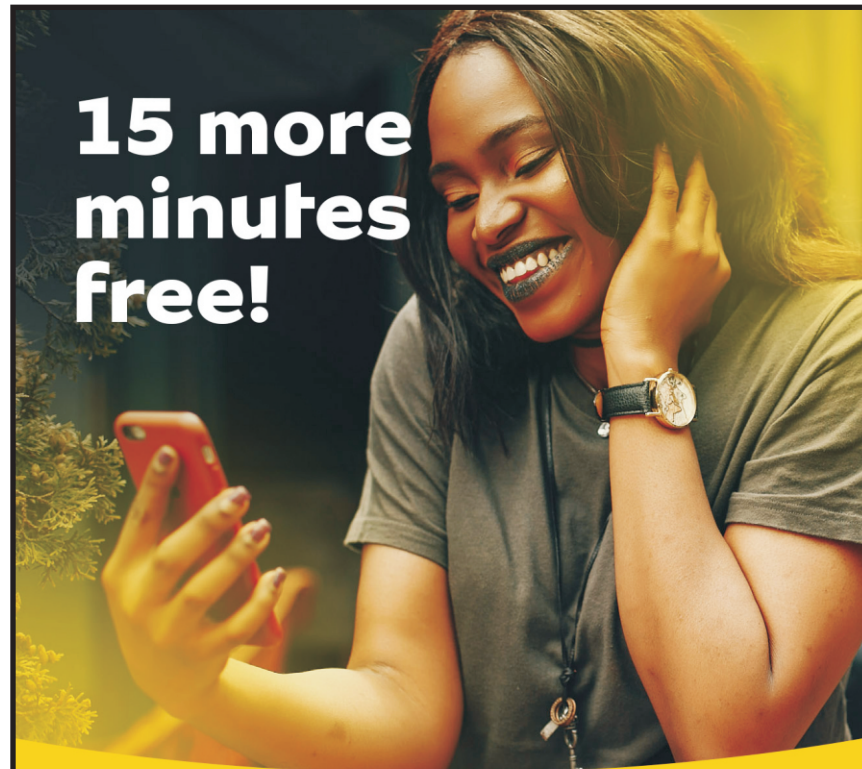
Unlike his fellow forward however, Ronaldo has netted his complete number across a career that has seen him represent Sporting CP, Manchester United, Real Madrid and Juventus.

His strike also makes him only the fourth player in the club's history to score in both games played for the Turin club at the Giuseppe Meazza Stadium in a single Serie A season, after Gonzalo Higuain, Marco Di Vaio and David Trezeguet.

He has now reached the 20 goal mark for the season, to make it 10 campaigns in a row where he has netted such a tally, across La Liga and Serie A.

Although Juve suffered Champions League disappointment in the quarter-finals against Ajax, Ronaldo's big-money move from Real Madrid has brought silverware to the club this season.

The 34-year-old's impressive haul across 28 Serie A appearances has helped the Bianconeri win the Scudetto for an eighth successive season.



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Rennes shock PSG to win French cup

Rennes have put a stop to Paris Saint-Germain's Coupe de France dominance, and in doing so, ended their own 48-year wait for victory in the country's marquee cup competition.

Les Rouges et Noirs overturned a two-goal first-half deficit and stormed back to a famous 6-5 victory on penalties Saturday night at the Stade de France, snapping the capital city club's four-year

monopoly in the tournament.

Extra-time substitute Christopher Nkunku skied PSG's sixth penalty after Rennes scored all six of their attempts from the spot to cement the Bretons' first Coupe de France title since 1971. Considering the recent history of the two sides, everything went to plan in the first half in the French capital. Dani Alves bagged an obscene goal, and Neymar scored in his return to the starting XI.

PSG appeared to be on easy

street with a 2-0 advantage after 21 minutes. Both goals were characteristically equal measure flair and technique, with Alves firing home a vicious volley off a Neymar corner before his international mate completed a slick team move with a calm chip.

Kimpembe's own goal six minutes before the break gave Rennes hope, and the mid-table side carried the momentum into the second half.

All about Hon. Cllr. Kuku Y. Dorbor

Hon. Kuku Y. Dorbor, former Representative for Montserrado County District#6 was born unto the union of Mr. and Mrs. Dorbor in the city of Paynesville, Montserrado County. She is a graduate of the College of West Africa located on Ashmun Street, Monrovia.



She holds a degree of Bachelor of Science in Management from the African Methodist Episcopal Zion University College and emerged out of the Don Bosco Polytechnic with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Accounting respectively.

Additionally, she is a graduate of the Louise Arthur Grimes School of Law and a senior student of the Master's program in Business Administration at the University of Liberia. She also earned a certificate from the Word of Faith Bible Institute (Winners Chapel - Liberia) in Congo Town, outside Monrovia.

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