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The New Dawn

French Version Inside

TRULY INDEPENDENT

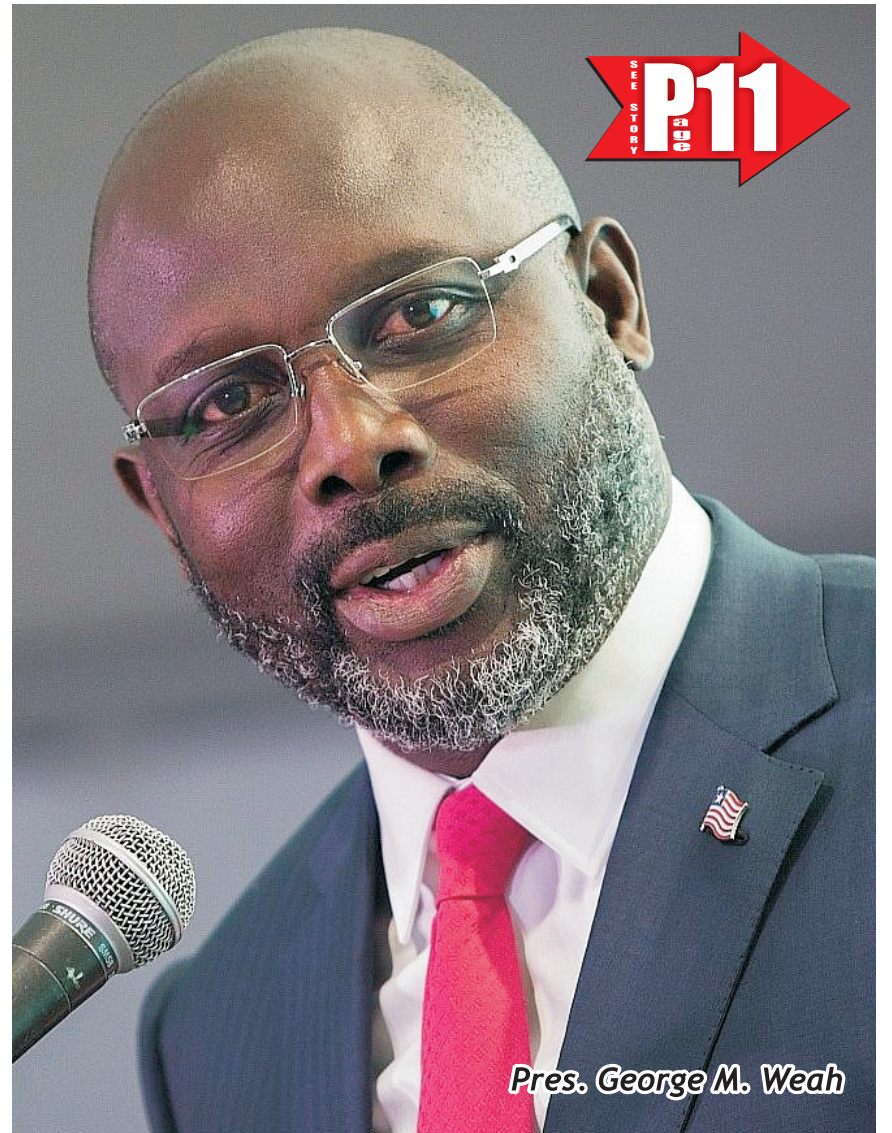
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VOL.9 NO. 066

WEDNESDAY, MAY 01, 2019

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Weah still works from home



P11

Pres. George M. Weah



Rep. Gray mocks June 7 protesters

P11

Rep. Acarius Gray



Continental News

Nigeria student arrested for 'drug trafficking' in Saudi Arabia freed

A Nigerian student who was arrested last year for alleged drug trafficking in Saudi Arabia has been freed, the Nigerian government says.

Zainab Aliyu was accused of smuggling 2,000 packs of a strong pain killer.

The Nigerian authorities later found that the drugs had been planted in her luggage by a criminal gang.

Drug trafficking is a capital offence in Saudi Arabia, which practices conservative Islam. Those found guilty are executed.

This was the fate earlier this month of a Nigerian woman, who was beheaded in the city of Mecca, along with two Pakistani men and a Yemeni man. Ms Aliyu's detention sparked protests and with supporters in Nigeria using the hashtag #FreeZeinab to call for her release.

Her freedom comes as hundreds of her fellow

students gathered at Maitama Sule University in the northern city of Kano on Tuesday to demand her release. On Monday, President Muhammadu Buhari ordered the attorney general to intervene in the matter. Ms Aliyu was arrested at her

hotel in Medina by Saudi police last December, shortly after arriving for the lesser hajj with her family - and remained in detention until Tuesday.

The Saudi authorities had accused her of trafficking 2,000 packs of Tramadol in a

bag tagged with her name that had been left at the airport.

Recently, the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency of Nigeria (NDLEA) said it had uncovered a criminal gang that had been planting illicit drugs in travellers' luggage.

An investigation was

launched after Ms Aliyu's father reported the case to the police and it led to the arrest of six officials at Mallam Aminu Kano International Airport. They have been accused at a federal high court of framing Ms Aliyu and have not commented on the charges. BBC



Zainab Aliyu was arrested last December for allegedly trafficking 2,000 packs of Tramadol in a bag

Food prices push cost of living up

Kenya's inflation increased to 6.58 percent in April, the highest rate in 12 months.

The Kenya Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) in its monthly updates attributed the spike to increase in food prices.

"Between March and April 2019, food and non-alcoholic drinks' Index increased by 6.86 percent. This increase was mainly due to drought

that consumers have lost their spending power.

Sifted maize flour, kales (sukuma wiki), potatoes, loose maize grain and flour and tomatoes recorded increases of 29.82, 25.3, 19.27, 26.14, 15.90 and 15.31 percent respectively in April compared to March 2019.

"These six items alone account for 6.25 percent of the CPI weight. However,

Train crushes tricycle rider, 4 passengers to death in Lagos

There was chaos at the early hours of Tuesday, April 30, in Lagos as four passengers in a commercial tricycle and its rider were crushed to death by a speeding train.

It was learnt that the incident happened at about 6:45 am at the Iju Ishaga area of the state.

According to witnesses, the tricycle rider was attempting to cross the railway when it

got trapped and crushed.

This Day reports that the witnesses said while the train approached, motorists and pedestrians stopped but the tricycle operator may have thought he could quickly dash through before the train would reach the crossing point. Legit.ng earlier reported that in January, a train accident has occurred at the Mongoro area of Ikeja, Lagos as one of the train

coaches fell-off the rail track while in motion, causing another coach to derail, trapping the passengers in them. According to eye witnesses who posted the incident on social media, some of the trapped struggled to escape through the windows of the affected coaches. As at the time of filing this report, no casualty has been recorded but many are feared trapped. AFP



A woman sells tomatoes at the Kawangware market on the outskirts of Nairobi

conditions which prevailed in the better part of April 2019 causing upsurge in the costs of some foodstuff," KNBS said.

If the current rise is maintained, then it will shoot beyond the government's target of 7 percent.

Last month, the inflation rate was 4.35 percent. Inflation rate gives an indicator of the cost of living and a high rate means

prices of sugar and some other food items were observed to be lower in April 2019 than in March 2019," KNBS said on Tuesday.

Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels' index also increased by 0.93 percent in April compared to March 2019 mainly due to higher cost of house rents and electricity. Reuter



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EDITORIAL

Lawmakers must accept prevailing realities

NO ONE WOULD have ever thought that a sitting lawmaker of the governing Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) Representative Acarous Moses Gray will be the first member of the House under the Weah-led administration to suggest cuts in lawmakers' benefits ranging from 10 or 20 percent. But this is exactly what he's recommending for his colleagues and himself, given current economic realities.

THE MONTSERRADO COUNTY District#8 Representative, who until his ascendency to the House in 2011 had been a bitter critic of the administration of former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, wants these cuts to affect domestic, medical, travel and other benefits that are placed in United States currency category.

HE MADE THE suggestion in a news conference Monday at his office on Capitol Hill, disclosing that a formal communication has been written to Plenary, recommending benefits cuts. According to Representative Gray, revenue that will be generated from these adjustments will go toward development to improve citizens' lives.

THE REALITY IS, the general economic situation in the country right now is very unfavorable, and we just can't continue with business as usual on Capitol Hill. This means members of the 54th Legislature currently earning fabulous salary and benefits should be willing to share with those at the lowest echelon of society, who hardly make ends meet.

LAWMAKERS SHOULD ACCEPT the prevailing realities and make the necessary sacrifices to keep the government and the state moving. The realities are the government does not have the cash to maintain the wage bill; with current revenue intake at US\$400 million, it is difficult, if not impossible to sustain a national budget of US\$570 million.

THE OTHER REALITIES are hospitals across the country are without drugs, electricity, logistics and adequate trained personnel; public schools are not getting supplies anymore; civil servants will now have to wait for 60 days, instead of 31 days, to get their monthly salary; students on foreign scholarships are now at the mercy of their host countries because our government can't afford to provide them subsidy.

WE COULD GO on naming more and more or citing tons of reasons why we think the benefits cuts are necessary and fellow lawmakers should join Representative Gray in having these cuts implemented, for the sake of our country. That's mature leadership.

NO, NO, WE must understand that nobody is going to stack monies in bags, put them on a plane and bring them here to develop Liberia. Partners may provide assistance time and time again, but we Liberians must learn to take the bull by the horn. We must become drivers of our own destiny by being willing to make sacrifices when times are tough. And times are tough right now; aren't they?

WE UNDERSTAND THE Executive is already effecting salary cuts from senior officials to redirect those funds to desperately needed areas. And this should be commended. When times are good, these salary structures may make sense, but not times like these when a 25kg bag of rice is being sold in the market for almost 2,500 LRD in Monrovia and more than this in the counties.

REPRESENTATIVE GRAY SHOULD be encouraged for mustering courage enough in coming out with this recommendation in the House, which we believe is not only life-saving, but a mark of responsible leadership.

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

COMMENTARY

By Akira Iriye

Japan's Global Emperor Exits the Stage

Japan's Emperor Akihito, who is abdicating after three decades on the Chrysanthemum Throne, has been much more of a global leader than a national one. That sets him apart from his father - and from many of the world's current leaders.

PHILADELPHIA - Japan's Emperor Akihito will abdicate on April 30, having sat on the Chrysanthemum Throne since 1989. At the age of 85, Akihito seemingly wishes to live in quiet retirement with Empress Michiko, his wife of 60 years. His elder son, Crown Prince Naruhito, will succeed him as emperor.

Akihito's reign began upon the death of his father, Hirohito, whose life had spanned decades of domestic and international turmoil. Although Akihito himself came of age during the tumultuous era of World War II and the Cold War, both Japan and the world had changed significantly by the time he became emperor. And he is likely to be remembered as a monarch who made a positive mark on the global stage.

Understanding Akihito's reign requires some modern historical context. From about the late eighteenth century to the middle of the twentieth, people in most parts of the world belonged either to an empire or, increasingly, to an independent country. There were still relatively few sovereign states at the end of the nineteenth century. But as more people living in empires asserted nationhood, the number of independent states grew from around 50 to over 200 during the twentieth century. People from around the world came to identify themselves as citizens of a sovereign country.

At the same time, however, people also increasingly defined themselves by their non-national attributes, such as gender, ethnicity, race, religion, education, or age. Furthermore, we are all global beings, if not yet "world citizens." We live in the natural environment, are affected by climate, and are linked by rivers and oceans. In other words, we are defined by our multiple identities and by the world we have inherited. And the Japanese emperor is no exception.

Akihito was born during the heyday of sovereignty, and the twilight of empire. The 1930s was a decade of potential and actual conflict, as countries vied with one another for power and armed themselves in constant preparation for war.

Japan, though a latecomer to the community of modern states, was by then a great power - helped by alliances and agreements with other powers that safeguarded the country's security and enabled it to grow stronger. Having annexed Korea in 1910, Japan began its military expansion in Asia two decades later. By 1941, it was at war with the United States. With

the Soviet Union also joining Japan's enemies, the Asia-Pacific war became part of the global conflict that finally ended in August 1945.

Akihito was a teenager at the time, and his life was about to change in dramatic, unpredictable ways. The American-led occupying authorities in postwar Japan, under General Douglas MacArthur, did not demand that Emperor Hirohito abdicate or face trial before an international tribunal. Instead, Hirohito was to be transformed from a god into a mere human being, and would subsequently have only a symbolic, ceremonial role in Japanese politics.

Hirohito continued to reign in that capacity until 1989. The young Crown Prince Akihito, meanwhile, had received an education in which an American woman, Elizabeth Vining, played a major role. Vining, a Philadelphia Quaker, served as the crown prince's personal tutor, teaching him English and other subjects. In doing so, she helped to prepare Akihito for the world that would greet him when he became emperor.

By the late twentieth century, the world of nation-states was giving way to one of growing transnational connections and concerns. Traditional sovereign states would no longer command the loyalty and attention of people everywhere. Rather, countries and individuals would exist and interact in a transnational and global setting. The world was entering an era in which resources and problems would be shared across national borders.

This phenomenon has been particularly evident in worldwide efforts to protect the environment and uphold human rights. And it was on precisely these issues that Akihito began to play an increasingly active and assertive role.

Earlier in his reign, Akihito had been reticent, as if to avoid giving any impression that he was seeking to reassert imperial authority. But now both he and his wife became more visible and outspoken, visiting different parts of Japan and the world to express concern about environmental degradation and human-rights abuses. This included imperial visits to Okinawa and the Philippines, which had been major theaters of military conflict during World War II.

Akihito's willingness to become involved in such issues made him a transnational spokesman for humanity. In this sense, Japan's emperor for the past 30 years has been much more of a global leader than a national one. That sets him apart from his father - and from many of the world's current leaders.

O-PED

By Nina L. Khrushcheva

Ukraine Sends in the Clown

KYIV - In the 2000s, The West Wing was everybody's favorite television show about an aspirational US administration - one that fought terrorism without waging war on an entire region or religion, refused to trample on the rule of law, and generally made decisions that were in the country's best interest. Many wished the show's calm and collected fictional president, played by Martin Sheen, could replace America's cowboy president, George W. Bush, and his war-mongering sidekick, Dick Cheney.

In a sense, that is exactly what is happening now in Ukraine. The comedian Volodymyr Zelensky, whose only claim to fame up to now was playing a teacher-turned-president in the popular TV series *Servant of the People*, won the presidency in a landslide earlier this month. But, far from the fantasy of an idealized president, this is yet another example of a distorted reality - all too familiar to Ukrainians - in which characters, not leaders, define politics.

Zelensky is far from the first charismatic non-politician to win political power in recent years. The most obvious example is the real-estate developer and reality-TV showman Donald Trump. But in Austria, Hungary, Italy, Russia, and elsewhere, characters have also used populist rhetoric to appeal to ordinary people who feel ignored by the elites. Another comedian, Beppe Grillo, co-founded Italy's Five Star Movement, which is now the senior government party, though he stepped aside in January 2018, weeks before the election that brought his creation to power.

There are nuances to this trend. After Trump won the 2016 presidential election in the United States, I recalled *Brave New World*, in which Aldous Huxley conjured a future in which humanity had been destroyed by ignorance and lust for mindless entertainment. Trump, feasting on burgers as he binge-watches Fox News stories about himself, embodies this disposition.

Whereas a combination of too much amusement and too little knowledge contributed to Americans' choice of Trump, Ukrainians were reacting to politicians' betrayal of the ideals of the 2013-14 Maidan Square protests, which sought to get Ukraine out from underneath Russia's thumb. Chief among the turncoats was President Petro Poroshenko, a Maidan hero who ended up as a manifestation of the old oligarchic system. Most Ukrainians now support radical changes to economic, social, and foreign policy.

Thus, with nothing but an appealing TV persona, Zelensky was able to convince voters that his inexperience would be a better bet than another term of Poroshenko's corrupt leadership. Despite having no political team or discernable policy platform, he won 73% of the vote - a share normally attained by authoritarians who stifle their opponents and stuff ballot boxes.

It was a desperate choice. As a young Ukrainian lawyer friend lamented, "Any thinking, pragmatic person would vote for Poroshenko, or maybe [former Prime Minister] Yuliya Tymoshenko," because, despite their faults, "they did a lot for us." But, my friend added, "we are not thinking like a pragmatic society."

The candidates' debates were revealing in this respect. Facing off with Zelensky in a stadium - a non-standard venue chosen by the comedian - Poroshenko highlighted his own achievements, from fighting back against Russia in eastern Ukraine to securing visa-free entry to the European Union for all Ukrainian citizens. Meanwhile, Zelensky joked around, irreverently spoke Russian, and practically guffawed at Poroshenko's patriotic slogan, "Army, Language, Faith."

As my lawyer friend pointed out, irrational politics are nothing new for Ukraine, whose history has been "a constant carnival led by a bunch of clowns." Prince Volodymyr, who brought Christianity to Kievan Rus' in the early 800s, declared that "drinking is the joy of the Rus'." In later centuries, the Cossacks, Catherine the Great's independent-minded guards, were inveterate performers, with their long mustaches, furry hats, and exaggerated, almost carnivalesque, displays of machismo.

Even when not particularly clownish, showmanship has often been a feature of Ukrainian politics. In the 2004 Orange Revolution, when Ukrainians rejected Viktor Yanukovich's victory in a rigged presidential election, Tymoshenko did not just emerge as a political leader. She performed the role of a folk heroine, leading protesters to the barricades with a traditional Ukrainian blonde braid wrapped around her head.

Another Ukrainian friend, a middle-aged scientist, observed that Zelensky's most direct antecedent may be Andriy Danylko - Ukraine's best-known entertainer, a musical comedian who performs in drag under the stage name Verka Serduchka. In 2007, Danylko tried, unsuccessfully, to form his own political party.

According to this friend, Ukrainians' embrace of Zelensky was driven by the same revolutionary urge that fueled the protests in 2004 and 2013-14. While the pro-Western Tymoshenko would have delivered the change that Ukrainians want, he explained, this year voters wanted even more to reject the existing system entirely. The fact that Trump is presiding over a booming US economy only strengthened their willingness to gamble on a TV character.

But even Zelensky may not be the rebellious choice he seems to be. Some have questioned his relationships with oligarchs - in particular Igor Kolomoisky, the owner of the TV channel that broadcasts his show. Many suggest that Kolomoisky effectively bought the election so that he himself could rule Ukraine from behind the scenes. There is also speculation, albeit unfounded, that Zelensky is actually a project of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

However he got to power, Zelensky now faces the monumental task of building a state that improves people's lives by providing quality services. As for the war in eastern Ukraine, even if Zelensky manages to end it, Putin will not give back Crimea, which no Ukrainian would allow the Kremlin to claim as its own. Can a comedian with no experience, team, or platform really be expected to navigate these challenges?

Ukraine is a symptom, not a specimen. In a world that increasingly resembles Huxley's dystopia, where real political leaders - experienced yet honest, strong yet caring, charismatic yet serious - are few and far between, we all run the risk of being ruled by clowns.

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OPINION

By Josh Friedman

The Value of Fake News

NEW YORK - On a trip to Ethiopia in the 1990s, I met with Prime Minister Meles Zenawi to try to persuade him to stop jailing journalists. Since Zenawi's guerillas had ousted a repressive Soviet-backed dictatorship a few years before, there had been an explosion of exuberant and sometimes wildly inaccurate little newspapers, many of them attacking Zenawi. So he had cracked down, introducing laws criminalizing what he called "insults" to the government and fining and imprisoning journalists for inaccuracies. Ethiopia quickly became one of the world's top jailors of journalists.

But don't celebrate yet. Some in the newly freed press are publishing sometimes inaccurate stories - whipping up ethnic and tribal enmity and attacking Ahmed. With the first free elections in 15 years taking place next year, he is in the same spot Zenawi was, and is considering restoring some of the press controls he had canceled.

Before he does that, he should take a long and critical look at Zenawi's crackdown and the lesson it holds: journalists are irreplaceable, and controlling them achieves nothing in the long run. In fact, it merely delays the development of a more professional media.

Zenawi had offered a simple explanation for his government's actions. "Our journalists are not professional like those in the United States and Western Europe," he told me. "They do not know how to report the news accurately. We must set guidelines for them until they learn how to do their jobs." If he were alive today, Zenawi would probably be railing against "fake news."

Over more than three decades of fighting for a worldwide free press, and as an early chairman of the Committee to Protect Journalists, I have heard arguments like Zenawi's many times. Journalists, officials in emerging democracies often insist, must be constrained by the state until they are able to carry out their work responsibly. But rather than accelerating the development of a credible free press, this approach impedes it.

After my meeting with Zenawi, I began seeking historical evidence for his claim that insufficiently professional journalism justified suppression of the press; that way, I could counter his argument on my next trip. I found one precedent in early US history. In fact, Zenawi's words were eerily similar to arguments made in the eighteenth century by US President John Adams and his Federalists, who denounced a free and enthusiastic press that disseminated criticism - both accurate and inaccurate - of the new country's politicians.

Arguing that an unrestrained press threatened America's future, Adams succeeded temporarily in stifling journalists in 1798, when he signed the Alien and Sedition Acts, which authorized imprisoning and fining journalists who "write, print, utter, or publish any false, scandalous and malicious writing" against the government. Twenty newspaper editors were subsequently jailed.

But Thomas Jefferson and his Democratic-Republicans pushed back against the Federalists, both in Congress and the courts. And, fortunately for US journalists, Jefferson was elected president in 1800. Within two years, the alien and sedition laws either expired or were repealed. That opened the way for the American press to experiment, thereby developing - over more than two centuries - a culture of deep and accurate reporting, including consistent fact-checking.

There's no shortcut to a vibrant free press; it takes a long period of trial and error for the norms and institutions of professional journalism to develop. Politicians must trust the process - and maintain a thick skin. While repressive media laws may benefit leaders in the short run, in the long run, they stunt the development of a country's press.

There is quantitative evidence of this effect. When the French Revolution began in 1789, press restrictions were lifted. Four years later, there were more than 400 newspapers in the country, including 150 in Paris alone. By 1799, that figure had risen to 1,300 newspapers across the country. That was 1,300 venues for aspiring journalists to learn and hone their craft.

But the revolution took a repressive turn. By the time Napoleon Bonaparte took power in 1799, the number of newspapers in Paris had plunged to 72. He soon reduced that number to 13, and then, in 1811, to four.

Likewise, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, media of all types flourished. But some of the newly independent successor states embraced the idea that media "guidelines" were needed. Many enacted laws that were advertised as ensuring a free press, but that have been used to penalize journalists for aggressive, critical reporting. Libel was criminalized. Enormous fines were imposed on independent publications, broadcasters, and bloggers.

China and Turkey - both Olympic-level jailors of journalists - have ramped up their repression in recent years. Just last month, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed new laws authorizing punishment of individuals and online media for spreading so-called fake news and information that "disrespects" the state.

US President Donald Trump is trying to go in the same direction. His constant branding of journalists as "liars" and "enemies of the people" echoes the Nazis' preferred label for the media: the Lügenpresse (lying press).

Even in the European Union, journalists are still jailed for criminal libel and insulting the government, according to a 2014 International Press Institute study. "The vast majority of EU states maintain criminal defamation provisions that provide imprisonment as a possible punishment," the IPI found. "Prosecutions continue to be carried out and journalists continue to be sentenced to criminal punishments."

Allowing the press to experiment, make mistakes, and learn from them has been crucial to the success of democracies worldwide. That is why governments and civil societies need to be vigilant in supporting a free press, even - or especially - if it is still developing.

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Stakeholders stress political will for DRM Strategy

Stakeholders are calling for total support and backing of the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) in the full implementation of the country's first-ever comprehensive Domestic Resource Mobilization (DRM) Strategy.

The stakeholders, representing local and international development partners and NGOs, civil society and the business community, describe the strategy as attractive and inclusive to boost revenue collection in Liberia, if fully implemented. They are however wary of its full implementation, citing perceived funding challenges and diminishing donor support.

According to a press release from the LRA, the call came during a two-day stakeholders' engagement on the dissemination of key messages in the country's DRM Strategy which climaxed last Friday in Gbarnga, Bong County, with about 50 participants attending.

They want inclusive and appropriate use of revenue collected for development, which would in return attract tax compliance and spur revenue growth to boost national development. When collected taxes

Prosperity and Development (PAPD) and creating sustainable livelihoods in Liberia.

Speaking at the event, UNDP Economic Specialist and National Economist Stanley Kamara underscores the importance of the DRM Strategy for Liberia's development and pledged the UN agency's continuing support to realizing the aspirations of the strategy.

He applauds the LRA in leading efforts to finalize the document. Kamara discloses that Liberia is among very few countries in Africa to have promptly started the DRM process immediately after the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

He says UNDP's support to the program began since 2016 during the LRA nationwide regional dialogues which culminated into the National Revenue Symposium in Monrovia in June 2017 that gave birth to the Strategy.

He notes that the implementation of the DRM Strategy is also geared towards meeting targets of the UN Sustainable Development Goals or



Partial View of participants at the opening of the two-day engagement in Gbarnga

are used to impact lives of the people through the provision of basic social services; they would be moved to become more tax compliance, the stakeholders note.

DRM refers to the generation of revenue locally and their allocation to economically and socially productive investments, including basic social services such as roads, electricity, quality health and education. It is potentially the biggest source of long-term financing for sustainable development and life blood of all state governance such as the provision of public goods and services. President George Weah last year endorsed the 5-year strategy.

Besides providing the opportunity for participants to clearly understand Liberia's DRM Strategy and suggest ways forward for implementation, the UNDP-sponsored engagement presents strategy options and areas of interventions to stakeholders.

The exercise made stakeholders to clearly understand how the DRM Strategy is critical in financing the government's Pro-Poor Agenda for

SDGs which has 17 separate goals that affect every aspect of society.

Mr. Kamara explains that unlike the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which was heavily donor dependent, the SDGs is dependent on domestic revenue generation. This is where, he adds, the DRM Strategy comes in.

Making remarks on behalf of the LRA Commissioner General Thomas Doe Nah, the Assistant Commissioner for Policy MolleyKiazolu underscores the importance of the DRM and how it is tied to the PAPD.

Participants, in their recommendations, call for total political will from government, among others, to boost the implementation of the document. They fear that in the absence of political will and donor support, it would be another document left to dust on the shelf.

The pro-poor agenda is an ambitious strategy that seeks to better the lives of Liberians, he said, adding that to achieve this agenda, there must be capital to do so. "That's how the DRM Strategy is tied to the Pro-Poor Agenda. -Press Release

President Weah wants Power Theft Act

By Ethel A. Tweh

President George Manneh Weah has submitted a bill to the Liberian Senate, seeking the enactment of a law to fight against power theft.

He has written a communication to the Liberian Senate, titled: "An Act to amend the Penal Law Chapter 15, by adding thereto a new Section 15.88 to provide for power theft".

County.

Senator G. Alphonso Gaye of Grand Gedeh County made the motion accepting the communication and it was sent to the appropriate committees to report back in one week.

Meanwhile the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Judiciary Varney Sherman says the discussion election



In the communication, President Weah says power theft damages the economy and it destroys lives and properties.

He explains that many communities have held demonstrations for the overload of the transformers, leading to many damages in various places.

According to the president, government losses US\$35 million dollars per year to power theft, preventing the Liberia Electricity Cooperation (LEC) from carrying on its function rightly because of the great loss it gets yearly.

The communication states that an act to improve the sector was sponsored by Senator Peter S. Coleman of Grand Kru

year and the tenure of the president, vice president, speaker, president pro-tempore, Senators, representatives and other officers should be done in a workshop for depth discussion.

"These two items are always on the agenda and [we don't] have much time to discuss them," he says.

For his part, Grand Bassa County Senator Jonathan Lambert Kaipay agreed that a workshop be held, but added that they should have a public hearing where they will invite experts to enlighten then on those tenure positions and election year.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

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April 25, 2019

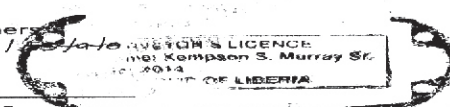
By the directive of the Administrators of the Late Gbangay Sorboh, the undersigned registered licence delivery have been authorized to in consultation with their legal team to conduct an investigate survey of 3.6 town lots of land situated lying and being on 24th Street near Samuel Stryker Funeral home on Wednesday, the 1st day of May 2019 at the hour of 1:30PM in favor of the Gbangay Sorboh Administrators and Family.

Therefore, all those sharing with the said parcel of Land are asked to be present with their deeds, diagram(s) technical representatives administrative or any of their legal documents to verify their claims(s).

This notice should claim the attention of the following property owners:

1. Richard Johns/James Johns
2. Mayamu Fofana/Vamuyan Fofana
3. Mamie Trawally
4. Abdullah and Alieu Secka
5. Cecelia
6. Aaron Mulbah
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8. Johnson K. Nerne
9. Charles Zoka/Jenneh Kiazolu
10. Lincoln S. Roberts
11. Walker Freeman and others
12. Pan African Real Estate Corporation

Signed:  Resident Surveyor
Montserrado County



Received by Mr. Yahaya B. Kamah on 26th day of April 2019 @ 10:54 A.M

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Calm the noise

-former Pro - Tempore Cletus Wotorson urges Senate

By Ethel A. Tweh

Former Liberian Senate Pro -Tempore Cletus Wotorson has cautioned the Liberian Senate that it has a duty to calm the noise that is ongoing in the

former Sen. Wortoson said Tuesday, 30 April when he paid a visit to the Senate.

In his comment, Mr. Wotorson reminds Senators that the Senate is referred to

Wotorson recommends that the Senate calls a meeting with the Executive Branch to discuss solutions to the many situations in the country.

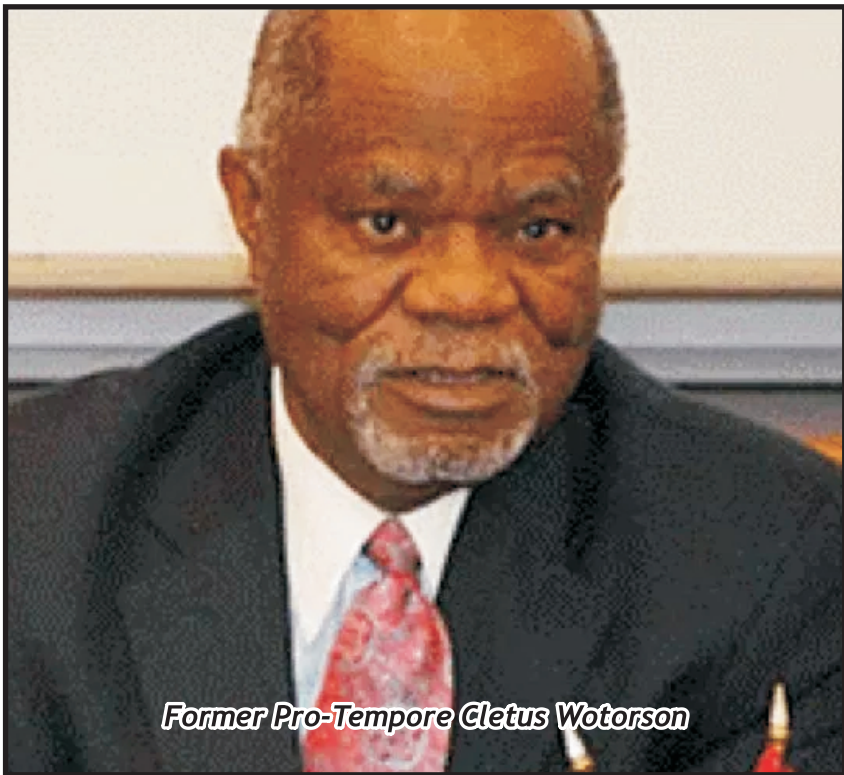
His comment comes in the wake of a planned protest slated for June 7 against alleged corruption, demand of an audit report on a controversial US\$25m mop - exercise, among others.

Former Sen. Wotorson adds that Liberia cannot go back to the days of old, noting that he looks up to the Senate for a responsible response to the many things that are going on in the country.

Mr. Wotorson says the Senate should not always look to the Council of Churches or other religious groups to calm situations in the country.

According to him, it is the duty of the Senators who are the elders in the country to calm situations when they arise.

He said if the entire members of the Senate cannot meet with the Executive, the Senate's leadership and the Executive should meet so that the two branches of government can look into ways of finding solution to the situation here.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



Former Pro-Tempore Cletus Wotorson

Country. "There has been a lot of noise in the country, and I look up to the Senate to see what they can do to calm the situation in the country,"

as [House of] Elders, adding that people look up to the Senators for decision making in the country.

In the wake of heightening tension in the country, Mr.

Liberian educator wants visual aid programs prioritized

The administration of the Rosetta Steps Educational Foundation School, Amma Harris, is calling on school administrators to prioritize visual aid programs to foster early childhood development in the country.

The Rosetta Steps Foundation institute is currently being operated at an elementary level in New Kru Town, Duala and Caldwell road communities, respectively on Bushrod Island, outside Monrovia.

Leading a one-day academic tour of historical sites in Monrovia over the weekend, Madame Harris explains the sight-seeing exercise was intended to expose the students to some of the things they have discussed and will continue to discuss in the classroom.

"By bringing the kids out of their usual environment they are familiar with, we intend to show them the other side of life. To show them some of the historic features of our country. Because eventually as they progress in school, these are the things they are

going to study about. How Liberia was founded, the interaction of those who were here and those who came, the presidents and so on", Madame Harris notes.

She details that the students toured the National Museum on Broad Street, the former Ducor Continental Hotel, and the historic Providence Island, amongst others, which according to

her, was intended for the kids to visualize some of the areas they have been learning about in the classroom for the betterment of their academic sojourn.

She boasts of extra-curriculum activities in her institution, adding that there are debate, hygiene and social clubs, amongst others that help with the growth and development of students.



"UP not qualified to protest"

-Nathaniel Blamah

By Lewis S. Teh

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Executive Director Nathaniel Blamah says the former ruling Unity Party (UP) does not have any right to form part of a protest against the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) led - government.

Mr. Blama heads a government collaborating party called Liberia National Union (LINU).

"They are not qualified to carry on any protest in this country because the economic

"The economic hardship, including the high rate that we [are] experiencing here today was initiated by them," he explains.

Mr. Blama cautions that the critics and opposition must understand that the hardship in the country is not as a result of any policy taken by the CDC led - administration.

According to him, things would have even become worse had President George Manneh Weah not instituted an Economic Management Team.

According to the EPA boss, he supports any form of dialogue and not protest that



(EPA) Executive Director Nathaniel Blamah

hardship that citizens are facing today [was] inherited by this government, and they were (the ones) that caused this huge wide spread of hardship," Mr. Blama said on 29 April on a local talk show in Monrovia.

He argues that in spite of all of the difficulties and challenges, the CDC led - government still manages to stabilize the economy, blaming the former UP led- government of changing the local currency without any accountability.

he believes will give a negative image of the country.

"We don't need to create a scenario where people out there will see Liberia as a place that is not save for living," Mr. Blama cautions.

The EPA boss says he thinks the government is in the position to dialogue with the protesters, because President Weah sat with Montserrado County District #10 Rep. YekehKolubah who has been very critical on the president.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

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She calls on other school administrators to emulate these steps by introducing activities that will motivate the children, stressing that early learners learn a lots through what they experience, "These activities assist the teachers to better process what is being taught in the classroom and give better results".

Madame Harris encourages Liberians to explore other

sectors of life in order to foster nation building, "We want to tell Liberians out there not to focus only on political issues, there are lots more to that. There are people who are making a lot of efforts toward nation building and that is the best we can do to develop our country. Do not listen to the negatives out there, instead, find the positives and support them", she urges.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Sinoe citizens storm Capitol

A group of citizens from Sinoe County on Tuesday, 30 April stormed the grounds of the Capitol with placards, petitioning the Legislature to intervene in the land dispute in the South East.

The Sarpo Ethnic Group under the banner: "Sarpo Appoliebo Development Organization" presented a petition to the Speaker of the 54th Legislature Bhofal Chambers during their assembly.

They requested the rejection of draft bill by Senator J. Milton Teahjay that seeks to amend the Act creating the Seekon Statutory District in Sinoe County.

The Sarpo Ethnic Group said they are people from the Southeastern part of Liberia with the common topograph ranging from and including the Putu Mountain and the Putu people in Grand Gedeh County through the Wed



Carba Statutory District, the Seekon Statutory District, the Juarzon Statutory District and Numopo County District in Kpayan District in Sinoe County.

The group laments that the bill has sinister and ulterior motives with the propensity to further inflame tribal conflict and destroy the fabric of their peaceful coexistence.

They believe that if action is not taken immediately to address the situation, it could affect the people of the Sarpo Ethnic Group and the people of the Taryowon ethnic group.

Furthermore, the group said the bill undermines reconciliation, peace and development in the region.

They explain that in 2000, the people of the then Tarjouwon Chiefdom by the making and influence of the then Deputy Minister of Information, Mr. Milton Teahjay, petitioned the 51st Legislature during the Administration of former President Charles Taylor to elevate their chiefdom to a Statutory status.

The group further said while the referenced petition was in the Committee Room at the Legislature, the Sarpo people under the banner of the Sarpo Appoleabo Development Organization filed a protest against said petition for its encroachment on Sarpo land area which include Plandialebo City of the then Seekon

Chiefdom and Tugba and Neplubo Towns of the then Juarzon Chiefdom.

They added that the bill in reality is a recipe of chaos, confusion and disunity in the Seekon Tarjouwon region in Sinoe.

"The bill to a larger extent has some hiding agenda solely to put the Kru and Sarpo people of the region at loggerhead," the group warns.

Receiving the resolution, House Speaker Bhofal Chambers commended the group for their peaceful approach and urged them to remain calm.

He said the House of Representatives will look into their concerns raised, most especially, an accusation against a member of the Legislature.

In response, Sinoe County Senator Milton Teahjay accused Representative Matthew Zarzar, also of Sinoe, of allegedly masterminding the resolution.

Teahjay claimed that Representative Zarzar is

4 Nobel Peace Laureates attend women's confab

The four visiting Nobel Peace Laureates along with Vice President Jewel Howard-Taylor and Liberia's Nobel Peace Laureate Madam Leymah Gbowee at the women's conference

By Emmanuel Mondaye
Four eminent Nobel Peace

Madam Gbowee is founder of the Gbowee Foundation Liberia, and shares the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize with former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

The four courageous women include Rigoberta Menchu Tum, Jody Williams, Shirin Ebadi,

civil conflict.

They encourage every Liberian woman to continue to work harder and forget about the many speeches, focusing on how they can fight corruption, poverty eradication and ignorance.

They also urge Liberia to



Laureates from several countries are attending three days Nobel Women's Conference in Liberia, under the theme: "Reclaiming Our Space." The conference is taking place at the Monrovia City Hall, as guest of Liberia's Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Leymah Gbowee.

Tawakkol Karman.

Making separate remarks during the opening session of the conference, the visiting guests express gratitude to Madam Gbowee and the people of Liberia for preserving the peace of the country since the end of the

take advantage of solar power since the country enjoys sufficient sunshine that can generate electricity.

The Nobel Laureates also urged young Liberia women to raise their voices, if they have to reclaim their space among fellow women in the country

and the world at large, stressing that women should stand up and speak the truth no matter where they find themselves in the society.

Earlier, Liberia's Vice President Jewel Howard-Taylor, in special remarks notes that the number of women's representation in government, including the National Legislature has considerably dropped since former Liberian Noble Peace Prize Laureate, former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf left power.

However, she expresses optimism that in the pending 2020 senatorial elections, more women will be elected in government, particularly in the Senate and the House of Representatives, adding that that women should remain engaged by finding their passion to reclaiming their space in Liberia.

VP Taylor says women not be afraid to speak on critical

issues affecting their lives and they should always be an example in their advocacies.

Nobel Peace Laureate Leymah Gbowee encourages Liberian women to reclaim their space by speaking out and not to remain silent, adding that no one will give the women their space unless they themselves fight to reclaim it.

She applauds her four colleagues for honoring her foundations' invitation to participate in the very crucial women conference which has stimulated the women of Liberia attending the conference, promising to provide them mentorship in their endeavor.

The Nobel Women's Initiative was established in 2006 to magnify the power and visibility of women working in countries around the world for peace, justice and equality. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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Français

Rep. Gray recommande de réduire les prestations des législateurs

Le député Moses Acarous Grey de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC, pouvoir) propose une réduction des avantages sociaux des 73 membres de la Chambre des représentants afin de contribuer au sauvetage de l'économie.

Le représentant Gray a indiqué qu'il a déjà adressé une communication à l'Assemblée plénière de la Chambre des représentants. Il propose une réduction des avantages accordés aux législateurs de 10 à 20%. Il s'agit des avantages nationaux, médicaux, de voyage et autres.

Animant une conférence de presse dans son bureau lundi au Capitole, le législateur de la CDC a prié le pouvoir législatif de conseiller le gouvernement en ce qui concerne la gestion optimale de l'énorme facture salariale dans le budget national.

Vu que le gouvernement est confronté à un défi financier



énorme, le député Gray a également suggéré l'élection partielle sénatoriale de 2019 et le recensement national soient reportés en 2020 afin de réduire les coûts et de respecter la Constitution de 1986 qui appelle à un recensement national à travers le Libéria tous les 10 ans.

Par ailleurs, le représentant de la circonscription électorale n° 8 du comté de Montserrado s'en est pris au régime de l'ancienne présidente Sirleaf, l'accusant d'avoir fait du tort au peuple du Libéria. Selon lui, l'ancien gouvernement dirigé par le Parti de l'Unité avait perçu des taxes pour une période de trois ans à l'avance auprès des

investisseurs et des entreprises opérant dans le pays.

Il a qualifié l'administration de l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf de malhonnête envers le peuple libérien pour avoir perçu une avance de trois ans sur les impôts, sachant bel et bien que son mandat constitutionnel arrivait à son terme.

Il croit que le président George Weah est critiqué à tort par la population, alors que c'est cette même population qui a créé le désordre que le

gouvernement de la Coalition pour pouvoir a du mal à nettoyer.

« C'est malhonnête de la part du parti de l'unité de crier sur tous les toits de mauvaise économie et d'accuser le gouvernement dirigé par Weah de ne rien faire pour changer le statut économique, alors qu'il a contribué de manière significative au massacre de l'économie du pays. L'ancien régime a endetté le pays au point d'étouffer économiquement parlant », a-t-il déploré.

Il demande ainsi à la Commission générale des audits et à aux partenaires internationaux de procéder à un audit de l'ancienne administration, à commencer par la compagnie pétrolière nationale du Libéria en faillite, dirigée par le fils de Mme Sirleaf, Robert Sirleaf.

L'économie s'est tellement dégradée que le paiement des salaires des fonctionnaires pose un sérieux problème, alors que le dollar libérien continue de se déprécier rapidement par rapport au dollar américain, un dollar américain s'échange sur le marché noir contre 175 dollars libériens actuellement.

Les élections partielles couteront 2,5 millions USD

La Commission électorale nationale (NEC), a annoncé un budget opérationnel de 2,5 millions de dollars US les élections partielles sénatoriales qui auront lieu dans le comté de Montserrado le 10 juillet 2019.

Animant lundi un point de presse à Monrovia, le président de la NEC, Jerome

George Korkoya, a déclaré que le montant prendra également en compte l'élection partielle prévue dans le district 15 du comté de Montserrado qui, en seulement deux mois cette année, a perdu un sénateur et un représentant.

L'ancienne sénatrice Geraldine Doe Sherif est

décédée à Accra, au Ghana, le 10 février, des suites d'une affection cancéreuse prolongée, tandis que l'ancien représentant du district 15, Adolph Lawrence, est décédé le 25 mars dans un tragique accident de circulation près de la communauté de Tower Hill, le long de la route de Robertsfield Monrovia alors qu'il revenait de Buchanan, dans le comté de Grand Bassa, où il a fêté son 50e anniversaire.

La regrettée sénatrice Doe-Sherif a été élu membre du Sénat en 2009 sur le ticket du Congrès pour le changement démocratique (CDC), avant de rejoindre le Parti de l'unité, ancien parti au pouvoir. Son mandat actuel devait expirer en 2023. Il y a plus d'un an qu'elle luttait contre le cancer.

Le représentant Lawrence a quant à lui eu un accident de circulation. Selon des témoins, son véhicule se serait heurté à un gros camion qui était tombé en panne en plein milieu de la route. Lui et la jeune femme qui était à bord de son camion sont morts sur le champ. Il a été enterré la

semaine dernière.

Cependant, Korkoya fait savoir que quoique la NEC n'ait pas été encore notifiée par la Chambre des représentants au sujet la vacance créée à la suite du décès du Représentant Lawrence, chaque Libérien est au courant du fait qu'il aura une élection dans son district, d'où la nécessité de préparer un budget conséquent.

Expliquant de façon succincte le chronogramme des élections, il a fait savoir qu'à compter du 3 mai, la commission électorale publiera un communiqué qui annoncera la tenue de l'élection sénatoriale partielle. Il sera suivi par le recrutement

des agents et par l'accréditation des institutions médiatique et des observateurs des partis politiques. Tout ça aura lieu du 3 mai au 25 juin.

Quant au dépôt des dossiers de candidature, il débutera le 05 mai, et la campagne électorale aura lieu du 4 au 30 juin.

Le vote proprement dit aura lieu le 2 juillet sur toute l'étendue du comté de Montserrado. Quant aux plaintes et le règlement des contentieux électoraux, ils auront lieu entre le 2 et le 9 juillet. Et le résultat final de l'élection sera annoncé le 10 juillet 2019.



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Français

Éditorial

Les libériens ont-ils de quoi à être inquiets ?

L'Etat du Liberia risque de perdre la confiance du système des Nations Unies vu le retard qu'il accuse dans la soumission des rapports sur l'utilisation des fonds qu'il a reçus pour la mise en œuvre des projets spécifiques dans le secteur public au titre de la Modalité de mise en œuvre nationale (NIM), avertit le coordonnateur résident des Nations Unies, Yacoub El Hillo.

L'ONU met en garde l'administration Weah contre les malversations financières et la mauvaise gestion des fonds mis à sa disposition vu son incapacité de rendre compte des projets et des activités financés par l'ONU.

La situation est très grave. Le gouvernement a intérêt à prendre des mesures dès maintenant, car le Libéria ne peut pas se permettre d'être en conflit avec l'ONU et s'attendre aux financements directs de ses agences spécialisées, dont ce pays a si cruellement besoin.

Le coordonnateur résident El Hillo a informé le gouvernement de cette situation par le biais d'une lettre qu'il a adressée au ministre d'État chargé des Affaires présidentielles du Libéria, Nathaniel McGill. La lettre en question date du 25 avril 2019.

« Plusieurs agences [des Nations unies] ont du mal à recevoir les rapports à temps des cadres de l'Etat, retardant ainsi la mise en place des services essentiels et du soutien consultatif à la population du Libéria », s'est-il plaint dans la lettre.

La plainte est accompagnée d'une menace de suspension des fonds avec d'autres conséquences néfastes à long terme.

Il est temps que le gouvernement écoute et agisse en conséquence pour éviter le pire scénario possible, qui pourrait avoir des conséquences dévastatrices, car il a besoin de l'intervention de ces partenaires pour le financement de certains programmes vitaux, surtout au moment où l'économie nationale est sous perfusion.

Avec une économie aussi lamentable que celle du Libéria, une attitude de méfiance de la part de la communauté internationale en raison du refus du gouvernement de faire preuve de responsabilité et de transparence ne fera que plonger le pays dans une stagnation et des difficultés accrues.

Nous appelons le président Weah à intervenir immédiatement en veillant à ce que tous les ministères et agences du gouvernement concernés se conforment en conséquence, afin de bénéficier en permanence de la confiance de nos partenaires internationaux.

De toute évidence, personne n'est satisfait des signes que donne ce gouvernement, qui est maintenant tenu de faire quelque chose pour redresser le tir dès maintenant.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Akira Iriye

L'Empereur du Japon mondial quitte la scène

PHILADELPHIE - L'empereur Akihito du Japon va abdicuer le 30 avril, après avoir siégé sur le Trône du chrysanthème depuis 1989. À l'âge de 85 ans, Akihito souhaite apparemment jouir d'une retraite tranquille avec l'impératrice Michiko, son épouse de 60 ans. Son fils aîné, le Prince héritier Naruhito, lui succèdera comme empereur.

Le règne d'Akihito a débuté à la mort de son père Hirohito, dont la vie s'est étendue sur des décennies de troubles intérieurs et internationaux. Bien qu'Akihito lui-même ait atteint sa majorité au cours de l'ère tumultueuse de la Seconde Guerre mondiale et de la Guerre froide, le Japon et le monde ont changé de manière significative, avant qu'il ne devienne empereur. Il est probable que l'on se souviendra de lui comme d'un monarque qui a laissé une empreinte positive sur la scène mondiale.

Pour comprendre le règne d'Akihito, il faut le mettre en perspective avec un certain contexte historique moderne. De la fin du XVIIIème au milieu du XXème siècle, les peuples de la plupart des régions du monde appartenaient soit à un empire, soit de plus en plus, à un pays indépendant. Il y avait encore relativement peu d'États souverains à la fin du XIXème siècle. Mais de plus en plus de gens vivant dans des empires ont alors affirmé leur identité nationale et le nombre d'États indépendants est passé d'environ 50 à plus de 200 au cours du XXème siècle. Les individus du monde entier en sont venus à s'attribuer le statut de citoyens d'un pays souverain.

Par ailleurs, dans le même temps, les gens se sont également de plus en plus définis par leurs attributs non nationaux, tels que le sexe, l'appartenance ethnique, la race, la religion, l'éducation, ou l'âge. En outre, nous sommes tous des êtres humains à l'échelle mondiale, des « citoyens du monde. » Nous vivons dans l'environnement naturel, nous sommes affectés par le climat et nous sommes reliés par les rivières et les océans. En d'autres termes, nous sommes définis par nos identités multiples et par le monde dont nous avons hérité. Et l'empereur du Japon ne fait pas exception à la règle.

Akihito est né durant l'apogée de la souveraineté et au crépuscule de l'empire. Les années 1930 furent une décennie de conflits potentiels et réels, car les pays ont rivalisé pour le pouvoir et se sont armés dans une constante de la préparation à la guerre.

Le Japon, bien que retardataire dans la communauté des États modernes, était alors une grande puissance - aidée par des alliances et des accords avec d'autres puissances qui sauvegardaient la sécurité du pays et qui lui ont permis de se renforcer. Après avoir annexé la Corée en 1910, le Japon a commencé son expansion militaire en Asie deux décennies plus tard. En 1941, il était en guerre avec les

États-Unis. Lorsque l'Union soviétique a rejoint les ennemis du Japon, la guerre d'Asie-Pacifique est devenue une partie du conflit mondial qui a finalement pris fin en août 1945.

Akihito était adolescent à l'époque et sa vie était sur le point de changer de façon spectaculaire et imprévisible. Les autorités d'occupation dirigées par les États-Unis, dans le Japon d'après-guerre, sous les ordres du général Douglas MacArthur, n'ont pas exigé que l'empereur Hirohito abdique, ni qu'il soit jugé devant un tribunal international. Au lieu de cela, Hirohito allait être transformé d'un dieu en un simple être humain et ne bénéficierait par la suite que d'un rôle protocolaire symbolique dans la politique japonaise.

Hirohito a continué à régner en cette qualité jusqu'en 1989. Le jeune prince héritier Akihito, entre-temps, avait reçu une éducation dans laquelle une femme américaine, Elizabeth Vining, a joué un rôle majeur. Vining, une quakeresse de Philadelphie, a servi de tutrice personnelle au prince en lui enseignant l'anglais, entre autres sujets. Ce faisant, elle a aidé à préparer Akihito au monde qui a pu accueillir son passage au rang d'empereur.

À la fin du XXème siècle, le monde d'États-nations a fait place à un monde des connexions transnationales et d'inquiétudes croissantes. Les États souverains traditionnels n'allaient plus commander la loyauté et l'attention des individus du monde entier. En revanche, les pays et les individus allaient exister et interagir dans un contexte mondial et transnational. Le monde entraînait dans une ère dans laquelle les ressources et les problèmes seraient partagés à travers les frontières nationales.

Ce phénomène est particulièrement évident dans les efforts mondiaux en vue de la protection de l'environnement et du respect des droits de l'homme. Et c'est précisément sur ces questions qu'Akihito a commencé à jouer un rôle de plus en plus actif et affirmé.

Au début de son règne, Akihito s'est montré réticent, comme s'il évitait de donner l'impression qu'il cherchait à réaffirmer l'autorité impériale. Mais à présent, lui et son épouse sont devenus plus visibles et plus francs, ils ont visité différents endroits du Japon et du monde entier et ont exprimé leur inquiétude au sujet de la dégradation de l'environnement et des violations des droits de l'homme. Cela comprenait des visites impériales à Okinawa et aux Philippines, qui ont été les principaux théâtres de conflit militaire pendant la Seconde Guerre mondiale.

La volonté d'Akihito de s'impliquer dans de telles questions transnationales ont fait de lui un porte-parole de l'humanité. En ce sens, l'empereur du Japon au cours des 30 dernières années a été beaucoup plus un leader mondial que national. Cela le différencie de son père - et de la plupart des dirigeants actuels.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

LiMA hosts workshop on Incident Management System

Liberia Maritime Authority's Deputy Commissioner for Technical Services, Cllr. Charles A. Gono says Incident Management System (IMS) is an essential tool in handling incidents that usually occur with little or no warning signs to inform preparedness and response plan.

Speaking at the start of a four-day national IMS training workshop organized by the Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA) in partnership with Global Initiative for West, Central and Southern Africa (GI WACAF) Monday, April 29, he notes that major incidents, which are rare, may require a response involving many organizations, including government institutions across multiple jurisdictions and experts from many disciplines.



According to him, such incidents may also involve numerous parallel activities such as search and rescue, ensuring public safety and responders, source control,

fire suppression, protecting the environment, securing property and infrastructure from damage, and providing timely communication.

Therefore, Deputy

Commissioner Gono stresses that an IMS is an essential tool for overcoming many of these challenges, as it provides clarity in command and control, improves resource coordination and communications, and facilitates the cooperation and integration of responding organizations.

The exercise brings together representatives from LiMA, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), National Port Authority, National Coast Guard under the Ministry of National Defense and the Liberian Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS), and is providing Liberia with the opportunity to have an effective Incident Management System that will strengthen its national oil spill preparedness and response system.

The LiMA Deputy Commissioner for Technical Services further emphasizes that the principles of IMS organization were developed in the 1970s by the fire service as a management method for clarifying command relationship and making use of mutual aid for large scale incident involving multiple stakeholders.

Although originally developed to address fires, the IMS concept is now being applied to many other types of emergency events or incidents, including oil spill response.

Cllr. Gono adds that an effective and successful response requires a clear set of objectives, based on 'SMART' principle: Specific, Measurable, Action-oriented, Realistic; and Timely.

Speaking earlier, LiMA Director for Marine Environmental Protection, Mr. Daniel Tarr notes that the event seeks to provide a complete overview of the incident management process with an opportunity to test the

knowledge acquired through practical demonstration of techniques.

"The exercise would allow the delegates to validate their new skills set and exercise the country's national incident management plans," he says.

Mr. Tarr, who is also the National Focal Point, said GI WACAF was launched in 2006, between the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and IPIECA, the global oil and gas industry association for environmental and social issues, to enhance the capacity of partner countries to prepare for and respond to marine oil spills. He adds that the mission is to strengthen the national system for preparedness and response in case of an oil spill in 22 West, Central and Southern African Countries in accordance with the provisions set out in the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation, 1990 (OPRC 90).

"Promoting cooperation amongst all relevant government agencies, oil industry business units and stakeholders both nationally, regionally and internationally is a major objective of the project during these activities."

He says GI WACAF operates and delivers activities with contributions from both the IMO and seven oil companies that are members of IPIECA, namely BP, Chevron, ExxonMobil, Eni, Shell, Total and Woodside.

Also in remarks, Ms. Emilie Canova, GI WACAF Project Coordinator, welcomes participants to this year's national training on IMS in Monrovia.

"Today, it covers 22 countries in West, Central and Southern Africa. Since its inception, significant progress has been made in improving spill response capabilities by raising awareness through national and regional workshops and training," she says.

She reminds participants that the collaboration between the Liberian government and GI WACAF is not new adding, "I would like to recall a few steps taken together because the attendance of GI WACAF regional conferences by the national focal point: in 2010, a first National Workshop for the Development of the National Contingency Plan was organized; and more recently in 2016 a National Workshop on Contingency Planning and Sensitivity Mapping was held in Monrovia, which recommended to further include IMS in the NOSCP." - **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

LDEA sets ablaze drugs worth US\$40,966 in Bong

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

The Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency (LDEA) Bong County Detachment has set ablaze over 518 kilograms of marijuana and additional 533.3 grams of heroin that was confiscated in the County.

Authorities put the street value of the marijuana at US\$23,310, while the heroin is put US\$17,656.00, respectively.

They derive a combined total of \$40,966 USD for the substances set ablaze.

The burning of the drugs took place on 27 April around the Gbarnga Check-point.

Speaking in an interview with this paper after the burning exercise, LDEA Bong County Commander Alex K. Toweh says the drugs were confiscated from dealers in

the various districts and communities in the County based on tip-offs from residents.

Commander Toweh explains that most of the substances were confiscated in Gbarnga, and the burning was done in consultation with the LDEA headquarters in Monrovia.

He further reveals that the LDEA also arrested some Sedative Drugs and expired pharmaceutical products from some medicine stores in the County.

Commander Toweh praises officers of the LDEA for always showing up as backup during operations to confiscate drugs.

"You find these drugs in the hideout, so if someone does not give you a tip-off, you could not find them," he explains.

According to Toweh, based on the citizens' collaboration, two Nigerian nationals in persons of Henry Cheigwu, aged 41 and Christian Onhuwu, age 20, were recently arrested and charged with illegal possession of harmful substances and sent to court.

Moreover, Mr. Toweh says the two Nigerian were also arrested with three different types of passports, baring names of different countries and a Liberian voter registration card.

He warns on the risk of storing dangerous confiscated substances because of threats from individuals involved with the illegal drug trade and trafficking.

With the necessary support from the government, the LDEA official says the institution will continue to combat drug crimes in Bong County.

Bong County Acting Superintendent Anthony Boakai Sheriff who witnessed the exercise extended commendations to the LDEA for their tireless effort in fighting drugs in the County.

Mr. Sheriff says it was his first time to witness such event, saying in the past, they were only told by the LDEA that some drugs had been burnt.

Our Bong County Correspondent says the burning exercise was attended by local officials, including chiefs, civil society actors, representative of the 9th Judicial Circuit Court and the Bong County Police Detachment, among others.--

Edited by Winston W. Parley



Weah still works from home

By Winston W. Parley

President George Weah is still performing his official presidential duties from his private residence in the Rehab Community barely two weeks after snakes were spotted at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been the temporary office for the Liberian Presidency for the last 13 years since fire gutted the official presidential palace on July 26, 2006. It has since remained under renovation-changing hands from a Chinese company to an Italian one.

President Weah was forced to work from his home since April 18, 2019 after the Foreign Ministry announced a fumigation exercise following the discoveries of snakes in the building. The Foreign Ministry is one of the oldest state buildings in the country constructed in the 70s and appears to be infested with rats and other crawling insects.

But addressing a regular press briefing Tuesday,



Pres. George M. Weah

Presidential Spokesperson Isaac Solo Kelgbeh said the President was never forced to work outside his office by the snakes scare, rather he was advised by those who carried out the fumigation exercise that he did so for now.

“So we didn’t know for whatever reasons such a story was written, but the president has never been forced by snakes to work from out of his

office,” Mr. Kelgbeh told a regular press briefing Tuesday, 30 April in Monrovia.

“Yes, he’s working from home, but it’s based on the advice of the team that did [the] fumigation of the building,” says Kelgbeh.

Kelgbeh argues that “those snakes were seen on the ground floor” just behind the security desk, adding that President Weah’s office is

about five, six floors above the area where the snakes were found.

Mr. Kelgbeh’s response that the President is still working from home appears to contradict that of his Deputy Mr. Smith Toby who told reporters last week that the President was returning to work from his temporary office on Thursday April 25, 2019.

In a release issued earlier on 17 April, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced the suspension of all working activities from Thursday, April 18 to Tuesday, April 23, 2019.

“The Ministry of Foreign Affairs wishes to inform the general public that all working activities at the Ministry including the Bureau of Passport and Visas will be suspended from Thursday, April 18, 2019 to Tuesday, April 23, 2019 due to a fumigation exercise,” the Ministry said.

It noted that normal working activities at the Ministry would have resumed on Wednesday, April 24, 2019.

About a week after the reported fumigation, the Executive Mansion later announced that President Weah was due to return to his temporary office on Thursday, 25 April.

But the president did not return as announced, and has instead been operating from his Rehab Community residence outside Monrovia.

However, Mr. Kelgbeh on Tuesday, 30 April announced another expected return of the president to his temporary office, which he says is now set for Wednesday, 1 May.

The snake incident brings to memory a shocking fire incident that drove former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf out of the Executive Mansion in 2006, occasioning prolonged renovation works that continue beyond her 12

years rule on the official presidential home.

Throughout her presidency after the fire incident, Mrs. Sirleaf operated from her temporary office at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs until she transferred power to her successor, President Weah in January 2018 after the 2017 election.

In another development, Press Secretary Kelgbeh announced that President Weah’s failure to attend the funeral rites of fallen Montserrado County Rep. Adolph Lawrence, was due to “lot of breaches in the protocol” in the proceedings to the funeral.

Mr. Kelgbeh indicates that President Weah tried to avoid the unnecessary distractions being created by other people.

According to the Press Secretary, the president felt that his presence at the funeral would have caused more distractions since he would have been presence with his followers.

The ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) and the opposition Liberty Party (LP) battled for supremacy at the state funeral organized for the deceased at the Capitol, eventually disrupting the solemn occasion.

Other lawmakers from the ruling CDC including House Speaker Bhofal Chambers did not also attend a Church funeral held for their fallen colleague.

It is not clear why they boycotted the event. The late Rep. Lawrence prior to his death was among the few critical voices at the House of Representatives that had dissent against the Speaker’s style of handling legislative politics and other issues of national concern. *-Edited by Othello B. Garblah*

Rep. Gray mocks June 7 protesters

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) Montserrado County Rep. Moses Acarous Gray says the Liberia National Police (LNP’s) marching band will escort protesters on June 7.

Rep. Gray, the CDC’s Vice Chairman for Political Affairs

protesters is the government’s way of expressing their unflinching support to citizens who want to express or exercise their freedom of association, speech and expression,” Gray says.

He explains that government is prepared to receive any petition from the

President George Weah’s administration is the only government that encourages the freedom of speech and expression by decriminalizing the libel laws.

He also boasts that the president provided a modern headquarters for the Female Journalists Association of Liberia (FeJAL).

Since the ascendancy of the president, Rep. Gray narrates that there has been no political prisoner or media practitioner being locked up behind bars for statement made or for their reportage.

The Montserrado County lawmaker says while the government is prepared to grant any request from its citizens to protest, failure on the part of the political leaders and individuals to institute measures to keep the protest peaceful will lead to total accountability of any negative results.

According to him, President Weah will ensure that the country is stable as protesters will not instill fear in the minds of their fellow citizens and the international community.

Protesters are claiming alleged gross disrespect for the Constitution, worsening state of the economy, questions over the infusion of a controversial US\$25m into the economy to mop - up excess Liberian Dollars, mob violence and other issues. *-Edited by Winston W. Parley*



Rep. Acarous Gray

told a recent interview with this paper that the band will help to entertain protesters as they tour the principal streets of Monrovia with petitions for various foreign missions, the Capitol Building and the Executive Mansion.

“The provision of the marching band to the

protesters as long it is done within the scope of the law and the Liberian Constitution.

“Past administration did not afford us the opportunity but today, we are going to provide the police marching band for them to parade the streets comfortably,” he says.

Rep. Gray claims that

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Welcome To The New World

LFA, Doxxbet sign US\$24,000 Deal



By Sally Gaye

The Liberia Football Association (LFA) and Doxxbet Liberia have signed a US\$24,000.00 sponsorship deal for one year.

The signing program took place Monday in the Ballroom at the LFA's office on Lynch Street, Monrovia.

According to the deal, the amount will go towards individual awards at the end of the LFA National Leagues.

In the breakdown of the deal, Highest Goal scorer in the First Division will pocket

L\$200,000.00, second division top scorer will get L\$150,000.00 while to top scorer in the women division will earn L\$100,000.00.

Most valuable player in the second division and women division will get L\$200,000.00 and L\$150,000.00, respectively.

The most valuable player in the First Division will get a car, but this is outside the deal.

Best defenders in the three divisions will pocket L\$100,000.00 each, while best goalkeeper also in the three

divisions will take home L\$100,000.00.

The best coaches in the first, second and women division will as well be given L\$100,000.00 each, while the best referee and best football journalist of the season will earn similar cash prizes.

The 2019 LFA awards night will be held November 29, 2019.

Doxxbet stands to benefit as per the deal, the placement of two parameter boards at the ATS, and the Nancy B. Doe Sports Stadium in Kakata.

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Liverpool star explains how he will combat Messi

Virgil Van Dijk insists Liverpool head to the Nou Camp confident of a result - but has warned his side that Lionel Messi is not the only player to be wary of in a Barcelona shirt.

The towering Dutchman returns to the Nou Camp this week hoping to erase the memory of his only other appearance at the home of Barcelona.

The newly-crowned Professional Footballers' Association Player of the Year was a member of the Celtic team humiliated 6-1 in December 2013 - they were 6-0 down after 72 minutes.

What was more galling on that night was that Lionel Messi was not even playing.

There is no chance of that happening on Wednesday night, with the Argentina international being handed

generous periods of rest by coach Ernesto Valverde in the games leading up to this Champions League semi-final first leg, but Van Dijk is relishing the prospect.

He is also looking to address his history with Barcelona.

"It is a nice stadium, an historic stadium and for me it was a great experience to play over there," said the Holland captain.

The legacy of former Representative Kuku Y. Dorbor



Hon. Kuku Dorbor (left) congratulates the Queen of Revival Temple 2009-2010

Montserrado County District#6 former Representative Kuku Y. Dorbor was not only involved with lawmaking during her tenure at the former 52nd Legislature, but she has been an active supporter of community works, working with youth & women groups, community-based organizations, and the religious community.

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