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TRULY INDEPENDENT  
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# **The New Dawn**

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TRULY INDEPENDENT

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# **CDC shooting itself in the leg? (Pt-1)**



CDC Chairman Mulbah Morlu





# Continental News

## Burkina Faso church attack: Priest among six killed

**G**unmen have killed six people including a priest as Mass was being celebrated in a church in Dablo in northern Burkina Faso, officials say.

The attackers, said to number between 20 and 30, then burned down the church.

The town's mayor, Ousmane Zongo, said that there was panic as other buildings were burned down and a health centre looted.

Jihadist violence has flared in Burkina Faso since 2016, and this is the third attack on a church in five weeks. It began at about 09:00 (GMT and local time), during Mass.

The mayor of Dablo, Mr Zongo told the AFP news agency: "Armed individuals burst into the Catholic church... They started firing as the congregation tried to flee." "There is an atmosphere of panic in the town. People are holed up in their homes, nothing is going on. The shops

and stores are closed. It's practically a ghost town," he said.

Security sources told AFP that reinforcements were being sent from Barsalogo, some 45km (30 miles) to the south.

A local journalist told the BBC those killed included church elders and that residents were angry that soldiers in a nearby base did not respond promptly. Islamist groups have been blamed for a number of attacks in the West

African nation in recent years.

Fighters affiliated to al-Qaeda and the Islamic State group as well as the local Ansarul Islam have been active in the region.

Last month, attackers targeted a Protestant church in the town of Silgadji, killing at least six people

And earlier in April, four people died when a Catholic church was attacked in a nearby village, the bishop of Dori in northern Burkina Faso told Vatican news agency Fides. Schools and teachers have also been targeted by the groups, who are opposed to Western education.

On Friday, French special forces carried out a rescue mission in northern Burkina Faso, freeing four hostages. It is believed the four - two French citizens kidnapped in Benin, a South Korean and an

American - were being driven to Mali to be handed over to the militant group, Katiba Macina. Two French soldiers died during the mission. What's the wider picture?

Burkina Faso is among countries in the vast Sahel region battling Islamist insurgencies in the region.

It formed a regional force, G5 Sahel, along with Niger, Chad, Mauritania and Mali to take on the militants.

In January, PM Paul Kaba Thiéba resigned amid growing pressure over a rise in kidnappings and jihadist attacks, and Christophe Joseph Marie Dabiré was named his replacement.

France, a former colonial ruler in the region, has some 4,500 troops in four nations carrying out a mission codenamed Barkhane to counter jihadists. BBC



## Ghana's 100-year-old imam who went to church

**G**hana's chief imam is a man of few words, but the 100-year-old Muslim cleric certainly knows how to make waves - by attending a Catholic Church service as part of his birthday celebrations. Pictures of Sheikh Osman Sharubutu, sitting attentively in the pews of Accra's Christ the King Catholic Church for an Easter service, went viral on

social media. The grand mufti, leader of Ghana's minority Muslim community, wants to ensure that his legacy is peace - the fruit of inter-faith harmony. His church attendance was given even more resonance as on the day he was being pictured alongside parish priest Father Andrew Campbell, Islamist suicide bombers unleashed attacks in Sri Lanka, killing more than 250 people at

churches and hotels. Those on social media championing the imam's approach described him as a light shining in the darkness. Not everyone was happy - some critics condemned his actions as an abomination, for a Muslim to participate in Christian worship. But Sheikh Sharubutu insisted he was not worshipping but moving the relationship between Muslims and Christians from mere tolerance to engagement.

"The chief imam is changing the narrative about Islam from a religion of wickedness, a religion of conflict, a religion of hate for others, to a religion whose mission is rooted in the virtues of love, peace and forgiveness," his spokesperson Aremeyao Shaibu told the BBC. Unlike Ghana's chief imam, Father Andrew Campbell, the parish priest of Christ the King Catholic Church, is certainly not a man of few words and it is fair to say he likes to stir things up a bit.

The 73-year-old was born in Ireland and arrived in Ghana in 1971 to work as a missionary. Over 48 years he has become a champion of unpopular and

## South Africa ANC wins with reduced majority

**S**outh Africa's African National Congress (ANC) has been returned to office after winning parliamentary election, but with a reduced majority.

The ANC secured 58% of the vote, ahead of the Democratic Alliance (DA) on 21%. The radical Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), came third with 11%.

A struggling economy and corruption have eroded the ANC's popularity.

ANC leader, President Cyril Ramaphosa, called on the people to build a united South Africa.

Five things we've learnt In his victory speech, he said the

result showed that South Africans still had faith in the ANC - in power since 1994 - to deliver.

"Let us now work together, black and white, men and women,

young and old, to build a South Africa that truly belongs to all who live in it as proclaimed by our forebears," Mr Ramaphosa told supporters in Pretoria.

He called for a South Africa "which is united, which is non-racial, which is non-sexist, democratic and prosperous".

The BBC's Will Ross says the ANC may not be too disheartened by the reduced majority. BBC



unfashionable causes. He has adopted the cause of lepers in particular and campaigns for them not to be stigmatised and to be treated with dignity. His church is situated across the road from Jubilee House, the seat of Ghana's presidency. A few months ago, he was made parish priest for Jubilee House. The cleric has stated his support for some government policies, but it is accepted he will be equally vocal when he feels the need to criticise, no matter that he might be designated the in-house priest for the presidency.

He has acquired full Ghanaian citizenship - however, he has refused to adopt some local habits. He insists on keeping to time.

Not too long ago, I attended a wedding ceremony and he started the service despite the absence of the bride. Half-way through the published programme, the bridal procession could be seen trying to make an entrance from the back door. Fr Campbell rushed down, leading the groom and stopped the bride in the middle of the aisle, where he conducted a hurried marriage ceremony and walked back to the altar to continue from where he had left off before the bride appeared. But the combination of the peaceful Muslim cleric of few words and the trouble stirring loquacious Irish-Ghanaian priest make an unpredictable and beautiful cocktail. BBC

# EDITORIAL

## Rise to the challenge, Mr. President

A LIBERIAN INTEGRITY group, Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia or CENTAL, urges President George Manneh Weah to be practical and impartial in dealing with corruption, and make good on earlier promise made to clean his administration of corruption.

CENTAL WANTS TIMELY and impartial implementation of outcomes of ongoing investigation into the US\$25 million mop-up exercise, and asks President Weah and his Coalition-led government to timely act on grave concerns raised by development partners regarding use of donors' funds.

IT WARNS THAT not doing so may limit donors' confidence in the government and have serious implications for future funding and support to Liberia.

WE BELIEVE THESE are serious concerns that should claim the attention of not only the President, but the entire government, if Liberia should continuously enjoy trust and support of our international partners, including the United Nations, ECOWAS, AU, the United States, European Union, France, Britain and others.

THE BUCKS START with the President, because he is the head of government and the Head of State. He should and must be seen taking practically well-intentioned and comprehensive steps to re-assuring our partners that the government is responsible and it means well for the people.

EVER SINCE PRESIDENT Weah called on the General Auditing Commission to audit the Technical Economic Management Team or TEMT headed by the Minister of Finance and Development Planning Samuel Tweah of the usage of the US\$25, not much has been heard or said in public. In fact, the GAC is on record as saying, it has never received a written request since the President made that pronouncement.

WE WONDER HOW the government can be trusted, particularly in the eyes of international partners when it cannot properly manage or account for its own funds. Here is US\$25 million that was withdrawn from our national reserves to mop up excess liquidity in our market in order to help stabilize the exchange rate and prices.

BUT INSTEAD, THE exchange rate is now heading for 200LRD for One United States Dollars, and could even go beyond with exacerbating economic consequences for the already suffering masses. Yet, there is no proper accountability up to now.

PRESIDENT WEAH SHOULD move from lip service and muster political will to take decisive actions that would demonstrate leadership. He can't be seen pampering missteps of his officials and expect to enjoy public trust. No! It does not work this way.

GOVERNANCE OR LEADERSHIP should be about looking at the bigger picture or the whole country; how we proceed to maintain the respect of our partners, because we need them to succeed as a member of the comity of nations.

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# COMMENTARY

By Dalia Marin

## The Case for Intelligent Industrial Policy

*Although national industrial policies have a bad reputation, there is a strong case for government support to sectors that will increasingly rely on artificial intelligence. In this regard, the German government's plan to promote production of electric-car batteries may accelerate an industrial renaissance in Europe.*

MUNICH - Earlier this year, German Economy Minister Peter Altmaier unveiled his "National Industrial Strategy 2030," which aims to protect German firms against state-subsidized Chinese competitors. The strategy identifies key industrial sectors that will receive special government support, calls for establishing production of electric-car batteries in Europe, and advocates mergers to achieve economies of scale.

The planned measures are controversial. Lars Feld of the German Council of Economic Experts calls the strategy an aberration and has accused Altmaier of central planning. Yet this is not an ideological debate, as Feld suggests, but rather a question of whether such an industrial policy might work. And although not all aspects of Altmaier's plan are convincing, there is a strong case for government support to sectors - including the automotive industry - that will increasingly rely on artificial intelligence (AI).

True, national industrial policies generally have a bad reputation among economists, mainly because governments have typically used such policies to support "losers," thereby keeping uncompetitive firms in the market. The argument in favor of such policies, especially in developing countries, was that infant industries needed protection from foreign competition in order to grow and mature. But the World Bank concluded long ago that these policies had failed, turning its back on import-substitution programs in the 1960s and 1970s.

The emergence of strategic trade policy in the 1980s provided a theoretical foundation for an active industrial policy. In a perfectly competitive world market, the optimal export policy is not free trade, but a sufficiently small export tariff. But the situation changes if firms have market power and compete strategically with one another, as in the case of European aircraft manufacturer Airbus and its American rival Boeing. Here, subsidizing Airbus can result in that firm gaining market share from Boeing.

Altmaier and his French counterpart Bruno Le Maire recently used this rationale to push for a Franco-German rail-industry merger between Alstom and Siemens. They argued that the tie-up would produce a European champion capable of taking on the Chinese rail giant CRRC.

But their arguments were unconvincing. Whereas subsidizing Airbus created an additional competitor, the proposed Alstom-Siemens merger would have reduced the number of European rail companies. Moreover, as EU Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager pointed out when blocking the merger, Alstom and Siemens rarely compete with CRRC in third countries, because the Chinese company mainly focuses on its home market. So the merger probably would not have enabled Alstom-Siemens to capture market share from CRRC.

The case for government intervention is much stronger in sectors that have economies of scale, and where "learning by doing" creates

knowledge that remains even after a state subsidy ends. This applies in particular to the many sectors that will soon be powered by AI. The more data a firm or a sector produces, the more it learns and the better the AI algorithm becomes.

Because of its large size, China has a comparative advantage in these sectors. The Chinese authorities have recognized this and have cleverly used state subsidies to promote AI and support domestic firms. To help counter this challenge, Germany and Europe should respond with their own subsidies to knowledge-based sectors.

Europe's automotive industry is an obvious candidate for such support. This is why Altmaier's plan to develop European battery production for electric cars make sense, and may even accelerate an industrial renaissance across the continent.

Producing electric-car batteries in Europe would attract more automotive companies and lead to lower car prices, because producers would need to import far fewer batteries from Asia. Such growth may in turn create a self-reinforcing agglomeration effect, as additional car companies move production to Europe in order to be near other auto firms and their suppliers. Paul Krugman and Anthony J. Venables outlined these backward and forward linkages in a well-known article more than two decades ago.

A sizeable electric-car industry in Europe would increase demand for labor and cause real per capita incomes to rise. And the more important battery cells are to the overall value of electric cars, the stronger the agglomeration effect will be.

This would be a momentous shift. China currently controls the entire value chain of electric cars, including the supply of cobalt, an essential raw material in battery manufacturing. As a result, China produces 69% of the world's electric-car battery cells, the United States 15% (at Tesla's "Gigafactory" in Nevada), and Europe just 4%. Nonetheless, Europe could still develop battery production by recycling old electronics, developing new cobalt-saving processes, and discovering alternative mineral deposits.

Some might argue that Europe should let its auto industry gradually migrate to China, which can make cars more cheaply. After all, consumers want to buy reasonable-quality cars at the lowest possible price. If the Chinese can produce them more efficiently, the argument goes, then let them do it. But, quite apart from the huge political and economic backlash such a decision would generate in Europe, this view is too simplistic. AI will be central to the future of the car industry, and advances in this field will have positive spillover effects in many other sectors.

If Europe gives up on its automotive industry, it will lose knowledge and future growth. The German government is therefore right to support the country's carmakers. Far from being a relic of socialist central planning, industrial policy may sometimes be the intelligent choice.

## O-PED

By Anne-Marie Slaughter  
& Melissa Hooper

## Mr. Orbán Goes to Washington

**W**ASHINGTON, DC - On May 13, US President Donald Trump will host Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán at the White House. According to some pundits, Trump will try to use the meeting to dissuade Hungary - ostensibly a US ally - from establishing deeper ties with China and Russia.

Trump's obsession with closing "deals" for domestic political consumption, combined with his admiration for autocrats, suggests that his main focus will be on finalizing the sale of medium-range missiles and natural gas to Hungary.

Even if the Trump administration does want to peel Hungary away from America's geopolitical rivals, it is not evident that it has any plan for doing so. In February, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo became the first cabinet-level US official to visit Budapest since 2011, when Orbán had started dismantling Hungarian democracy. Pompeo apparently demanded nothing in exchange for that honor. The Hungarian parliament has yet to ratify a defense cooperation agreement that Pompeo signed during his visit. And though Pompeo made clear that Ukraine-NATO talks are a US priority, Hungary has continued to block them, no doubt pleasing Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Meanwhile, Orbán has been actively courting Russia and China, not least by allowing the Kremlin-backed International Investment Bank to set up shop in Budapest, raising clear security concerns for the US. The IIB's chairman is closely affiliated with Russian intelligence, and the bank's new office could end up being adjacent to the US embassy. Behind closed doors, Hungary's security service has admitted that it can't guarantee the bank will not serve as a diplomatic cover for Russian espionage efforts.

Similarly, in April, Hungarian Finance Minister Mihaly Varga flew to China to meet with executives from Huawei, even though Pompeo has explicitly warned US partners and allies not to engage with the tech giant.

Despite Hungary's repeated acts of defiance against the US, Trump is now awarding Orbán a face-to-face meeting. Perhaps that is because Orbán is precisely what Trump aspires to be: a democratically elected leader who is immune from democratic accountability. Since coming to power, Orbán has demolished or neutralized almost every check on his power, from the courts and the press to various human-rights organizations. In the name of "Christian" values, he attacks Muslims and migrants, and traffics in anti-Semitism, regularly scapegoating the Hungarian-American philanthropist George Soros. It is no accident that Trump's alt-right-adjacent guru Steve Bannon described Orbán as a "real patriot and a real hero."

The Trump administration's softness toward Orbán is reflected not just in its rhetoric, but in its policies as well. For example, in late 2017, the Department of State announced a program to fund independent media in Hungary, only to reverse itself under pressure from the Hungarian government. As matters stand, the US has no formal program to support anticorruption groups, minorities, education, or free and independent media in Hungary. Far from signaling disapproval of Orbán's actions, the Trump administration has all but endorsed them.

Against this backdrop, there is every reason to worry that the Trump-Orbán meeting will yield nothing but an exchange of compliments. If so, Orbán will effectively have carte blanche to keep playing the US off against Russia and China while gladly accepting funds from all three.

Under a strong American leader, Orbán would be required to abide by, rather than dictate, the terms of US-Hungarian cooperation. Hungary would not merely stand aside and allow Ukraine-NATO negotiations to proceed; it would actively refuse to cooperate with authoritarian states that do not share NATO values.

By awarding Orbán a personal meeting, Trump, as usual, has already surrendered a great deal of diplomatic leverage. But if he wanted to bring Hungary into line, there are still plenty of other tools he could use. Only Germany provides more financial assistance to Hungary than the US does, so Trump could threaten to withdraw those funds. He could also threaten to impose corruption-related sanctions, for example under the global Magnitsky Act. In 2014, the Obama administration sent a clear message to Orbán and the Hungarian public by sanctioning ten members of the prime minister's inner circle for corruption.

Unfortunately, if Trump's approach to Saudi Arabia is any guide, he will not stand up for American principles or interests, and will instead focus on making some kind of deal with Hungary, possibly at the expense of US national security. Given Orbán's anti-American positions and sheer unpredictability, there is no guarantee that Trump will get the gas and arms deals he wants. But even if he does, Orbán will be free to keep cozying up to China and Russia, while obstructing US policy imperatives whenever he feels like it.

It may be tempting to dismiss a country with fewer than ten million people as a secondary issue for the US. But Hungary represents the proverbial camel's nose under the tent. How the Trump administration manages the relationship with Orbán is indicative of how it handles larger issues relating to national security, geopolitics, human rights, and the defense of democracy - both at home and abroad.

## OPINION

By Amin Saikal

## A Confrontation from Hell

**C**ANBERRA - Former US Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power once called genocidal wars "a problem from hell." As US President Donald Trump's administration ratchets up tensions with Iran, the world must now reckon with the prospect of a "confrontation from hell" between the two countries.

For now, both the United States and Iran say they do not want a war. Yet, step by inexorable step, they are moving onto a collision course. The US has significantly stepped up its military deployment in Iran's neighborhood, dispatching the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier strike group and a bomber task force to the Middle East to warn the Iranian regime against taking any threatening actions. Iran's leaders, meanwhile, have decried the move as psychological warfare and regard it as a provocation aimed at drawing their country into a military conflict.

Since he took office, Trump has been relentless in his depiction of Iran as the source of all evil - including international terrorism - in the region and beyond. He has reversed his predecessor Barack Obama's policy of engagement and is exerting maximum pressure on the Iranian regime with three objectives in mind.

First and foremost, the Trump administration wants to bring about regime change, or at least a change in the regime's behavior. It also seeks to degrade Iran's economy so that the country can no longer be an influential regional player. And it wants to shore up Israel's position as America's most loyal and powerful ally in the Middle East, and to forge close strategic ties between the Jewish state and Arab countries opposed to Iran, including the Gulf states - led by Saudi Arabia - and Egypt.

To achieve these objectives, Trump has withdrawn the US from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). His administration has imposed harsh sanctions on Iran that affect every sector of its economy, leading some foreign companies to stop doing business with the country. And in an unprecedented move last month, Trump designated the key branch of Iran's military forces, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, as a terrorist organization.

Trump's hawkish national security adviser, John Bolton, backed by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, recently said that: "The United States is not seeking war with the Iranian regime, but we are fully prepared to respond to any attack, whether by proxy, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, or regular Iranian forces." This takes the US and Iran a step closer to a military confrontation that could be triggered either intentionally or by miscalculation.

In the event of a war, Iran would not have the military capacity to stand up to American firepower. The US could quickly take out Iranian military installations, nuclear sites, and major infrastructure facilities. In addition, it could prevent Iran from blocking the Strait of Hormuz, through which some 30% of the world's oil is shipped.

Yet Iran is capable of making any US military assault - with or without Israeli and Saudi Arabian support - very costly for America and the region. The Iranian regime may be able to sink a few ships at the Strait of Hormuz's narrowest point - where the shipping lanes in either direction are only two miles (3.2 kilometers) wide - in an effort to choke it off. More important, Iran has nurtured an asymmetric-warfare strategy based on both hard and soft power. Although Iran lacks a modern frontline air force, for example, it has made significant progress in developing and producing short-, medium- and long-range missiles, which have the capacity to hit targets as far away as Israel.

Furthermore, the regime could target landmarks such as the Burj Khalifa in Dubai - the world's tallest building - in order to trigger a financial meltdown across the region. Even if the accuracy of Iranian missiles cannot be guaranteed, many of them could still evade defensive systems. Israel's state-of-the-art Iron Dome anti-missile defenses, for example, have been unable even to neutralize all the primitive missiles launched from Gaza.

Moreover, the Iranian regime has forged a network of proxy forces across the region. Syria and Iraq have become crucial links in an Iran-led Shia strategic arc stretching from Afghanistan to Lebanon. The regime's proxy forces include segments of Afghanistan's Shia population, Iraqi Shia militias, and Hezbollah, which controls southern Lebanon and has thousands of rockets ready to target Israel. Indeed, Hezbollah emerged from its 2006 war with Israel stronger than before.

In addition, Iran can mobilize thousands of extremely dedicated suicide bombers to sacrifice themselves for the cause of Shia Islam and nationalism that the regime has successfully promoted. These bombers are embedded within the Iranian security forces, and across the region.

The Iranian regime has worked hard to strengthen its national security within a supportive regional framework. In a conflict with the US, therefore, Iran would not be a pushover. On the contrary, any major military assault could result in an uncontrollable regional inferno. Both sides have good reason not to start a war.

# SUP endorses June 7 Protest

By Lewis S. Teh

Campus - based Student Unification Party (SUP) at the University of Liberia (UL) says it is in full support of the planned June 7 protest by a group calling itself Council of Patriots (COP) if President George Manneh Weah refuses to address the suffering of the Liberian people.

In a news conference held on Friday, 10 May on UL Capitol Hill campus, SUP Chairman Carlos Tingbah Edison said SUP supports the June 7 Protest to end

appetite for illicit wealth.

Student Edison, since the ascendancy of President Weah, nothing is convincing to the citizens that Liberia is making progress.

At the same time Chairman Edison told reporters that SUP will not relent in mobilizing 50,000 students and youth groups that will join the protest.

“This planned June 7 is non - negotiable and SUP shall be at the full front of this popular people revolution. With national urgency, we must and we



the suffering of the Liberia people.

“As you may be aware in March of this year SUP launch the Weah Step down Campaign, providing sixty reasons for the decision” he said.

He claims that the June 7 protest is just a prelude to the progressive and popular call for President Weah to step aside because he has allegedly proven unfit to lead in all dimensions.

He accuses the President having the

will save the state,” Edison continues.

SUP further calls on President Weah to prioritize education and abandon his wealth seeking spree.

He urges the government to find money to fund the University because such statutory onus is upon the government to do so according to the 1952 chapter that created the state - run university.—*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

# Police plan peace conference

By Winston W. Parley

The Liberia National Police (LNP) says it will at the end of May hold a two -day conference under the theme, “Say No To Violence”.

Police Spokesman Moses Carter told a press conference Friday, 10 May at the LNP Headquarters in Monrovia that the conference seeks to address the prevalence of mob justice or mob violence in various communities across the country.

The conference is expected to bring together community leaders, youths, heads of Civil Society organizations, the press, religious leaders, and other stakeholders. “It is expected that after this dialogue, citizens in various communities will desist taking laws into their own hands and encourage seeking recourse to the rule of law as a means of resolving their grievances,” Carter says.

Liberia continues to confront many incidents of mob violence here,

sometimes against suspected criminals, in revenge for alleged attacks against peaceful citizens.

In relations to acts of violence here, police say six persons have been arrested in connection to the murder of Isaac Chea, 21, of the Logan Town, Broad Street community.

On Saturday, 4 May, police narrate that victim Chea was allegedly mobbed to death and thrown into the Stockton Creek around the Caldwell Bridge.

According to the police, a man identified as Saydee Decarswan has also been arrested for allegedly stabbing the neck of victim Jeff Kollie with a knife, leading to the latter’s death.

The victim was a resident of Iron Factory Community, the police say.

The suspect on May 4, at about 23hrs allegedly attacked the victim along the New Georgia junction, demanding the victim’s cell phone and ear piece.

Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA)  
20<sup>th</sup> Street Sinkor, Monrovia, Liberia  
**NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING - NCB**  
**Invitation for Marine Sensitivity Survey**  
IFB NO.LiMA/NCB/010/18/19



7 May 2019

The Government of Liberia through the Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA), has allocated a portion of it s Corporate Budget funding for its **Marine Sensitivity Survey** . The Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA) now wishes to invite sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the provision of the **Marine Sensitivity Survey** of Liberia

Interested firms that are fully qualified and capacitated to perform this service are required to obtain Bid Documents at no cost from the Procurement Section of the Li beria Maritime Authority 20<sup>th</sup> Street office between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00p.m., Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> May to Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

All qualified bidders should have a Current Business Registration, Current Tax Clearance, Business Profile and a list of previous clients, and a perm it to operate from the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia. Discount will be an added advantage.

Final submission date is 1:30p.m. on Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019, to be followed by the bid opening ceremony at 2:00 p.m. on the same date.

All interested entities should submit a sealed bid to th e Procurement Section of the Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA), 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Sinkor.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE

# PUBLIC SERVICE NOTICE

May 11, 2019

The Liberia Crusaders for Peace (LCP) and its National Partners "show love campaign", under the national patriotic initiative, will be fully amplified on Tuesday, May 14, 2019 to coincide with observance of national unification day, as officially proclaimed by His Excellency President George Manneh Weah. The show love initiative will be an open-air event on Ashmun street, directly opposite the Centennial Pavilion in Monrovia. Parents are encouraged to bring their children in full at 12 noon to promote love and understanding; at 2:00 pm adults are encouraged to turn out for the musical, history and story-telling session, leading to the patriotism, nationalism and peace night vigil that starts at 4pm. Come and listen to some of our respected and moderate voices of our time, including Sister Mary Laurine Brown and Professor William E. Allen of the University of Liberia as we jointly explore who we are this Unification Day. All Liberians are encouraged to be a part of this patriotic show love initiative on Tuesday, May 14, National Unification Day, that will eventually lead to a national peace caravan on May 31st, 2019.

Ambassador Juli Ende, leading the Liberian Crusaders for Peace, is encouraging all Liberians to be a part of the show love initiative on Tuesday, May 14, 2019 that coincides with the observance of National Unification Day at the open-air event on Ashmun street, directly opposite the Centennial Pavilion in Monrovia. The Liberia Crusaders for Peace and its National Partners wish to acknowledge the full support of the Ministry of Information, Culture & Tourism, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Gender, Children & Social Protection for the show love national Patriotic endeavor.

Signed: Amb. Juli Endee Executive Director  
Liberia Crusaders for Peace

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

# UN calls for calm

The heads of United Nations' Mission in West Africa have called for calm in Liberia amidst the current situation here particularly as it relates to the plan June 7 protest. In a communique issued at the end of the 34th

The UN officials also called on the Liberian people and government to sustain efforts to address various political, economic and governance challenges facing the country and reiterated the importance of the maintenance of peace

prevention and good offices. The Heads of Missions called on the international community to continue its support to Liberia to further enhance peace consolidation and sustainable development. The meeting was held at the invitation of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), Mohamed Ibn Chambas on 10 May 2019 in Bissau, Guinea-Bissau.

The objective was to strengthen coordination in order to enhance synergies to address common challenges facing the West African and Sahel regions.

In attendance were the Special Representatives of the UN Secretary-General in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS), José Viegas Filho and for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), Mohamed Ibn Chambas; the United Nations Resident Coordinators for Côte d'Ivoire, Babacar Cissé, and Liberia, Yacoub El Hillo. The Director of Political Affairs for the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) Bruno Mpondo-Epo also attended. Discussions focused on recent security incidents in the region.



meeting of the UN heads of Missions in the sub-region, the officials that all should adhere to the ongoing dialogue by the government, pressure groups and opposition political parties to ensure that the protests are peaceful.

and security. The UN Heads of Mission commended the UN Country Team's coordinated support to Liberia as well as the strong partnership between the UN, the AU and ECOWAS, particularly on conflict

# MOT engages stakeholders on road accident prevention

By Lewis S. Teh

Authorities at the Ministry of Transport (MOT) have engaged various stakeholders here to find a solution to road accidents in the country.

Stakeholders engaged by the Ministry include the Federation of Motorcyclists, and Tricycles Transport Union, the Federation of Road Transport Union and all roads users, among others. The meeting was held at Friday 10 May at Bella Casa Hotel in Monrovia.

The Ministry's Coordinator of the Technical Support Unit Mr. Dave Daiwoo told participants that the issue of road safety has been a major problem for the Ministry of Transport.

But he a road safety secretariat has been set up and the national road accident program is to complement efforts to minimize the many accidents here. According to him, the Ministry of Transport has



about 42 trucks that are coming into the country that will tow breakdown vehicles from the road, including vehicles that fall into the rivers.

Delivering a special statement on behalf of Minister Samuel Wlue, Mr.

Caesar Freeman says the Ministry's decision to launch the National Accident Road prevention program is to help reduce the numbers of road accident that are occurring in the country on a daily basis on highways, central cities and on feeder roads across the

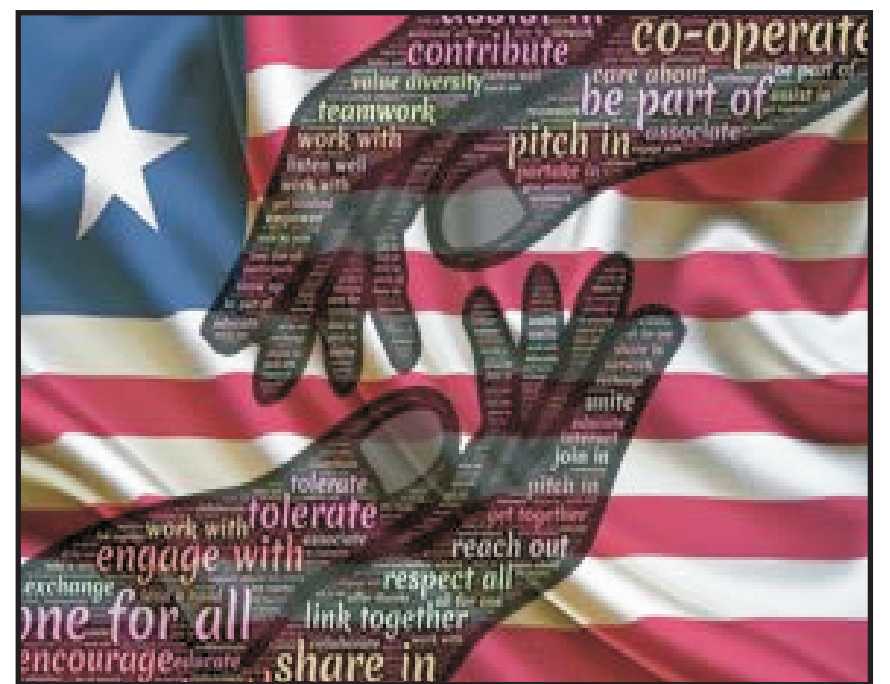
# Tuesday is Unification Day

The President George Manneh Weah has by Proclamation declared Tuesday, May 14, 2019 as "National Unification Day" and is to be observed throughout the Republic as a National Holiday.

According to a Foreign Ministry release, the observance of the Day is in consonance with an Act of National Legislature, which was passed into law in 1960, declaring the 14th of May each year as "National Unification Day" to be celebrated as a

that since the Unification and Integration Policy became a cogent part of the National Development Plan, the people of Liberia have seen marked progress and improvement in all spheres of national endeavors, particularly in the economic, educational, communication and social fields.

The release further recounted that being mindful of the years of civil strife in the country and its harmful impacts on the people of



National Holiday in Liberia.

Accordingly, the Proclamation orders and directs that appropriate programs be organized to mark the celebration.

The release stressed that the wisdom of the Unification Policy has found expression in the national fabric through the representation of all sections of the country including the Legislature and other branches of government thereby promoting conditions of peace and unity in the country. The Proclamation also indicated

Liberia; it becomes imperative that all Liberians embrace the noble ideals enshrined in the Unification Act to promote unity and peace among all Liberians. The Proclamation also reiterated that Liberia's adherence to the principles of justice, equality, fair play and equal opportunities for all, regardless of tribe or clan, section, creed, religion or economic status so that Liberians might be united in a consolidated whole. -Press release

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country.

According to Mr. Freeman, the Ministry is working with its partners to introduce a tow system to bring in forty tow trucks that will come in different categories to help the public to save lives.

Meanwhile, the Director of Public Affairs at the Ministry of Transport Mr. Samuel Barjibo told participants that benefits of the national road accident prevention program include

the relieve of burden from car owners of looking for a tow truck that will tow their vehicles at night hours whenever they are broken down. According to Barjibo, the National Road Accident Prevention program is a government social intervention that was introduced by the Ministry of Transport to prevent road accident and save lives in Liberia. -Edited by Winston W. Parley

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# House ratifies Liberia, Nimba Rubber Concession agreement

By Bridgett Milton

The Plenary of the House of Representatives has voted unanimously to concur with the Liberian Senate on the passage of the concession agreement between Liberia and Nimba Rubber Incorporated.

Recently, President George Manneh Weah resubmitted to the Legislature for ratification, the concession agreement between the Government of Liberia and the Nimba Rubber Incorporated (NRI).

The agreement was received and forwarded to the Senate's committees on Ways, Means, Finance and Development Planning and Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to report to the body. In the report to the plenary on Thursday, the committee informed the body that it had affirmed confidence in the investor's representation and projected development schemes submitted to



national government considering agriculture as the largest sector in the economy.

The agreement seeks to invest US\$9.8 million in the first 15 years to fund the cost of reconditioning of camp houses for personnel staff, purchase of equipment to recondition eighty miles of internal plantation roads as well as security, education,

health services and procurement of farm implements under the term and condition of the agreement for 20 years.

The committee's report cited that the agreement will contribute 35 percent of the gross domestic product of the country's economy. The committees said the benefits

to the Liberian population, particularly the affected community (SaclepeaMah and SanniquellieMah District) in Nimba County tend to gain from the concession rehabilitation agreement is far more redeeming in terms of creating a stable macroeconomic environment that will enable private sector-led economic growth. The committees added that the agreement also provides greater competitiveness to impact the surrounding communities through social development activities, saying it is going to

diversify the economy under pillar two of the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development.

The rehabilitation process, according to the report, will stabilize the plantation by employing workers to undertake legitimate work on the plantation, especially integrating Liberia's youthful population into gainful employment at the expense of curtailing lawlessness and criminality. The report highlights plans to rehabilitate the roads, enhance accessibility within the plantation to facilitate improvement in productivity, replant a portion of the plantation, owing to the fact that the trees have outlived their material substance and renovate staff housing units and construct modern housing, medical and educational facilities for workers.

Among other things, it states that the investor shall be liable to make other payments to the government to include turnover, import duty (on fuel), ECOWAS trade levy, customs user fee, tax on interest as well as real property tax in keeping with the financing law of Liberia. —*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

## UP executives divided over protest

Three former Representatives and stalwarts of former ruling Unity Party (UP) are questioning a decision by the party's chairman Wilmont Paye, committing the UP to a planned protest due June 7.

A press statement dated 8 May names the founding UP executives questioning Paye's pronouncement as Worleasaywah Dunah; Richard Matenokay Tingban and Elijah Seah.

As founding executives of the Unity Party, the press statement says the UP stalwarts are taken aback by the actions of Chairman

Wilnot Paye in using his offices to commit the party to work under a political pressure group Council of Patriots (COP) that is seeking to express its grievances on some national issues.

The Council of Patriots is leading efforts for a planned June 7 protest recently endorsed by Liberia's four collaborating opposition political parties, including the UP, Alternative National Congress, All Liberian Party and the Liberty Party.

Allegations of corruption, the poor state of the economy and a US\$25m mop-up exercise are among many other reasons why opposition

and critics of President George Manneh Weah's regime are saying they will protest and make demands for some reforms here.

The three UP stalwarts say what is of concern is whether this pronouncement to commit the party to the protest called by the Council of Patriots was approved by the party's standard bearer, vice standard bearer, UP Legislative Caucus and the total membership of the National Executive Committee of the party or done in consultation with key stakeholders of the party.

The three UP stalwarts indicate that it's worthy to note that President Weah on separate occasions hosted their current political leader Joseph Nyumah Boakai and their Standard Bearer Emeritus, former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf at the Executive Mansion on May 1, 2019, and May 3, 2019, respectively.

According to them, President Weah's action to invite the Unity Party leaders reflects his desire for continuous dialog with the Unity Party and a recognition of Unity Party's role as the main opposition.

The former UP lawmakers call upon the party's political leader Joseph Boakai, to urgently cite a broad leadership and stakeholders meeting of the party and include all founding

executives, Legislative Caucus, former legislators including former Senate Pro-Tempore Cletus Wortorson, and the current National Executive Committee Members to deliberate on this matter and other recent political developments that are impacting the party.

The group recommended that discussions be held on the party's decision including Chairman Paye's announcement of support to stage a protest on June 7; the indefinite suspension without investigation of the party's stalwarts in the Liberian Senate; the commencement of a process of participating in a coalition without broad consultations among founding executives, auxiliaries,

membership, and the case at the National Elections Commission over the expulsion of Standard Bearer Emeritus, Mrs. Sirleaf and other executives.

They further suggested that the Unity Party that consolidated the peace and laid the foundation for Liberia's democratic growth must lead from the front, ensuring that the ultimate national interest supersede all else.

"The eyes of the world are on the Unity Party and rightly so, because we provided the midwifery for the entrenchment of Liberia's nascent democracy and we therefore owe its survivor the greatest duty of care," they concluded. —*Press release*



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# Français

## « Ne participez pas à la manifestation du 7 juin ! », PYJ prévient ses proches de Nimba

Les habitants de Nimba sont interdits de rejoindre le mouvement de protestation qui est prévu le 7 juin sous peine d'une sanction sévère. Le sénateur controversé Prince Yormie Johnson du comté de Nimba promet de sévir contre tous ceux qui participeront à la prochaine manifestation dans sa région natale.

Le but des manifestants, selon lui, est de chasser le président Weah du pouvoir, en dépit du fait que les organisateurs de la marche aient précisé à maintes reprises qu'ils ont décidé de descendre dans la rue pour exiger des réformes, et non pour appeler à la démission du président.

A noter que la semaine dernière, l'ambassade des États-Unis a publié une déclaration, dénonçant une prolifération des messages de haine et de division dans les discours politiques des responsables du pays. Dans sa déclaration publiée le lundi 6 mai, l'ambassade des États-Unis a déclaré que ceux qui

promouvent, par leurs propos ou leurs actes, une division entre les Congos (descendants d'exclaves affranchis) et les indigènes n'ont pas à cœur l'intérêt supérieur du Libéria encore moins celui de leurs administrés, mais semblent plutôt animés soit par des ambitions personnelles ou par

la peur.

« Il est inacceptable que le sénateur Prince Y. Johnson, le représentant Yekeh Kolubah et les "ex-généraux" ou autres anciens acteurs des guerres civiles du Libéria incitent à des actes répréhensibles par des discours irréfléchis qui risquent de mettre en péril la

paix et la sécurité du Libéria gagnées au prix de grands sacrifices », peut-on lire dans la déclaration.

Il est également tout aussi irresponsable pour les personnes occupant des postes à responsabilité au sein du gouvernement ou du parti au pouvoir de promouvoir une telle division, comme l'a fait le vice-ministre suspendu Eugene Fahngon sur les médias sociaux, ajoutant : "Adopter une telle position publique et suggérer qu'il s'agit d'une opinion privée ou d'un droit personnel reflète une incompréhension de la nature du service public dans une démocratie.

A la déclaration d'insister qu'il est tout aussi irresponsable de la part des personnes qui occupent des postes de responsabilité au sein du gouvernement ou du parti au pouvoir de promouvoir une division comme le sous-ministre Eugene Fahngon, sur les médias sociaux. « Adopter une telle position publique et suggérer qu'il s'agit d'une opinion personnelle ou d'un droit personnel met en exergue sa méconnaissance de la nature du service public dans une démocratie », a ajouté la déclaration.

Le lendemain, le chef de l'Etat Weah a pris des dispositions, suspendant avec effet immédiat le sous-ministre Fahngon et ordonnant ensuite que toutes les déclarations officielles fassent l'objet de l'autorisation du ministère de l'Information.

Cependant, le sénateur Johnson avertit ses parents de Nimba que toute tentative de leur part de tirer un coup de

feu dans le comté fera l'objet d'un châtement car le gouvernement du président Weah est bien armé et prêt à réagir.

Il dit avoir été informé par certains manifestants qu'ils rendront le pays ingouvernable jusqu'à ce que le président Weah quitte le pouvoir.

S'exprimant à Nimba en marge de la récente convention nationale du Congrès national alternatif (ANC, opposition) qui s'est tenue à Ganta, dans le comté de Nimba, il a averti que le gouvernement n'hésitera pas de réprimer quiconque tentera de déstabiliser la région.

Le sénateur PYJ, fondateur du mouvement rebelle du Front patriotique national indépendant du Libéria [INPFL] et leader politique du Mouvement pour la démocratie et la reconstruction (MDR), a menacé avec une extrême sévérité toute personne qui osera manifester dans les rues contre le gouvernement car des hommes armés attendent déjà et sont prêts à réagir.

Il n'a pas précisé si ces hommes armés étaient des acteurs de la sécurité de l'État ou des acteurs non étatiques. Mais récemment, un groupe d'anciens généraux a tenu une conférence de presse à Monrovia et menacé d'arrêter de force le représentant du district 10 du comté de Montserrado, Yekeh Kolubah, pour avoir critiqué le président Weah.

L'ancien chef rebelle rappelle à ses parents qu'il s'était battu pour le comté pendant les 14 années de guerre civile et qu'il ne veut pas qu'ils soient tués comme avant.



## Guinée/ Un énième mouvement pour la « défense de la constitution »

Depuis l'annonce du projet de révision constitutionnelle en Guinée, on assiste, du jour au lendemain, à la mise en place de structures pour s'opposer à cette initiative perçue par bon nombre de Guinéens comme l'ouverture d'un boulevard pour un mandat de plus pour l'actuel président, Alpha Condé.

Après le FNDC, les Brassards rouges, le Degagisme et tant d'autres, c'était au tour de la « Coalition Sauvons la Guinée », ce vendredi, de lancer ses activités, à travers une conférence tenue à la Maison de la presse de Kipé (Ratoma).

Composé de jeunes activistes, d'étudiants, d'entrepreneurs, d'artistes, de

journalistes et autres membres des professions libérales, cette nouvelle structure a pour vocation d'accroître la participation des jeunes et des femmes aux instances de prise de décision, mais aussi de lutter contre le tripatouillage de la constitution.

À la différence de certaines organisations qui s'opposent strictement à une quelconque modification de la constitution guinéenne, la « Coalition Sauvons la Guinée » se dit plutôt flexible sur cette question.

« Disons-nous la vérité, il est clair que la constitution actuelle a des insuffisances sur plusieurs points. Et aucune constitution ne peut rester inamovible ; on ne peut pas dire qu'on ne peut pas modifier une constitution, ça se fait un peu partout dans le monde. Mais c'est l'opportunité de modifier cette constitution qui cause problème, surtout que nous savons que les pouvoirs en Afrique sont très malins en ce qui concerne cela. Ils savent qu'en modifiant la constitution, cela ouvre un autre boulevard, surtout quand on parle aujourd'hui de



### Articles traduits

Par Valéry G. Guhéna

E-mail: [valeryghn10@yahoo.com](mailto:valeryghn10@yahoo.com)

Tel: 076 589 44 0881483394

4ème République en Guinée. Dans ce cadre-là, le président de la République aura la possibilité de se représenter à deux nouveaux mandats. Nous, c'est à cela qu'on s'oppose », a déclaré Mouctar Barry, journaliste et membre de la coalition.

Et de poursuivre : « Nous ne sommes pas catégoriques là-dessus, pour dire qu'il ne faut pas du tout modifier la constitution ; ça serait une erreur. Nous évoluons, et au fur et à mesure, la constitution doit s'adapter à

la situation dans laquelle nous vivons. Mais nous disons que ce n'est pas le moment pour le président de la République de toucher à cette constitution, parce qu'on sait ce que ça sous-entend ». Il faut, par ailleurs, noter que dans le cadre de sa lutte, la « Coalition Sauvons la Guinée » compte réaliser un certain nombre d'activités, notamment des manifestations de rue, quoique celles-ci demeurent interdites par les autorités, sur toute l'étendue du territoire national, jusqu'à nouvel ordre.



# Français

## « L'université du Libéria enregistre des pertes à gagner », autorités universitaires

La détérioration rapide de la situation économique du Libéria marquée par un manque de transparence et par des détournements systématiques des fonds des donateurs, continue de dévaster tous les secteurs, dont notamment la santé et l'éducation, l'Université du Libéria étant confrontée au problème de manques à gagner.

La présidente de l'Université du Libéria (UL), Dr Ophelia Inez Weeks, a indiqué que l'Université est en déficit depuis que le président libérien George Manneh Weah a annoncé la gratuité des cours en 2018.

Un rapport du Comité statutaire du Sénat sur l'éducation et l'administration publique a fait savoir que Mme Weeks et son équipe ont prévenu que la situation pourrait compromettre le bon fonctionnement de l'école si aucune mesure immédiate n'est prise.

Selon le rapport, les dépenses de l'UL dépassent ses recettes, ce qui pourrait être très inquiétant pour le président Weah et ses collaborateurs, car l'université de l'État attribue son manque à gagner à la gratuité des cours déclarée par le président Weah pour le premier cycle de toutes les universités publiques du pays.

Selon le Dr Weeks, le président Weah n'a pas consulté la direction de l'Université avant de se prononcer.

À elle seule, la population estudiantine de l'UL est estimée à environ 30 000 étudiants. L'établissement continue de faire face au problème de la vétusté de ses infrastructures et de l'inefficacité de ses services qui nécessitent des améliorations pour devenir une université moderne.

Le 24 octobre 2018, le président Weah a surpris tout le monde, annonçant au campus de l'Université du Libéria à Capitol Hill la gratuité de toutes les universités publiques du pays pour le premier cycle.

"Je souhaite donc déclarer que tous les étudiants de premier cycle de l'Université du Libéria, ainsi que toutes les autres universités publiques du

Libéria, sont dispensés de tous frais de scolarité", a déclaré le président.

Mais environ sept mois après sa déclaration de « la gratuité de l'enseignement universitaire », le Dr Weeks a déclaré qu'aucune ligne directrice ou stratégie politique n'a été élaborée ou présentée à la direction de l'établissement de l'enseignement supérieur pour compenser le manque à gagner.

Le comité sénatorial a recueilli auprès de M. Weeks que l'Université du Libéria avait déjà de grands défis à relever pour le recouvrement des droits de scolarité et des dettes accumulées par certaines institutions gouvernementales, des responsables gouvernementaux et des sponsors privés en matière de bourses d'études et d'aides financières.

Selon la présidente de l'UL, la promulgation de la gratuité de l'enseignement a provoqué des manques à gagner et mis à mal la capacité de l'université de générer des recettes pour assurer son bon fonctionnement.

Le comité sénatorial présidé par le sénateur Dallas Gueh du comté de River Cess précise que, les ministres des Finances et de l'Éducation, sans explication aucune, ont brillé par leur absence à la réunion sur la question des frais de scolarité.

Selon le rapport du Sénat, la première réunion a été reportée car un acteur clé, le ministre des Finances, Samuel Tweah, avait eu un empêchement et avait demandé que la réunion fût reportée. Mais lorsque la réunion a été convoquée pour la deuxième fois, le ministre Tweah n'y a pas assisté et n'a donné aucune excuse.

Le rapport du comité statutaire du Sénat faisait suite à une communication écrite par la sénatrice du comté de Grand Bassa, Nyonblee Kangar-Lawrence, qui demandait à connaître où en est la gratuité de l'enseignement universitaire. Le comité a promis d'inviter à nouveau les ministres des Finances et de l'Éducation pour qu'ils donnent d'amples explications.

## COMMENTAIRE

By Dalia Marin

## Le bien-fondé d'une politique industrielle intelligente

MUNICH - Le ministre allemand de l'Économie, Peter Altmaier, a dévoilé cette année sa « stratégie industrielle nationale pour 2030 », qui a pour objectif de protéger les entreprises allemandes contre leurs concurrentes chinoises subventionnées par l'État. Cette stratégie identifie les secteurs industriels clés qui bénéficieront d'un soutien spécifique de la part du gouvernement, appelle à la mise en place en Europe d'une production de batteries pour les véhicules électriques, et recommande certaines fusions pour atteindre des économies d'échelle.

Les mesures prévues sont controversées. Lars Feld, du Conseil allemand des experts économiques, qualifie la stratégie d'aberration, et accuse Altmaier de planification centrale. Or, le débat ne doit pas être idéologique comme le suggère Feld, mais porter davantage sur la question de savoir si cette politique industrielle peut fonctionner. Si les éléments du projet d'Altmaier ne sont pas tous convaincants, il apparaît fort judicieux pour le gouvernement de soutenir les secteurs - dont l'industrie automobile - voués à recourir de plus en plus à l'intelligence artificielle (IA).

Il est vrai que les politiques industrielles nationales ont généralement mauvaise réputation parmi les économistes, principalement parce que les gouvernements ont souvent employé ce type de politiques pour soutenir les « perdants », maintenant ainsi des entreprises non compétitives sur le marché. L'argument en faveur de ces politiques, notamment dans les pays en voie de développement, a consisté à considérer que les jeunes industries avaient besoin de protection contre la concurrence étrangère, afin de pouvoir croître et mûrir. Or, la Banque mondiale est arrivée depuis bien longtemps à la conclusion que ces politiques ne fonctionnent pas, et a renoncé aux programmes de subventionnement des importations dans les années 1960 et 1970.

Dans les années 1980, l'émergence de la politique commerciale stratégique a fourni une base théorique à la politique industrielle active. Sur un marché mondial parfaitement concurrentiel, la politique d'exportation optimale ne réside pas dans le libre-échange, mais dans une taxation des exportations suffisamment réduite. La situation change néanmoins si les entreprises jouissent d'un pouvoir de marché, et se livrent mutuellement une concurrence stratégique, comme le font le constructeur aéronautique européen Airbus et son rival américain Boeing. En l'occurrence, le subventionnement d'Airbus peut permettre à la société de gagner des parts de marché sur Boeing.

Altmaier et son homologue français Bruno Le Maire ont récemment employé ce raisonnement pour promouvoir une fusion ferroviaire franco-allemande entre Alstom et Siemens. Ils ont considéré que cette union donnerait naissance à un champion européen, capable de s'attaquer au géant ferroviaire chinois CRRC.

Leurs arguments n'ont toutefois pas convaincu. En effet, si le subventionnement d'Airbus a fait naître un nouveau concurrent, la fusion Alstom-Siemens aurait réduit le nombre de sociétés ferroviaires européennes. Par ailleurs, comme l'a souligné la commissaire européenne à la concurrence Margrethe Vestager au moment de bloquer la fusion, Alstom et Siemens rivalisent rarement avec CRRC dans les pays tiers, puisque l'entreprise chinoise se concentre principalement sur son marché domestique. La fusion n'aurait donc probablement pas permis à Alstom-Siemens de ravir des parts de marché à CRRC.

L'argument en faveur d'une intervention de l'État est beaucoup plus solide dans des secteurs qui présentent des économies d'échelle, et dans lesquels « l'apprentissage par la pratique » produit une

connaissance qui perdure après même qu'aient cessé les subventions. Ceci s'applique en particulier aux nombreux secteurs qui reposeront bientôt sur l'IA. Plus une entreprise ou un secteur produit de données, plus son apprentissage s'enrichit, et plus l'algorithme d'IA se perfectionne.

Or, compte tenu de son envergure colossale, la Chine jouit d'un avantage comparatif dans ces secteurs. Les autorités chinoises l'ont compris, et usent judicieusement de subventions étatiques pour promouvoir l'IA et soutenir les entreprises nationales. Pour surmonter le défi, l'Allemagne et l'Europe doivent répondre en octroyant leurs propres subventions aux secteurs fondés sur la connaissance.

Le secteur automobile européen constitue le candidat évident à cette forme de soutien. C'est ce qui confère tout son sens au plan Altmaier en faveur du développement d'une production européenne de batteries pour les véhicules électriques, susceptible même d'accélérer une renaissance industrielle à l'échelle du continent.

Une production de batteries pour les véhicules électriques en Europe permettrait d'attirer davantage de constructeurs automobiles, et de réduire le prix des véhicules, puisque les constructeurs n'auraient plus à importer autant de batteries en provenance d'Asie. Une telle croissance pourrait générer un effet auto-renforcé d'agglomération, de nouveaux constructeurs automobiles installant leur production en Europe pour se rapprocher géographiquement des entreprises et de leurs fournisseurs du secteur. Paul Krugman et Anthony J. Venables ont souligné ces liens en aval et en amont, dans un article bien connu qui remonte à plus de 20 ans.

L'existence d'un grand secteur des véhicules électriques en Europe augmenterait la demande en main-d'œuvre, ainsi que le revenu par tête. Et plus les cellules de batteries pèsent dans la valeur globale des véhicules électriques, plus l'effet d'agglomération sera important.

Ce serait une évolution majeure. La Chine contrôle actuellement l'intégralité de la chaîne de valeur des véhicules électriques, notamment l'approvisionnement en cobalt, matière première essentielle à la fabrication des batteries. C'est ainsi que la Chine produit 69 % des cellules de batteries des véhicules électriques au niveau mondial, les États-Unis 15 % (au sein de la « Gigafactory » de Tesla dans le Nevada), et l'Europe seulement 4 %. L'Europe peut toutefois encore développer sa production de batteries en recyclant des produits électroniques, en créant de nouveaux procédés d'économie du cobalt, ainsi qu'en découvrant de nouveaux gisements de minerai.

Certains considèrent peut-être que l'Europe devrait laisser son industrie automobile migrer progressivement vers la Chine, laquelle produit des automobiles à moindre coût. Après tout, les consommateurs souhaitent pouvoir acheter une voiture de qualité raisonnable, au prix le moins élevé possible. Si les Chinois sont en mesure de les produire de manière plus efficace, selon cet argument, laissons-les s'occuper de la production. Or, au-delà même de l'immense révolte politique et économique qu'une telle décision entraînerait, cette vision est clairement trop simpliste. L'IA s'annonce au cœur de l'avenir de l'industrie automobile, et les avancées dans ce domaine engendreront des effets indirects positifs dans de nombreux autres secteurs.

Si l'Europe abandonne son industrie automobile, elle perdra en connaissance et en croissance future. Le gouvernement allemand a raison de soutenir les fabricants automobiles du pays. Car loin de n'être qu'une relique de la planification centrale communiste, la politique industrielle peut parfois constituer le choix le plus intelligent.

# PERSPECTIVES

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

## MULBAH MORLU ON BENONI UREY

With Bai M. Gbala, Sr.  
May 3, 2019

In his recent outburst, the arrogant, tough-talking Mr. MulbaMorlu, as Chairman of the ruling CDC Coalition Political Party, decried and attacked Mr. Benoni Urey for what he described as Mr. Urey's business relationship and political connections with the Lone Star Cell Telephone Company (*Front Page Africa*, May 1, 2019).

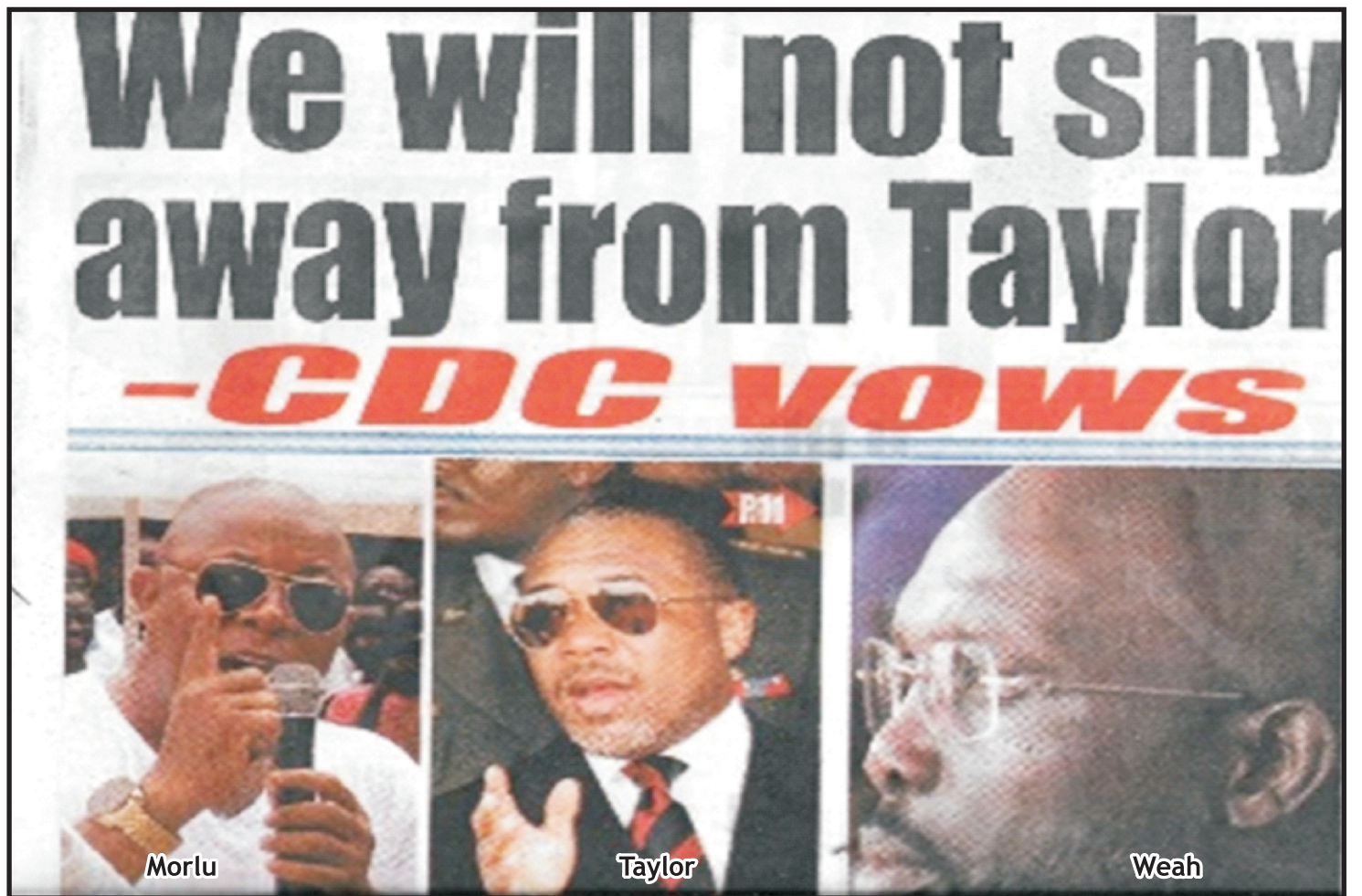
Mr. Urey, former Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Lone Star Company, is now Standard Bearer of the All Liberia (political) Party and Chairman of the Joint Membership of the major opposition political Parties, the leading organizers of planned national protest demonstration against the CDC Coalition Government scheduled for June 7, 2019.

There has been sustained controversy, with tough, antagonistic exchanges, about granting/denial permission for the planned protest demonstration between government authorities and the planers & supporters, inundated with several conspiracy theories by political Historians, Observers and Analysts about the possible, likely outcome of the protest, including overthrow or forced resignation of the CDC government. Thus, Chairman Morlu's attack upon Mr. Urey is, apparently, in response to and recognition of a threat to the CDC Coalition-led Government and his job.

Mr. Morlu's concerns and outburst of attack upon Mr. Urey and his (Mr. Urey's) alleged activities drew my attention; in that, Mr. Morlu's public ranting & raging is simply the belated barking of the now toothless bull dog rendered powerless by its own acts of and cooperation with the Ureys, Taylors, Ellen Johnson-Sirleafs (former Presidents of Liberia) and, now, the current Government of which he, Mr. Morlu, is one of the most visible officials and sub-set.

### The UN Report

Firstly, according to volumes of United Nation's validated, civil war evidence, Mr. Benoni Urey, as Commissioner of Liberia's Maritime Commission with LISCR, Liberia's shipping Agent, purchased the arms/ammunitions with stolen Commission/Public funds, with which



rebels/insurgents brought extreme human suffering and death of an estimated quarter of a million of Liberians; looted personal/public properties, including destruction of economic infrastructure; and sent another hundreds of millions into self-imposed exile in neighboring and distant lands.

Further, the UN Report showed that hundreds of millions of US dollars, also, stolen from the then Maritime Commission under the administration of Mr. Urey as Commissioner, capitalized the Lone Star cell telephone Company with former President Taylor, Mr. Urey and others as major shareholders. It is important to note that, apparently, Mr. Taylor is being paid annual dividends by Lone Star while in prison for political crimes against humanity, including Liberian humanity.

Moreover, LISCR, Liberia's shipping agent with close traditional ties extended to the now Liberia Maritime Authority, is still in Liberia with offices on

Tubman Boulevard with its sponsored Liberian Football Club and legal counsel of a well-known "politically-connected" lawyer, the Senator who represents a rural County but lives in a Mansion on Tubman Boulevard in Congo Town. By and through the celebrated politically-connected legal counsel, LISCR's agency agreement with Liberia was renewed, lately, with reported bribes of imported bags of rice and thousands of US dollar payments.

### Lone Star Company

Importantly, the Company has been, and is, in reported collusion with leading officials of government (the MulbaMorlus) with respect to scratch cards and questionable payments designed to maintain monopoly and prevent introduction of Land Line Telephone system in Liberia which will reintroduce the system with published telephone directory for easy access to government offices - the Police & security agencies, medical and social relief agencies - and socio-economic and business organizations such as lawyers, architects/engineers, hospitals, clinics & doctors, food, clothing, furniture and related household needs.

Moreover, telephone and internet connectivity in Liberia is not only very poor, but also, without rational, public policy regulated approach. Examples are the corrupt telecommunication agencies - LTA, Ministry of Post & Telecommunications and related others. But modern communications are an asset in national economic and political development.

Efficient/effective communication drives the economy which, in turn, drives the nation. In fact, no prudent investment promoter will venture into a community or nation which is without capital-saving utilities - national transport/communication, electricity, telephone/internet, water & sewer, etc.

The critical question is that, in all of these questionable national economic and political wheeling/dealing predicaments, where was, has been and is, the arrogant, loud-mouth MulbaMorlu?



# CDC shooting itself in the leg? (Pt-1)

It appears there is an ongoing silent battle within the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change or CDC government as it relates to the implementation of the Liberia's Telecommunication Authority's or LTA's proposed price floor, which should have kicked off on April 15, this year.

LTA last year tabled a proposal which it says in general terms is aimed at intervening in the ongoing price war between the two GSM service providers here, improve services and rejuvenate investment in the sector.

The new proposal which the Liberian telecommunication regulatory body says was expected to take effect on April 15, 2019 discourages the current 3 days free calls promotion and introduces a new price ceiling that would allow consumers to now pay USD0.0156 cents for calls or LRD 2.5 (two dollar five cent Liberian Dollar) per minute and 0.0218 cents for internet data which amounts to LRD 3.4 (three dollar four cent).

But CDC Chairman Mulbah



Morlu, one of the vocal opposition to the proposed price floor has insisted that the new measure will only put money into the pockets of Mr. Benoni Urey, the leader of the opposition All Liberian Party or ALP and Chairman of the Lonestar MTN Board of Directors to unseat the Weah Government rather than boosting the economy.

However, authorities at the

LTA have maintained that their new price floor is mainly centered on boosting the ailing Liberian economy.

As part of the new proposed price regime LTA said a 5% tax will be imposed on total sale of domestic telecommunications goods and services or GST as regulatory fee which is expected to up government revenue by USD2m per annual.

Documents available to this

paper shows that both GSM companies-Lonestar Cell MTN and Orange agreed with the new price floor for on net voice calls, a data services and the 5% regulatory fee. But a bone of contention is the decision on regulatory surcharges.

Section 4.1 of the LTA's Order: 0016-02-25-19, states: "One the six monthly anniversary of this Order, being October 15, 2019, there shall be automatically imposed a surcharge on-net voice call of US\$0.008 for each minute call."

4.2 States that: "On the six monthly anniversary of this order, being October 15, 2019, there shall be imposed a surcharge on mobile data in the amount of USD0.0065 for each megabyte of data."

4.3 States that: "The surcharges subject to this subpart shall go into immediate effect on the specified date with no additional notice or Order required, subject to any determination arising from a review and analysis of market indicators that may be pursuant to Sections 5.1 and 5.2 in the sole discretion of the LTA."

According to reports officials at the LTA have argued that the surcharges will increase government revenue by US\$20million annually. Bug the sad part is that this will witness a significant reduction or drop in traffic from low income customers. A source told this paper that Orange might likely see an 86% drop in customers of low income earning, while Lonestar MTN will record around a 42 percent drop in low income earning customers because of the data cost.

The regulatory surcharges would passed the burden of payment for the reduce charges to elite customers, while making it very difficult for customers listed in the lower brackets to pay for data as this may increase the cost of data by 10%.

Some officials in the CDC government are vehemently oppose to the surcharges because according to report it undermines the measures recently announced by the government to boost the rejuvenate the economy, but there are also reports that the LTA intends to fight this. *-to be continued.*

## CHAP opens account at LBDI for agriculture

By Emmanuel Mondaye

A Liberian Non-Governmental Organization known as Community of Hope Agriculture Project (CHAP) has announced here that it has opened an account at the Liberia Bank for Development and Investment (LBDI) in support of the Liberian rice campaign.

CHAP is one of several local based - organizations in Zobia, Town Paynesville actively engaged in the promotion and marketing of Liberian grown rice.

CHAP Executive Director Rev. Robert Bimba told reporters recently outside

Monrovia that the organization is attempting to raise at least US\$2m to support the production of Liberian rice in the country.

He noted that with the support of well meaning Liberians and the Government of Liberia (GOL), the Liberian rice Campaign would be a success.

According to Rev. Bimba, the money when generated, would be used to subsidize the work of local Liberian farmers directly involved in the production and sale of Liberian rice in the country.

He disclosed that considering the country's current economic problem, it would be better for every

Liberian to encourage themselves and their compatriots in producing and eating Liberian rice which he says contains more proteins'.

The CHAP boss used the occasion to appeal to the Ministry of Agriculture and friendly governments to contribute either in cash or through material support to enhance the project that help to reduce the price of rice on the Liberian market.

Rev. Bimba welcomed President George Manneh Weah's Poor-Pro Agriculture program which he says when fully supported financially and materially, would assist in stabilizing the price of rice in the country without any hindrance.

The organization has in recent time provided improved seed rice for about 5000 smallholder women farmers in Grand Cape Mount, Grand Gedeh, Montserrado, Nimba, Bong, Bomi and Lofa counties for cultivation under its agriculture project program.

CHAP is specialized in working with local Liberian farmers particularly women residing in urban areas to produce sufficient rice, using the System of Rice Intensification (SRI), an improved technology in modern day's rice production since 2008. *-Edited by Winston W. Parley*

## CENTAL urges Weah to take practical, impartial steps

The integrity group, Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia or CENTAL, strongly encourages President George Manneh Weah to be practical and impartial in dealing with corruption, and make good on earlier promise to clean his government of corruption.

In a press statement here, CENTAL recommends five actions to government that should be taken urgently to savage the current economic condition in the country, including timely and impartial implementation of outcomes of ongoing investigation into the US\$25 million allegedly used by government to mop up excess liquidity in the market; timely action on grave concerns being raised by donors and development partners.

It warns that not doing so may limit donors' confidence in the government and have serious implications for future funding and support to Liberia.

CENTAL also wants the Legislature of Liberia to be more proactive in playing its various roles, extremely important to enhancing governance process and addressing the current harsh economic realities faced by Liberians, and that the Liberia

Anti Corruption Commission, General Auditing Commission, Public Procurement Concession Commission and other public integrity institutions be given the necessary resources and space to operate, in keeping with their mandates.

It calls on the media, civil society and other stakeholders remain constructively engaged with the government in demanding accountability and quality service delivery.

"CENTAL believes that not much has happened to decisively deal with corruption, including comprehensive audit of the past administration and prosecution of those who abused public assets and resources, including officials that presided over bankruptcy of the National Oil Company of Liberia (NOCAL). Also, delay in completing investigation into grave matters such as the US\$25 million mop-up exercise, when substantial work had already been carried out by the Presidential Investigative Team, do not speak to pragmatism and robustness of the government in dealing with corruption", the statement notes. *Story by Jonathan Browne*



## Criminal syndicate busted at LRA



The Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) in collaboration with the Liberia National Police (LNP) has unearthed a criminal syndicate organized to divert government's revenue to personal purposes. The LRA has identified one of its staff Lee N.V. Taylor as one of the members of the syndicate. Mr. Taylor fled Liberia after the criminal act

was discovered and has since been arrested in Ghana and extradited to Liberia. He is in police custody helping with the investigation.

An LRA press release details that preliminary investigation indicates that Taylor and his accomplices established an account at Access Bank Liberia Ltd and deposited several manager's checks issued by the United Bank of Africa

(UBA).

These manager's checks destined for the government's consolidated account were deposited in an account with Access Bank, and some were reportedly cleared. The 'criminal' account currently containing about US\$400,000 has been frozen.

The fees at the center of this investigation were government's percentage of cellular mobile transactions deposited with UBA.

The LRA is concerned about the role of its staff in this criminal syndicate, and also the ease with which banking controls were navigated to divert public resources.

The LRA meanwhile wants to applaud the LNP for its collaboration and speediness in working with their Ghanaian counterparts to have suspect Lee Taylor arrested.

The LRA wants to assure the public that it remains committed to the collection of lawful revenue and will collaborate and do all within its powers to bring the perpetrators to justice. -Press Release

## Foot-prints of a former Lawmaker



Hon. Dorbor inspects the Soul Clinic Public Toilet project in Paynesville.

Former Representative Kuku Y. Dorbor of Montserrado County District#6 is still counting her foot-prints left not only at the former 52nd Legislature, but in communities across District#6, constructing toilets and hand pumps in Nyon Town (Soul Clinic), Police Academy, Coca-Cola Factory, Outland Community, Old Field Community and Zayzay Community, respectively, among others, effectively utilizing the social development fund.

## Salah & Mane share Golden Boot with Aubameyang

The Liverpool pair missed out on the crown but ended the 2018-19 campaign at the top of the scoring charts alongside a prolific Arsenal frontman

Mohamed Salah will not consider the Golden Boot to be consolation for missing out on the Premier League title, especially as he must share the 2018-19 award with Liverpool



team-mate Sadio Mane and Arsenal's Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang after seeing them join him on 22 goals. The prolific Egyptian ended his debut campaign at Anfield as the leading marksman in the English top-flight. He netted 32 times last season, while finding the target 44 times across all competitions. An impressive haul of individual awards came his way, with

the Golden Boot just one of several added to his collection. Salah has now claimed that prize in successive years, despite drawing a blank on his most recent outing. He held a two-goal advantage over Manchester City striker Sergio Aguero heading into the final day, leaving the race for the Golden Boot wide open.

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