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VOL.9 NO. 076

THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2019

PRICE LD\$40.00



Allow June 7 protest

-UN urges gov't

Pres. Weah and UN Resident Coordinator Yacoub El Hillo

Opposition picks Dillon, Urey for by-elections



Abraham Darius Dillon



Continental News

Sudan military agrees three-year transition

Sudan's military leaders have announced an agreement with the opposition alliance for a three-year transition period to a civilian administration. The Transitional Military Council (TMC) said the alliance would have two-thirds of the seats on a legislative council.

However, the two sides are yet to agree on a sovereign council - the top tier of power, where both want a majority.

Sudan has been ruled by the military council since last month's toppling of President Omar al-Bashir. Protests that led to his downfall have continued, with a huge sit-in outside the military headquarters to demand full civilian government.

Hours before the latest deal was announced, at least five protesters and a member of the security forces died in clashes in the capital, Khartoum. There were reports of more gunshots on Wednesday in the area where demonstrations have been taking place. Activists have said that several people were

injured. What has been agreed?

At a joint news conference on Tuesday night, Lt Gen Yasser al-Atta said a final agreement on power sharing would be signed with the opposition alliance - the Declaration of Freedom and Change Forces (DFCF) - within 24 hours. That would include the forming of a sovereign council which will rule the country until elections.

"We vow to our people that the agreement will be completed fully within 24 hours in a way that meets the people's aspirations," he said.

Gen Atta said the DFCF would have two-thirds of the seats on a 300-member transitional legislative council, while the rest would be taken by parties not members of the alliance. Earlier, protest

movement spokesman Taha Osman said the sides had agreed on the structure of future authorities - a sovereign council, a cabinet and a legislative body.

DFCF member Satea al-Hajj expressed optimism that the final details on power-sharing would be agreed, adding: "The viewpoints are close and, God willing, we will reach an agreement soon." The military had originally wanted a two-year transition period while protest leaders had sought four years to give them more time to prepare.

However, Sadiq Yousuf, a member of the DFCF negotiating team, told the BBC Newsday programme that the composition of the 11-member supreme council was still being discussed.

"The issue has been on the number of members of the supreme council. We want eight civilians, three from the military, but they want seven military and four members.

"Still unclear who will be in charge

The agreement for a three-year transitional administration including a parliament dominated by opposition groups

is a major step towards civilian rule. A cabinet will also be appointed by the opposition Declaration of Freedom and Change Forces.

But the question of who will be ultimately in charge remains unanswered.

A council of generals is currently the top tier of control. Who will be on the new executive body to replace it has been a sticking point for some time. Both the military and the opposition groups want not just representation, but a majority.

The joint news conference by those involved in talks said this would be settled within 24 hours, but protesters remain on the streets until they are sure real and lasting change will come with the new transitional agreement. How did we get here?

In December, demonstrators took to the streets over a government decision to triple the price of bread. The protests soon grew into widespread anger against the president's 30-year rule. Five weeks into the protests, on 17 January, witnesses said state forces had fired live ammunition at protesters and killed a doctor. BBC



Protesters' demands for full civilian government have remained undimmed

Nigerians arrested for 'eating during Ramadan fast'

The Islamic Sharia police in northern Nigeria's Kano state briefly detained 80 people accused of eating in public, rather than fasting from dawn to sunset as Muslims are required to do during their holy month of Ramadan.

The Sharia police, known

as Hisbah, say the people were arrested at different times across the city of Kano in the past couple of days.

Kano state is one of the several states in northern Nigeria where Sharia law was re-introduced since 2000.

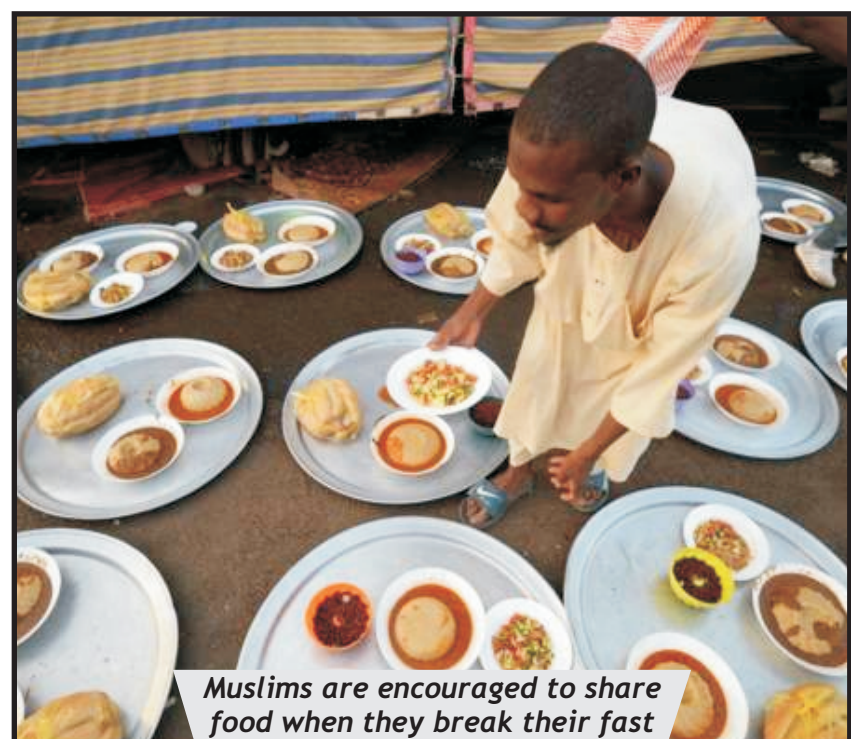
Sharia law is being implemented partially along with the country's secular law.

The Hisbah spokesman in Kano state, Adamu Yahaya, told the BBC that all those arrested were Muslims and officers do not target non-Muslims because they are not bound by Islamic law. He said some of those arrested told the Sharia office that they were eating because they did not sight the Ramadan crescent themselves while others feigned sickness, but the authorities found their excuses baseless.

The 80 were admonished and released because they were "first-time offenders", Mr Yahaya added.

They were warned that if they were caught again, they would be taken to court. The Hisbah say they will continue with their patrols throughout Ramadan with a view to arresting Muslims who do not observe the fast.

The Ramadan fast is compulsory for all adult Muslims but some categories of people - such as those who are seriously ill - are not required to fast. BBC



Muslims are encouraged to share food when they break their fast

Social media shut in Eritrea



Social media services have been blocked in Eritrea, with people now sending messages via VPN.

The reason for the shutdown is unclear, but speculation is that the government has blocked social media sites to prevent people from using them to organise protests that could disrupt Independence Day celebrations on 24 May.

Discontent about the lack of political reform is growing

in Eritrea, a one-party state ruled by President Isaias Afwerki since independence in 1993. According to Internet World Stats, Eritrea has one of the lowest internet penetrations in the world. In 2018, it had only 71,000 internet users. They made up 1.3% of the population.

Communication in Eritrea is strictly controlled by the government. There is no private media, and the internet cannot be accessed via mobile phones. BBC

EDITORIAL

Continuous dialogue is the way

NO LIBERIAN SHOULD ever think that Tuesday's [National Unification Day] dialogue between President George Manneh Weah and leaders of the impending 07 June protest was a waste, for this is the first time the President has had the time to sit with a group of fellow citizens, who are unsatisfied about his government and the economy.

THAT THE MEETING was called and attended by both sides and observed by religious and traditional leaders, and international partners, including representatives from ECOWAS, African Union and the United Nations is welcome news, and should be encouraged.

PRESIDENT WEAH SHOULD not feel disappointed because the protesters didn't present their demands to him as he had expected. Instead, they promised to do so on the day of the protest, June 7, 2019.

AND THAT THE President assured the protest leaders he would instruct the Minister of Justice Frank Musa Dean to provide protection for protesters and the general public demonstrates leadership.

We agreed with the ECOWAS Ambassador to Liberia, Babatunde Ajisomo when he says dialogue is important because it takes ECOWAS back to its role in Liberia and recalls how men and women from the regional bloc lost their lives here, while saving Liberians during the civil war.

UNITED NATIONS RESIDENT Coordinator Yacoub El Hillo says Tuesday's engagement sends a message to the world that Liberians are choosing the force of logic to solve their difference, rather than the logic of force.

"THAT'S WHY JUNE 7 is actually supported, and June 7 should be allowed to take course, June 7 should be given to the people of this country to actually petition their government in a peaceful, orderly and organized way that is conducted in close coordination with the appropriate authorities in the country," Mr. El Hillo urges.

INDEED, ALL IS not lost, as others may think. Liberia is not going down on June 7, as some pessimists are predicting. In fact, the evolving action should further strengthen our democracy.

WE URGE BOTH government and protesters to dialogue continuously during, and even after the protest, on the way forward for our country, for we don't see enemies here except it proves the contrary.

WHATEVER PETITION TO be presented to the President by the protesters, should be for the general good of Liberia, not selfish political interests, for then the protest would achieved its primary objectives.

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

COMMENTARY

By Mark Suzman

How Nelson Mandela Bent History

Twenty-five years after his election, and nearly 101 years after his birth, Nelson Mandela is remembered as a statesman, a liberator, an icon, and a secular saint. But before he was any of those things, he was a highly skilled politician.

SEATTLE - Twenty-five years ago, South Africa held its first free elections after the end of apartheid. The African National Congress won overwhelmingly, and its leader, Nelson Mandela, began to knit the country back together as its new president. As post-apartheid South Africa completes its sixth democratic election, it is worth recalling Mandela's formidable legacy.

In 1994, I was a young journalist at the Financial Times, tasked with watching Clarence Makwetu, the leader of the far-left Pan Africanist Congress party, cast his vote. Makwetu had no interest in reconciliation. During apartheid, the PAC's military wing had adopted the slogan "one settler, one bullet," and its members had called for pushing "all whites into the sea."

With no reliable polling of black voters having ever taken place in South Africa, some predicted that Makwetu and his party could secure up to one-quarter of the vote. Such an outcome, many worried, could trigger an eruption of violence, and at first it seemed like that would be the case.

On the morning Makwetu cast his ballot, a disaffected white extremist detonated a bomb at the Johannesburg airport. With the war in ex-Yugoslavia still raging and the Rwandan genocide in its first weeks, the international media rushed in to cover what they expected would be another brutal story: an impending South African civil war between white extremists on the right and black extremists on the left.

Of course, that is not what happened. Just four years after being released from prison - having served 27 years for conspiring to overthrow the state - Mandela was swept into power with more than 60% of the vote, while Makwetu and the PAC won barely 1%. But that does not mean that the outcome - of the vote, or of Mandela's presidency - was inevitable.

History always seems like destiny once the ink is dry. Today, it is hard to imagine a world where Mandela didn't lift South Africa from the ruins of apartheid and lay the foundations for a united country. But South Africa in 1994 was a hotbed of tensions and divisions, many of which seemed insurmountable.

In fact, in the weeks before the vote, former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger led a team of global dignitaries to try to mediate a dispute between many of the country's political parties and the Zulu-dominated Inkatha Freedom Party, which was committed to boycotting the election. Kissinger had barely left his Johannesburg hotel room when he called it quits. "Mediation never started," he said, "so mediation hasn't failed."

In that moment, it felt like failure was indeed inevitable, and it probably would have been were it not for Mandela. Days before the voting started, he helped to persuade Inkatha to abandon its boycott. This proved vital to his victory, and - as a result - to the tremendous progress South Africa has made since.

Twenty-five years after his election, and nearly

101 years after his birth, Mandela is remembered as a statesman, a liberator, an icon, and a secular saint. But before he was any of those things, Mandela was a politician, skilled at building coalitions and charming political opponents.

Years later, I sat watching Steven Spielberg's 2012 biopic Lincoln, which depicts the 16th US president as a political animal. Lincoln has a big, noble mission - outlawing slavery in the United States Constitution - but he's also willing to be cunning, even slippery, to achieve it. When the final credits rolled, I thought, "That was Mandela, too."

Like Lincoln, Mandela believed that history didn't always bend people; sometimes, people could bend history. And then he went out and proved it.

This Mandela - more so than Mandela the saint - is the one that I prefer to remember. After all, if it takes a saint to solve a seemingly intractable problem like apartheid, then what chance do any of us mere mortals have? But if a striver, a hustler, a charming and determined optimist can make a difference, then anyone has a shot at helping to create a better world.

This sentiment has been a driving force in my own career. Not long after Mandela stepped down from the presidency in 1999, I - by then a Washington, DC-based journalist - wrote an FT article highlighting perceptions of the United Nations as a sclerotic organization. It caught the eye of the new head of the UN Development Programme, who agreed that the organization needed changing and wanted me to help.

When I accepted the UN position, I did not expect to stay long; I took just a one-year leave of absence from my journalism job. But, 18 years later, I'm still working in global development, now at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. In retrospect, it's clear that the career change was driven, to a significant extent, by what Mandela might urge me to do: "Like slavery and apartheid," he said, "poverty is not natural. It can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings."

Over the last 20 years, we have seen this happen; the global poverty rate has fallen by three-quarters, thanks largely to Asia's rapid economic development. In Africa, though progress has been uneven, poverty rates in some countries - such as Ethiopia, Tanzania, Ghana, and Rwanda - have dropped by two-thirds or more. Reductions in infant and child mortality and improvements in education have been even more widespread.

As for South Africa, it is still wrestling with the legacy of apartheid; the rise of a black middle class has not been sufficient to offset continuing racial disparities in income, education, and health. Nonetheless, by almost every measure, the country is doing better than 25 years ago. The latest evidence of this progress is the just-completed election: no one anticipated significant unrest, regardless of the outcome.

Mandela was right: suffering can be overcome by the actions of human beings. Even a single person can bend history.

O-PED

By Sam Roggeveen

Is Australia Next?

SYDNEY - As Australia prepares for federal elections on May 18, it probably looks to outsiders like an oasis of stability and sanity among Western democracies that have gone haywire. There are no widespread populist revolts, no "yellow vests" or agitators calling for a Brexit-style retreat from the Asia-Pacific. Though Australia does have far-right fringe parties, they have not had anything like the electoral success of their European counterparts. In fact, among countries with more than ten million people, Australia has one of the highest migration rates of any major economy, yet there is hardly any public backlash.

If one accepts that a spike in populism is the defining characteristic of contemporary Western politics, Australia appears to have dodged a bullet. But if we set aside populism, we see that Australia is not an exception after all. The key development across Western democracies in recent years, Australia included, is not that something new has emerged, but that something old has declined.

Back in 2013, Irish political scientist Peter Mair warned that Europe's postwar party system was unraveling, owing to the decline of traditional center-right and center-left parties. Modern democracy cannot function without political parties, yet, according to Mair, "The age of party democracy has passed." Though most mainstream parties remain intact, they have shed members and become increasingly "disconnected from the wider society."

Most of the major mainstream parties began as movements to represent the interests of trade unions, business, or particular religious denominations. But, over time, they have turned away from the public and transformed themselves into highly professionalized operations funded by corporate money and the state. Other than at election time, they have little need for their traditional supporters.

As long as the establishment parties governed reasonably well, this didn't really matter, and voters had little reason to engage in politics. But then came the 2008 financial crisis and the subsequent euro crisis, followed by an immigration crisis in 2015 and Brexit the following year. Suddenly, the slow-burn of party decline became a wildfire. New far-right parties have won parliamentary seats in Germany and Spain for the first time in decades; Italy is governed by a populist coalition, and France by President Emmanuel Macron's self-made La République En Marche!

These gains have come at the expense of mainstream parties. In Germany's 2017 election, the Social Democrats (SPD) won 20% of the vote, the party's worst showing since World War II. In the Dutch elections that year, the venerable Labour Party lost 29 of its 38 parliamentary seats. In the election that brought Macron to office, the candidates of the major parties - the Socialists and the Republicans - did not even make the run-off. In the United Kingdom this month, Tory candidates in local elections won the national equivalent of just 28% of the vote; and Labour, too, went backwards.

Europe's populist parties have clearly benefited from the decline of the mainstream. But they are merely the inheritors of Europe's broken politics, not its cause. As the American writer Martin Gurri puts it, "'Populist' is a term favored by the elites for politicians who have migrated into, and occupied, the vast space between the public and themselves."

As for Australia, the two establishment parties, Labor and the Liberals, are suffering the same decline as their European counterparts. While they still have an advantage under the country's preferential voting system, which guarantees them a strong presence in the lower house of parliament, where governments are formed, Australians are increasingly turning toward smaller parties and independent politicians. In the 2016 election, nearly one-quarter of voters chose a non-major party first.

Australia has already gone through two periods of minority government since 2010. Soon enough, its politics may come to resemble that of many European countries, where no major party can ever form a government on its own. True, unlike Europe, Australia has not suffered an economic crisis that would trigger a rapid major-party slide. Indeed, it hasn't had a recession in 28 years. And, despite a tortured national debate over the country's inhumane methods of deterring asylum seekers, it has had no immigration crisis either.

But that could change, at which point Australia might experience its own populist surge. Or the major parties themselves could be the source of volatility. When political parties are in decline, they become less stable and more vulnerable to demands from their fringes. Just ask former British Prime Minister David Cameron, who agreed to hold the Brexit referendum only because he needed to placate Euroskeptics in the Conservative Party.

Similar dynamics are discernible in Australia, where Labor and the Liberals have both undergone years of vicious internal brawling. If Labor wins this election, as seems likely, Australia will have its seventh change of prime minister since 2007, hence the country's appellation as the "coup capital of the world." That level of instability suggests that Australia's major parties are not coping well with their abandonment by the public. What looks like an oasis of stability among Western democracies may turn out to be a mirage.

Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA)
20th 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 its 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 Liberia Maritime Authority 20th Street office between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00p.m., Wednesday, 8th May to Friday, 7th June 2019.

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

Final submission date is 1:30p.m. on Monday, 10th 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 the Procurement Section of the Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA), 20th Street, Sinkor.

Signed: _____
PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE

00001423

30th DAY JURY SITTING
SEPTEMBER TERM A.D. 2018
NOVEMBER 13, 2018

AL BRANCH
C OF LIBERIA

BEFORE THE HONORABLE YUSSIE D. KABA, RESIDENT CIRCUIT JUDGE
THE PETITION OF RAFAEL KPISSAY PETITIONER, BY AND THRU HER MOTHER, PRAYING THIS HONORABLE COURT FOR A DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME IN FAVOR OF PETITIONER TO BE REFERRED TO AND CALLED AS "PUSU KPISSAY"

COURT'S DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME

The Petitioner by and thru his mother filed a Petition before this Court requesting this Honorable Court to order the change of his name from RAFAEL KPISSAY to PUSU KPISSAY.

During the hearing, the Petitioner testified that the change of her child name requesting this Honorable Court is intended to reflect his truth identity. After conducting the necessary investigation required by law in these proceedings, the Court observed that the intention is just and legal and that there is no objection to the change of name proposed by her.

That the Petitioner having shown with justification and satisfaction that her child was born on February 18, 2013, to the Republic of Liberia, and that he was born into the union of Mr. Peter Gibson and Madam Taitor C. Kpissay, all of the Republic of Liberia; and that the change of his name will substantially promote his interest in all of the understandings and help to establish his true identity more truly and that he has met all legal requirements for the change of his name in this jurisdiction.

The petition having been heard, same is hereby ordered granted and we now render that the name Raphael Kpissay be changed to Pusu Kpissay beginning this 13th day of November, A.D. 2018. That all documents signed by the petitioner herein prior to this decree remain valid.

THIS DECREE shall be registered in the Office of the Registrar of DEEDS and other Official Documents within (10) days from this date and also be published twice in any recognized Newspaper operating in the Republic of Liberia within twenty (20) days from this date. AND BE HEREBY SO ORDERED.

GIVEN UNDER MY HANDS IN OPEN COURT
THIS 13th DAY OF NOVEMBER, A.D. 2018

COURT SEAL: _____ YUSSIE D. KABA
RESIDENT CIRCUIT JUDGE PRESIDING
SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, CIVIL LAW COURT

REGISTERED ACCORDING TO LAW IN VOLUME _____ OF _____ PAGES _____

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SPECIAL SPECIAL

We Must All Support, Uphold, Protect and Defend Judicial Independence in Liberia: Judicial Independence for Everyone – NOT for Judges!

- Judge's charge delivered on May 13, 2019, for the May 2019 term of court.

By his Honor George W. Smith, assigned circuit judge, 3rd judicial circuit, Sinoe County,

During the early days of America's (USA's) existence Federal Supreme Court Justices along with Federal District Courts Judges were originally the ones who periodically travelled around the country to hold and preside over court sessions, called circuit-riding.¹ The justices "were well aware of the tension between different states that arose out of their different colonial origins and ongoing disputes over territorial boundaries."² The founding fathers of America, I believe, ardently desired a strong union of the different states - the United States of America. Therefore, during the formal opening of court the Justice included in his CHARGE "civics lessons" making appeals to patriotism, honor and duty, and explaining "the role of the federal government and the concept of federalism"³ to the American People.

This JUDGE'S CHARGE is intended as civics lessons making appeals to patriotism, honor and duty to our country. We must support, uphold, protect and defend our Constitution with particular reference to judicial independence vis-à-vis security of judges' tenure as contemplated by the Constitution. This is our civic duty.

"The curse of bad governance" in Liberia has been attributed to the April 12, 1980 coup d'état. Also, it has been said that weakness in the justice institution, of which judges are an integral part, was one of the key factors that caused the Liberian civil war and crises "that have haunted this country over the past decades."⁴ Bad governance - the lack of judicial independence and the resultant weakness in the justice institution - was an evil the framers of the 1986 Constitution sought to cure when they provided therein, Article 72(a & b) thereof, safeguard to protect judicial independence - the security of compensation and tenure of judges. No such safeguard was provided under the past 1847 Constitution.

Because of the curse of bad governance and our bitter past and in order to guard against therecurrence of same our Constitution mandates all of us public officials - legislators, officials of the Executive and the judiciary who are trustees of the people, the beneficiaries - to solemnly swear to support, uphold, protect and defend the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Liberia,⁵ upon assuming office. And one of such constitutional provisions public officials are mandated and required to support, uphold, protect and defend is Article 72(a & b) of our Constitution. Article 72(a & b) which guarantees the security of judges' compensation and tenure and judicial independence are not mutually exclusive - they are connected.

I have therefore chosen to speak on the topic: *We Must All Support, Uphold, Protect and Defend Judicial Independence in Liberia: Judicial Independence for Everyone - Not For Judges!* The principle of judicial independence, specifically as it relates to security of judges' tenure under Article 72(b) of the Constitution, a complement and supplement of judicial independence, will be highlighted in this CHARGE.

First, what is meant by judicial independence? A renowned jurist defines judicial independence as "the ability of courts and judges to perform their duties free of influence or control by other actors, whether governmental or private."⁶ Judicial independence is not intended for the personal benefit or protection of judges per se as some people erroneously believe. Adherence to the principle of judicial independence benefits everyone. The Supreme Court of South Carolina has held that: "Judicial independence is not for the protection of judges, although it is often thought of in that context today. The principle of judicial independence is designed to protect the system of justice and the rule of law, and maintain public confidence in the court[s]. *With judicial independence the winners are everyone.*"⁷ [Emphasis mine].

Judicial independence is very important in a democracy because it allows judges to decide cases fairly and impartially based on the law and the relevant facts of the case, regardless of the parties' social, religious, political or economic statuses; thereby enabling judges to impartially and fairly discharge their constitutional duties of administering justice to all - to do justice, in the words of Lord Brougham, "between man and man", and according

to Lord Clarke, "between citizen and citizen and between citizen and the state". Security of tenure of judges as protected under Article 72(b) of the Constitution and judicial independence are related and go together, because judges are assured that they can freely decide cases impartially and fairly without fear that their job will be assailed by the Legislature and/or the Executive for political reason or because the Legislature and Executive dislikes the judges' decisions and judgments.

Prior to the April 12, 1980 coup and the coming into force of our current Constitution in 1986, judges could be removed by the President on the address of two thirds of the Legislature⁸ under the 1847 Constitution. And indeed judges were removed at the pleasure of the President, and for political reasons. The removal of judges for political reasons under the 1847 Constitution was bad governance as this conflicted with the principle of judicial independence.

I believe that when the framers of the 1986 Constitution were drafting it they had in mind: 1. that the curse of bad governance including lack of judicial independence in Liberia gave rise to the April 12, 1980 coup d'état; 2. That the Judiciary is, in the words of President George Washington, "the chief-Pillar upon which our national government must rest"⁹, and that the rule of law and the administration of impartial justice, in the words of Justice Thomas McCants Stewart, "is the cornerstone of a nation." The framers of the Constitution therefore provided therein, Article 72(b) thereof, as follows:

"The Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court and Judges of subordinate courts of record *shall retire at the age of seventy...* [Emphasis mine].

Judges' 70-year retirement age security tenure, therefore, cannot legally be shortened by the Legislature and/or the Executive, except as expressly provided for by Article 71 of the Constitution. Article 71 clearly enumerates six (6) legal grounds upon which the Legislature can impeach and remove a judge. They are: 1. proved misconduct, 2. Gross breach of duty, 3. Inability to perform the office of the judgeship, 4. Conviction for treason, 5. Conviction for bribery, or 6. Conviction for any infamous crime, such as terrorism, hijacking, armed robbery, murder, and rape.

The first two grounds, misconduct and breach of duty, have historically been those commonly employed to impeach and remove judges in Liberia. I shall therefore explain in reverse order what are meant by the principles of judicial misconduct and judicial duty.

1. Judicial duty.

The word "duty" is synonymous to "responsibility" - that which one is morally or legally required to do. Thus, the duties or responsibilities of judges - judicial duties - are those prescribed in the constitution and statute. "A judicial duty, within the meaning of the Constitution, is such a duty as legitimately pertains to judicial officers [justices and judges]. By this designation is meant the judiciary in the true sense of the term."¹¹ The judicial duties of Justices of the Supreme Court and Judges of courts of record are those enumerated in the Constitution and the Judiciary Law.

Generally, Article 65 of the Constitution vests judicial power in the Justices of the Supreme Court and Judges of courts of record to decide cases. Specifically, Article 66 of the Constitution assigns to the Supreme Court Justices to decide cases involving constitutional issues emanating from any governmental agency or other authority. Also, the Constitution through Article 29 thereof, authorized the Legislature to enact Title 17 Judiciary Law, Vol. 4, Liberian Code of Laws Revised. Section 2.8 of that Act empowers the Justice presiding in Chambers of the Supreme Court of Liberia to issue writ of prohibition, among other remedial and extraordinary writs, on any individual including the Government of Liberia.

On the other hand, the law assigns to circuit judges the duty and power to decide criminal, civil and admiralty cases¹² with the incidental duty to issue writs on defendants or party respondents. It is also the duty under our law for circuit judges to issue writs of injunction,¹³ among others. Duties of other judges and the corresponding power to issue writs on individuals, including the Government, are set forth in our Judiciary Law.

2. Judicial misconduct.

Judicial misconduct is committed when a judge acts in ways



considered unethical or otherwise violative of the judge's duty of impartiality. Examples are using the judge's office to obtain special treatment for friends or relations; accepting bribes, gifts or other personal favors connected to the judge's office; having ex parte communication with party litigant or counsel on one side; and the judge's violation of mandatory prohibitions, like engaging in the practice of law.

Judicial misconduct in this jurisdiction, like others such as the UK and the USA, "leads only seldom to a formal investigation"¹⁵ by a judicial inquiry body. In Liberia, that body is the Judicial Inquiry Commission, under Canon 40, Judicial Canons of the Republic of Liberia, promulgated pursuant to Article 75 of the Constitution. In the event a justice of the Supreme Court or a judge is found guilty for violation of our judicial canons the punishment exacted, under Judicial Canon 29, ranges from "fine, suspension, impeachment and/or prosecution in a court of law according to the gravity of the violation."

Further, the offenses of misconduct and breach of duty are covered under our Penal Law. An official, like a judge, who knowingly subjects another to unlawful arrest, detention, search, seizure, mistreatment, dispossession, assessment, lien, or other infringement of personal or property rights; or denies, or impedes another in the exercise or enjoyment of any right, privilege, power or immunity, is guilty of a first degree misdemeanor.

The exercise of judicial duties, like issuing writs of prohibition, summons and arrests, and the deciding of cases by Justices of the Supreme Court and Judges as mandated by the Constitution and statute, does not violate any of the elements of judicial misconduct and judicial duty.

The administration of justice and the rule of law must be seen from an institutional perspective, distinct from the private persons of Justices and Judges. "The judicial power [the issuance of writs of prohibition, summons and arrest, for example; and deciding of cases] is vested in courts, not judicial officers. Judicial officers only can exercise judicial powers or functions. The judicial function meant by the constitution are such only as courts and judges exercise."

The principle that judges cannot be punished for their decisions, judgments and judicial acts is one of universal international norm. The Montreal Universal Declaration on the Independence of Justice (1983), section 1.16 thereof, of which Liberia is a party, exempts judges from liability for judicial acts done in their official capacity. But more importantly, Article 73 of our Constitution prohibits justices and judges from being "summoned, arrested, detained, prosecuted or tried civilly or criminally by or at any instance of any person or authority on account of judicial opinions rendered or expressed, judicial statements made and judicial acts done in the course of a trial in open court or in chambers, except for treason or other felonies, misdemeanor or breach of the peace."

Does a justice or judge commit treason, felony, misdemeanor, misconduct, gross breach of duty, or breach of the peace for issuing writs of prohibition, summons, arrest, forwarding cases to the full bench of the Supreme Court because same raise constitutional issues, and deciding and rendering decisions and judgments in cases brought before the courts - all of which are judicial duties?

When Justices and judges issue writs like prohibition, summons and arrests, they are performing their job description under the Constitution and statute. On the other hand, when they fail to perform their judicial duties they commit an offence of nonfeasance or abuse of office punishable under section 12.70 (a and b) of the Penal Law. And gross neglect of judicial duties can lead to impeachment and removal of a judge, and not the reverse.

IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDING NOT A POLITICAL QUESTION, IT'S A LEGAL ONE

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Dujar College graduates 64 students



Dujar Technical College in Gardnersville, outside Monrovia graduates 65 successful students following completion of their studies.

The 4th Commencement Exercises were held recently. Delivering the

commencement address on the topic: "The Difference between Success and Greatness" former Speaker Alex J. Tyler, notes that greatness comes about when a person does extraordinary things beyond his or her success even if failures come along.

"Your ability to persevere in the midst of these failures to achieve makes you great", Tyler adds.

He reminds the graduates that they may see leaving college as success, but the ability to make positive impact in society will make them great.

Read the Constitution properly -ANC tells Justice Minister

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Opposition Alternative National Congress (ANC) National Chairman and Gbarpolu Sen. Daniel Naatehn is urging Liberia's Justice Minister and Attorney General, Cllr. Frank Musa Dean to read the 1986 Liberian Constitution properly before making utterances that have the propensity to bring the justice system to a public disrepute.

Speaking at the ANC Headquarters in Sinkor on Unification Day, 14 May, Sen. Naatehn challenged Minister Dean to state where on earth a justice minister will tell

protesters to be registered under the law before staging protest

Sen. Naatehn urges Minister Dean to properly read the constitution with understanding and comprehension or else Liberians will soon doubt his legal understanding of the law.

He argues that peaceful protesters do not need permit or registration before taking the streets.

According to the ANC official, Minister Dean is demanding those calling for the June 7 protest to be registered before coming to the streets.

It can be recalled that on 2

May, a letter signed by Justice Minister Frank Musa Dean questioned the legitimacy of the group calling itself Council of Patriots (COP).

In that letter, the Minister requested the COP to show its articles of incorporation, legal documentation indicating that they are a duly incorporated or unincorporated institution or association.

The Minister wrote: "The MOJ is under legal obligation to deal with institution/association registered and existing under the laws of Liberia, by and through their legal offices, as we request that you provide us legal documentation, establishing legal status as 'Council of Patriots', either as a duly incorporated or unincorporated association in pursuant to the requirements of the Associations Law of Liberia."

But relying on Article 1 of the Constitution, Sen. Naatehn says the power is inherent in the people, suggesting that if the people want to protest peacefully, government has no alternative but to grant such request without delay or denial.

Article 1 of the Liberian Constitution partly states that all power is inherent in the people; and that all free governments are instituted by their authority and for their benefit and they have the right to alter and reform the same when their safety and happiness so require.

Cold water sellers seek Gov't's help

By Ethel A. Tweh

Local water sellers in Barnesville a Monrovia suburb are seeking government's intervention in addressing the high exchange rate so the prices of water sachets and other commodities can correspondingly fall.

Speaking to this paper Wednesday, May 15, 2019, Madam Martha Collins, a cold water seller at Bend and Stop community in Barnesville explains that she buys a sachet water for LRD150, which contains 30 bags.

According to her, she is now constrained to increase the retail price to LRD10 because at Five Liberian Dollars she will not earn a profit.

this Government, we put our son there to make the difference but the way things are going in this country, we can't understand; everyday prices are going up because the rate can go up every day", says Ma Martha.

Another water seller, Yamah Johnson at Barnesville Junction, complains the water business is really giving them hard time because it is too expensive. "We beg the government to please have a stable rate so things prices can drop; we are not making profit from the water we are selling, and the little we make cannot feed us. Government, your please have price control, we



She blames the exchange for the current escalation in prices, noting that the exchange is 185 Liberia Dollars for One United States Dollar.

A mother of three, Madam Collins says she and her children survive daily from the sale of water, but she notes that the price of water increased, people are hardly buying the water, so she's not making enough money to feed her kids.

According to her, she used to buy a sachet of water for LRD60 and sell up to 10 sachets per day, but since the price increase sales have dropped, significantly.

"My daughter, I voted for

are suffering." She Yamah pleads.

Amie Flomo share similar story and appeals to the government to hear the cry of her citizens, saying, "Water and all we are buying LRD150; what will we have to feed our children."

Papie Tamba sells cold water and scratch cards at Barnesville Junction. He says neither the water nor the cards are profitable now because the exchange rate is too high.

He explains that producers at the water factory told him they are buying the plastic for the water very expensive, so they need to sell the water expensively.

Meanwhile, the ANC says the protest which has been endorsed by the four collaborating political parties will be void of violence.

Naatehn explains that the protest is not to demand the resignation of President Weah, but it is rather to demand meaningful reforms that will lead to the improvement and living standards of Liberians.

The Council of Patriots has continuously maintained that

their decision to protest is fueled by wanton neglect of the government to live up to its social contract towards ordinary citizens.

According to them, the Liberian people will conduct themselves in the confines of the law and that the peace and stability of the country will be jealously protected by the protesters. —*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



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Fake lawyers roam Nimba

-Public Defender alarms

By Thomas Domah/Nimba

The head for Public Defenders in Nimba County Cllr. Robertson P. Mehn, alarms over the wave of fake lawyers in all 18 magisterial counts in the county.

He says there are people calling themselves Public Defenders, when they are not.

Cllr. Mehn discloses that the Government of Liberia officially assigned only two Public Defenders to Nimba, but people are impersonating as lawyers under the group, paralegal.

Speaking Monday at the opening of the May Term of Court in Sanniquellie, Nimba County, he laments that those fake lawyers are usually involved with extorting huge money from clients before they can represent them in court.

Cllr. Mehn describes the act as unlawful, and calls on the public not to do business with such individuals.

He reveals that one such impersonator recently wrote a magistrate, claiming that Cllr. Robertson P. Mehn sent him, but was book in the process.

Cllr. Mehn clarifies that as Public Defender, he does not have power to appoint anyone to represent clients in a court, noting that authority lies with the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia.

He says those people are misleading the court and courts across Nimba should not allow them to practice before them.

Cllr. Mehn also clarifies that there are no public defenders in magisterial

courts except in circuit courts where this service is practiced.

At the same time, he complains of lack of vehicles to tour all 18 magisterial courts in the county, noting that they are constrained to transport themselves each time to represent clients during proceedings.

The Nimba Public Defender appeals to government to provide vehicles to enhance their work.

Speaking of over crowdedness at the Sanniquellie Prison

Compound, Cllr. Mehn suggests the only way to addressing congestion is to visit the facility and place suspects on bonds under which they may be re-arrested and brought back to the jurisdiction of the court.

He says most of the suspects have been in jail for over three years without appearing in court because of failure of complainers to pursue their cases in court.

Meanwhile, he calls for the opening of Court E that was built months back to fast track rape cases in the county, disclosing that a total of 73 cases are on the docket, 29 of them rape-related.

For his part, the Resident Judge of the 8th Judicial Circuit Court Roland F. Dahn, says since he took office in February, the docket contains a total of 201 cases, including 108 civil cases and 73 criminal cases.

Judge Dahn explains that of the 201 civil cases, 73 involve real property cases, while the rest are general cases such as contracts and divorce, among others.

He continues that the criminal docket includes sexually related cases followed by murder/manslaughters, aggravated assault and drugs related offences, among others. -Editing by Jonathan Browne



Nimba County Public Defender Cllr. Robertson Mehn

Save the Children seeks increased support to health

Save the Children International (SCI) Liberia Country Office embarks on a two-year health workers' project aimed at advocating for increment in budgetary allocation to the health system of Liberia.

According to a release issued, the project intends to save the lives of children in vulnerable communities through a strengthened health sector and the political commitment to increase

Development (PaSD) and Scaling Up Nutrition Civil Society Alliance of Liberia (SUNCSAL) are implementing the project. The civil society groups have already held community dialogue meetings with paramount chiefs and local government officials in Montserrado and Margibi counties, respectively, as part of activities of the project.

The release quotes Save the Children Country Manager as



Mr. Joseph Jay Yarsiah, Country Manager

health financing and investment.

To ensure that it achieves its desired goal, SCI has begun strengthening the capacity of two civil society organizations to advocate for the increase in health system financing and ensure that Universal Health Coverage (UHC) with emphasis on Maternal, New-born and Child Health (MNCH) is realized.

Partnership for Sustainable

saying that the project will generate evidence based on health system financing and public expenditure to support and facilitate discussions with key budget decision-makers, legislators and relevant stakeholders.

Mr. Joseph Jay Yarsiah believes that at the end of the project, there will be change in the approach to health financing and investment, which will eventually see

Don't elect greedy politicians

-Student activist cautions Liberians

By Emmanuel Mondaye

A student activist Teah Doe Teah, warns Liberians not to elect people he describes as "greedy politicians" who don't have the country and its people at heart.

Speaking to reporters in Paynesville City outside Monrovia, he further cautions that Liberians should be very mindful in how

they go about casting their ballots to selecting the next senator and representative to fill vacant seats in Montserrado County.

The National Elections Commission (NEC) is expected to conduct Senatorial and Representative By-elections in Montserrado on 2 July. The pending polls are the result of the death of Senator Geraldine Doe-Sherif and

Representative Adolph A. Lawrence, respectively.

Teah notes that the two vacant positions which belong to Montserrado County require the election of "grassroots Liberians" who have been in the vanguard of promoting development in the county.

According to him, the seats are very much important to the people of Montserrado County, so would-be candidates should be people with good political standing with the people.

He says the electorate of Montserrado should not permit themselves to be bought or induce with money to making wrong decision that would deny their county and district development.

He observes that politicians are coming with empty campaign promises and bunch of lies intended to rob the people of their votes.

He vows to vigorously campaign against aspirants who he notes, lack basic potential and political knowhow in bringing development to the people of Montserrado. -Editing by Jonathan Browne



Français

Les discussions entre le chef de l'Etat et les manifestants se terminent dans l'impasse

Les pourparlers entamés mardi à Monrovia par le président libérien George Manneh Weah avec le Conseil des patriotes se sont terminés dans une impasse, alors que les Libériens continuent de paniquer de plus en plus.

Le Conseil des Patriotes (COP) veut organiser une marche en collaboration avec quatre partis politiques de l'opposition. Lors de sa rencontre avec le président de la République au ministère des Affaires étrangères mardi, le COP a insisté sur la protection de leurs droits garantis par la Constitution.

Les pourparlers ont eu lieu en présence de représentants des partenaires internationaux dont la CEDEAO, l'UA, l'ONU, des chefs religieux et des chefs traditionnels du Libéria. Il était question de trouver une solution de sortie de crise avec les manifestants.

Le président Weah a manifesté son mécontentement au terme de la rencontre qui s'est terminée dans l'impasse en raison du refus du COP de faire connaître ses doléances.

La corruption, le mauvais

état de l'économie et la mauvaise gestion présumée des 25 millions de dollars injectés dans l'économie pour, dit-on, lutter contre l'inflation, voilà certaines des raisons pour lesquelles l'opposition et les détracteurs du régime du président Weah veulent descendre dans la rue pour exprimer leur mécontentement.

Pendant ce temps, les libériens continuent de paniquer. La plupart d'entre eux disent avoir

de la crainte à cause de la marche prévue pour le 7 juin 2019. Certains avaient demandé au gouvernement d'ouvrir le dialogue avec l'opposition et le groupe qui veut organiser la marche afin de trouver un terrain d'attente.

Mais malheureusement, le dialogue tant souhaité par les citoyens libériens n'a pas abouti. Le porte-parole officiel de l'opposition, Abraham Darius Dillon, ne s'est contenté que de

demander brièvement au président Weah d'assurer la protection des manifestants le 7 juin.

«Le Conseil des Patriotes est ici aujourd'hui pour répondre à votre invitation et pour exprimer ses inquiétudes concernant (la manifestation du) 7 juin», a déclaré Darius Dillon, porte-parole de ce forum réunissant des partis d'opposition, des associations de la société civile et des syndicats d'étudiants.

«Le 7 juin, nous vous présenterons nos revendications», a ajouté M. Dillon, qui s'exprimait lors de la rencontre, sollicitée par George Weah, en présence de représentants de la Cédéao, de l'ONU et de responsables religieux, qui ont lancé des appels à «la paix et au dialogue».

«Je pensais que le Front des Patriotes allait exprimer ses inquiétudes aujourd'hui, mais ils disent qu'ils le feront le jour de la manifestation. C'est leur droit, mais pour moi, ces revendications auraient pu être mises sur la table lors de ce dialogue plutôt que lors d'une manifestation de rues», a regretté le Chef de l'Etat.

Au début de la rencontre, le président a indiqué qu'il avait convoqué la réunion pour écouter ce que les organisateurs de la manifestation, ainsi que les chefs religieux, les membres du corps diplomatique et les chefs traditionnels avaient à dire.

Le président Weah s'est dit prêt au dialogue dans l'intérêt supérieur de la nation. « Mais si les manifestants insistent pour descendre dans la rue, ce qui est leur droit constitutionnel, je donnerai instruction au ministre de la Justice de protéger tout le monde y compris les manifestants », a-t-il dit.

Le président Weah a cependant demandé aux Libériens de se souvenir de leur passé proche afin d'appréhender le futur tout en promouvant la paix et la quiétude sociale.

À propos des listes de questions qu'il a reçues après une réunion au Sénat concernant la situation politique actuelle, le président Weah a fait remarquer que certaines de ces questions sont des questions d'ordre général tandis que les autres sont d'ordre personnel. En ce qui concerne les questions d'ordre général et relatives à l'économie, le gouvernement va se pencher là-dessus de manière progressive, a fait savoir le chef de l'Etat.

« Mais il est regrettable qu'aujourd'hui, qu'ils ne puissent pas faire de déclaration, qu'ils aient choisi de faire part de leurs préoccupations pendant la manifestation », a regretté le président Weah.

Quant à la vice-présidente Jewel Howard - Taylor, elle exhorte le COP à donner au gouvernement une chance d'examiner certaines des questions qu'il soulève, notant que ces problèmes ne sont pas des problèmes personnels mais des problèmes nationaux.

Elle a attiré l'attention du COP sur le fait que le gouvernement est institué pour examiner les défis, les opportunités et les menaces et trouver une solution à ces problèmes.

L'Ambassadeur de la CEDEAO au Libéria, Babatunde Ajisomo, a déclaré que le dialogue est important car il ramène la CEDEAO à son rôle au Libéria, rappelant que des hommes et des femmes servant le bloc régional ont perdu la vie alors qu'ils tentaient de sauver leurs frères et sœurs libériens lors du conflit dont ils ne savaient rien.

Le coordonnateur des Nations Unies au Libéria, Yacoub El Hillo, a, pour sa part, déclaré que le dialogue envoyait au monde entier le message qu'aujourd'hui, les Libériens choisissent la force du dialogue pour résoudre leur différence et non la force des armes. Il reconnaît cependant au peuple le droit de manifester pourvu que cela se fasse de manière pacifique. «Le 7 juin est une bonne chose car cela montre à quel point le gouvernement du Libéria reconnaît à tout moment qu'il existe un droit inscrit dans la Constitution pour la manifestation pacifique. C'est pourquoi le 7 juin est effectivement soutenu et que le 7 juin devrait être autorisé ; le 7 juin devrait être donné à la population de ce pays pour qu'elle puisse présenter une pétition à son gouvernement d'une manière pacifique, ordonnée et organisée, menée en étroite coordination avec les autorités compétentes du pays », a déclaré Yacoub El Hillo.

Le représentant de l'Union africaine à la table ronde a abordé dans le même sens que son homologue de l'ONU, déclarant que la protestation est un droit. Il appelle toutefois les uns et les autres à la prudence étant donné le passé récent de ce pays. « Nous devons regarder ce que le Libéria a vécu, les 14 années de guerre civile brutale et la récente crise d'Ebola, entre autres », a-t-il mis en garde.

Interrogé par la presse, Darius Dillon a récusé toute intention de «perturber la paix» et expliqué qu'un dialogue serait «peut-être» possible si un audit sur la conduite en 2018 d'une opération monétaire controversée pour injecter dans l'économie 25 millions de dollars américains était publié. Le 7 mai, George Weah avait affirmé que ce rapport serait rendu public «prochainement».



La commission électorale veut que le budget électoral soit adopté

Alors que les prétendants aux élections partielles du Comté de Montserrado se bousculent pour déposer leur candidature,

la Commission électorale nationale (NEC) attend avec impatience l'adoption du budget de 2,5 millions de dollars US présenté au parlement libérien.

En vertu de la loi sur les élections, les candidats sont

tenus de soumettre des copies de la liste de leurs supporters au niveau de la commission électorale et publier une autre copie dans plusieurs quotidiens locaux avant d'être qualifiés pour participer aux élections.

Les prochaines élections sénatoriales et législatives partielles du comté de Montserrado ont été provoquées par le décès de la sénatrice Geraldine Doe-

Sherifà Accra (Ghana) le 10 février des suites d'une longue maladie et du député Adolph Lawrence, représentant du district 15.

Le responsable de la NEC, Prince Dunbar, a déclaré que la commission travaillait de concert avec les partis politiques et les candidats indépendants, en attendant patiemment que le parlement national adopte le budget présenté récemment pour le scrutin.

Selon lui, la commission électorale continue de s'entretenir avec les principales parties prenantes du processus électoral afin que les scrutins se déroulent dans de bonnes conditions.

« La commission serait ravie si l'Assemblée législative examinait le budget en temps utile pour que le processus se déroule le 2 juillet 2019, comme prévu », a-t-il souhaité,

avant d'ajouter : « Compte tenu de la saison des pluies, qui est déjà en cours, il serait bon si l'Assemblée législative accélère l'adoption du budget pour que ces élections se déroulent comme prévu ».



Français

Le peuple n'a pas besoin de l'accord du gouvernement avant de manifester sa colère

Les organisateurs de la manifestation prévue le 7 juin prochain préviennent que le peuple n'a pas besoin de permis ou d'agrément avant de descendre dans la rue pour exprimer sa colère.

Le sénateur Daniel Naatehn, président national du National Alternative Congress (ANC, opposition), exhorte le ministre de la Justice et procureur général du Libéria, Me Frank Musa Dean, à relire correctement la Constitution libérienne de 1986 « avant de faire des déclarations qui risquent de jeter le discrédit sur le système judiciaire du pays ».

S'exprimant mardi au siège de l'ANC à Sinkor, le sénateur Naatehn a demandé au ministre Dean de préciser « où un ministre

avec les institutions / associations agréées en vertu de la législation libérienne, par l'intermédiaire de leurs bureaux légaux, c'est pourquoi nous vous demandons de nous fournir des documents juridiques établissant le statut juridique des Patriotes, en tant qu'association dûment constituée en vertu des dispositions de la loi sur les associations du Libéria ».

Mais le sénateur Naatehn, invoquant l'article 1 de la Constitution, a affirmé que le pouvoir est investi au peuple et que si le peuple souhaite manifester pacifiquement, le gouvernement n'a d'autre choix que d'accéder à cette demande sans délai ni refus.

L'article 1 de la Constitution libérienne



de la Justice dira aux manifestants de s'inscrire en vertu de la loi avant d'organiser une manifestation? ».

Il a fait valoir que les manifestants pacifiques n'ont pas besoin de permis ou d'agrément avant de descendre dans la rue.

Pour rappel, le 2 mai, le ministre de la Justice avait signé une lettre mettant en cause la légitimité du groupe qui se fait appeler Conseil des patriotes (COP). Dans cette lettre, le ministre demandait au groupe de montrer ses statuts, des documents juridiques indiquant qu'il s'agissait d'une institution ou d'une association dûment constituée.

Le ministre a écrit : « Le Ministère de la Justice est légalement tenu de traiter

stipule en partie que tout pouvoir appartient au peuple ; et que tous les gouvernements libres sont institués par son autorité et à son profit et qu'ils a le droit de les modifier et de les réformer lorsque sa sécurité et son bonheur l'exigent.

Dans le même temps, l'ANC affirme que la manifestation, qui a été approuvée par la coalition de quatre partis politiques de l'opposition, sera dépourvue de violence.

A M. Naatehn d'expliquer que la protestation ne consiste pas à exiger la démission du président Weah, mais plutôt à exiger des réformes significatives et l'amélioration des conditions de vie des Libériens.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Mark Suzman

Comment Nelson Mandela a fait plier l'histoire

SEATTLE - Voici vingt-cinq ans se tenaient en Afrique du Sud les premières élections libres depuis la fin de l'apartheid. Le Congrès national africain (African National Congress - ANC) et son chef, Nelson Mandela, devenu président, commencèrent de retisser un pays désuni. Alors que l'Afrique du Sud vient d'achever sa sixième consultation électorale générale, il n'est pas inutile de rappeler le formidable héritage légué par Mandela.

En 1994, jeune journaliste au Financial Times, j'étais chargé de suivre le dirigeant du Congrès panafricain (Pan Africanist Congress - PAN) Clarence Makwetu, et notamment le moment où il glisserait son bulletin dans l'urne. Makwetu n'avait pas intérêt à la réconciliation. Durant l'apartheid, la branche militaire du PAC avait fait sien le slogan « un colon, une balle » et ses membres appelaient à rejeter « tous les blancs à la mer ».

Aucun sondage des électeurs noirs n'avait jamais été réalisé avant ces élections, et ceux dont nous disposions n'étaient guère fiables ; certains créditaient Makwetu et son parti d'un quart des intentions de votes. Beaucoup s'inquiétaient qu'un tel résultat ne déclenche une éruption de violence, et il semblait bien que cela dût être le cas.

Le matin même où vota Makwetu, un extrémiste blanc mécontent fit exploser une bombe à l'aéroport de Johannesburg. La guerre en ex-Yougoslavie faisait alors rage et le génocide rwandais était dans ses premières semaines ; les médias internationaux se précipitèrent sur ce qu'ils pensaient devoir se transformer en nouvelle histoire sanglante : une guerre civile imminente en Afrique du Sud entre extrémistes blancs de droite et extrémistes noirs de gauche.

Bien sûr, cette guerre ne survint pas. Quatre ans seulement après avoir été libéré de prison - où il avait été enfermé vingt-sept ans pour sédition -, Mandela est porté au pouvoir avec 60 % des mandats, tandis que Makwetu et le PAC atteignent à peine 1 %. Mais cela ne signifie pas que le résultat - le vote ou l'accession de Mandela à la présidence - était inéluctable.

Une fois l'encre sèche, l'histoire se confond toujours avec le destin. Il est difficile d'imaginer aujourd'hui un monde où Mandela n'aurait pas relevé l'Afrique du Sud des ruines de l'apartheid et jeté les fondations d'une nation unie. Mais en 1994, l'Afrique du Sud était un nid de tensions et de divisions, dont beaucoup paraissaient insurmontables.

Dans les semaines qui précédèrent le scrutin, l'ancien secrétaire d'État Henry Kissinger conduisit un groupe de personnalités internationales pour tenter une médiation entre différents partis politiques du pays et le parti Inkatha de la liberté à dominante zouloue, qui promettait de boycotter les élections. Kissinger avait à peine quitté sa chambre d'hôtel à Johannesburg qu'il s'affirmait quitte : « La médiation n'a jamais commencé - déclara-t-il -, elle n'a donc pas échoué. »

À ce moment, l'échec semblait pourtant inévitable. Il l'eût probablement été sans Mandela. Quelques jours avant le scrutin, il contribua à persuader l'Inkatha de renoncer au boycott. C'était un facteur indispensable de sa victoire - et des formidables progrès réalisés depuis par l'Afrique du Sud.

Vingt-cinq ans après son élection, et près de cent un ans après sa naissance, Mandela a laissé le souvenir d'un homme d'État, d'un libérateur, d'une icône et

d'un saint laïc. Mais avant d'être l'une ou l'autre de ces figures, il fut un homme politique, doué pour construire des coalitions et pour séduire ses opposants.

Des années plus tard, j'ai vu Lincoln, le film biographique que Stephen Spielberg a réalisé en 2012, où il peint le seizième président des États-Unis comme un animal politique. Lincoln avait une grande et noble mission - déclarer hors la loi l'esclavage dans la Constitution des États-Unis - mais il ne dédaigna pas l'astuce, voire les caresses, pour remplir sa tâche. Tandis que défilait le générique, j'ai pensé : « Mandela était ainsi. »

Comme Lincoln, Mandela pensait que l'histoire ne faisait pas toujours plier les gens, que parfois les gens pouvaient faire plier l'histoire. Et il a décidé qu'il le prouverait.

Cette figure-là de Mandela - plus que celle du saint - est celle dont je préfère chérir la mémoire. Car s'il fallait un saint pour résoudre un problème en apparence aussi difficile que l'apartheid, quelle chance aurions-nous d'y réussir, nous autres humains ? Mais si un travailleur acharné, un battant, un optimiste aussi charmant que déterminé peut faire la différence, alors nous pouvons tous prendre notre part à la création d'un monde meilleur.

Ce sentiment est dans ma propre carrière une force motrice. Peu de temps après que Mandela quitta la présidence, en 1999, j'écrivis pour le FT un article - j'étais alors en poste à Washington - où j'insistai sur ce qui me semblait être la sclérose des Nations Unies. J'attirai l'attention de la nouvelle direction du programme de l'ONU pour le développement, qui convenait que l'organisation nécessitait des changements et m'appela pour y contribuer.

Lorsque j'acceptai mes fonctions à l'ONU, je ne pensais pas y rester longtemps ; je ne pris qu'une année de congé du journalisme. Dix-huit ans plus tard, je travaille toujours pour le développement mondial, aujourd'hui à la Fondation Bill et Melinda Gates. Si je regarde en arrière, il m'apparaît clairement que mon changement d'orientation fut conduit, dans une large mesure, par ce que Mandela aurait pu me demander de faire : « Pas plus l'esclavage ou l'apartheid - a-t-il déclaré -, la pauvreté n'est naturelle. Elle peut être surmontée et éliminée par l'action des êtres humains. »

Nous l'avons vu au cours des vingt années passées : le taux de pauvreté dans le monde a chuté de trois quarts, en grande partie grâce au développement économique rapide de l'Asie. En Afrique, si les progrès ont été inégaux, les taux de pauvreté de certains pays - comme l'Éthiopie, la Tanzanie, le Ghana et le Rwanda - ont chuté de deux tiers, voire plus. La réduction de la mortalité infantile et post-natale et les progrès de l'éducation sont encore plus nets et répandus.

L'Afrique du Sud, quant à elle, lutte encore avec l'héritage de l'apartheid ; l'essor d'une classe moyenne noire n'a pas suffi à compenser les disparités croissantes de revenu, d'éducation et d'accès aux soins de santé en fonction de l'appartenance raciale. Le pays fait néanmoins mieux, selon presque tous les critères, qu'il y a vingt-cinq ans. L'élection qui vient de s'achever est l'ultime preuve de ce progrès : personne ne craignait de troubles, quel que fût son résultat.

Mandela avait raison : la souffrance peut être vaincue par les actions des êtres humains. Une personne, même à elle seule, peut faire plier l'histoire.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Call to sanction protest leaders

-Sando Johnson, Yekeh Kolubah, Oscar Cooper, others profiled

By Winston W. Parley

A conglomeration of youth and student-based groups is profiling key figures leading efforts to hold the pending June 7 protest for their alleged roles in Liberia's brutal past, announcing plans to ask the United Nations to issue serious travel bans against the targeted individuals.

"And mind you, I personally with a history of peace, I'm going to be engaging the United Nations along with my colleagues, asking for travel ban on some of these guys," Federation of Liberian Youth (FLY) president Amos Williams told a joint press conference in Monrovia Wednesday, 15 May.

In a joint statement read by Mano River Youth Parliament (MRUYP) Liberian office Speaker Mohammed A. Massaley, FLY, MRUYP and the Liberian National Student Union (LINSU) profiled Bomi Sen. Sando Johnson, Margibi County Sen. Oscar Cooper, Businessman Benoni Urey and Montserrado County Rep. Yekeh Kolubah as individuals that have no moral rectitude



Sen. Sando Johnson



Rep. Yekeh Kolubah

to demand a protest to save the state.

The joint statement by FLY, LINSU and MRUYP came Wednesday after a dialogue between President George Manneh Weah and June 7 protest organizers Council of Patriots (COP) ended in deadlock on Tuesday, 14 May in Monrovia.

The group questions COP's wisdom of insisting on staging a protest despite being called

to a dialogue with President Weah, seeking answers to what the actual motives of the protesters are.

In an attempt to convince Liberians to disembark from the June 7 protest, the group narrates that Sen. Sando Johnson was a strong supporter of imprisoned former President Charles Ghankay Taylor who headed the rebel faction-National patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) that allegedly

burned several towns and villages in Bomi, causing several deaths.

The group also cites Sen. Oscar Cooper as another associate of warlord and former President Taylor.

Further, the group says Benoni Urey as staunch supporter of the NPFL was also indicted by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) recommendations for alleged economic crimes, while Rep. Yekeh Kolubah also allegedly operated as combatant in the Liberian civil war.

According to LUNSU, FLY and MRUYP, Rep. Kolubah served as a police officer and stalwart of the infamous "SOD" during the regime of imprisoned former President Taylor.

The group claims that the targeted individuals in the COP are always associated with un-nationalistic, unpatriotic and counterproductive undertakings "to cause chaos at the detriment of the ordinary people."

Reading the joint statement, MRUYP speaker Mohammed Massaley cautions the ring leaders of the June 7 protest and all concern to disembark from the process because Liberia's peace is fragile and the economy unfavorable.

He recalls that the infamous April 14, 1979 Rice Riot turned violent, claimed the lives of several Liberians and eventually toppled President William R. Tolbert's regime on 12 April 1980.

"But let us send this caveat that anyone who jeopardizes

our peace and precipitates chaos while their wives and children are peacefully living in the US and other countries shall not go with impunity," Massaley warns.

He observes that most of the ring leaders of the June 7 protest are key members of major opposition political parties here, but his frustration is that these parties are silent while their partisans allegedly instill fears in Liberians.

For his part, FLY president Amos Williams recalls how he grew up during the days of war in Liberia saying, he does not want this to have this experience again.

"We'll be calling for them to be placed on serious travel ban as a way of deterrence for them," Williams stresses.

He says they are calling for peaceful dialogue instead of protest, warning against reverting to the past.

The group announces that it is working with young people in the communities to spread peace messages.

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 Weah's regime are saying they will protest and make demands for some reforms here.

Panic has been growing among Liberians over the pending June 7 Protest, prompting suggestions from different quarters of the society for a dialogue between the government and the protesters.

Living in fear

When Ms. Weyatta Ulla Metzger house gutted fire on June 14, 2018, she initially thought it was a mere accident. Therefore when an initial police report came back inconclusive on June 15,

neighbor's apartment (Apt-1) and extended to Ms. Metzger apartment (Apt-2), at about 1 PM Thursday, while she was at work. As a result of the fire, she lost all her documents along with other valuables.

containing a multiple V-1 Canadian visa, assorted documents including land deed, a Bsc and Master degrees, cash of US8000, and LRD250,000.

She was of course



2018 with the cause of fire not being established, Ms. Metzger didn't worry much until she began to receive anonymous calls threatening her life.

The fire started from a

Ms. Metzger did not only lost her home but everything including gold jewelries valued at US25,000, one iPad tablet valued at US1000, an ordinary Liberian Passport (L153858) valued at US50,

devastated but had no clue that more was still ahead of her. According to Ms. Metzger who displayed police reports, and letters in the offices of the New Dawn on Tuesday April 2, 2019, the unknown caller has

issued repeated death threats and sometimes insinuates that next time it won't be fire and threatening comments that make her to rethink the entire fire incident on that fateful June 14-something which has traumatized her the more.

Ms. Metzger who was pursuing another Masters in International Relations at the State run University had not been able to resume her studies since the fire incident amid the repeated threats.

She said she has filed complaints to the police but without a number to show since the caller usually put the number on private before calling not much has been done. Now she fears for her dear life, especially in an environment where armed robbers often target homes leaving female victims rape

and wounded.

But there could be other factors which Ms. Metzger may not be looking at-that is her involvement in female activism-advocating against female genital mutilation something that is an issue for many young women here who hailed from traditional backgrounds. Many parents from traditional backgrounds usually would compare their girls to be initiated.

Sometimes these come with abduction of these girls to force them in to the Sandy society especially within the traditional communities (leeward) parts of the country.

However, closed family source told this paper that some relatives of Ms. Metzger are pursuing her initiation into the sandy society where FGM are practice.

Visit: www.thenewdawnliberia.com

Opposition picks Dillon, Urey for by-elections

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Four collaborating political parties here endorse a daughter of businessman-turned politician Telia Urey and Abraham Darius Dillon of the Liberty Party as their candidates for the 02 July Montserrado County Senatorial and Representative by-elections, respectively.

Ms. Urey, daughter of former presidential candidate Benoni Urey of the All Liberian Party is being picked to contest for the House in Montserrado County Electoral District #15, while Dillon goes for the senate.

The parties include the former ruling Unity Party of former Vice President Joseph Boakai, opposition Liberty Party of Cllr. Charles Brumskine, the Alternative National Congress of ex-corporate executive, Alexander Cummings and the All Liberian Party of businessman-turned politician Benoni Urey.

In a news conference Wednesday, 15 May at the ANC headquarters in Monrovia, national chairman

Senator Daniel Naatehnotes that following consultation and in-house discussions among hierarchy of the four collaborating parties, they have agreed to support both individuals for the by-elections.

Dillon, who once contested here, but lost to the late Senator Geraldine Doe Sherif of the Congress for Democratic Change in 2009, says he

(Dillon) was rookie then in politics especially, seeking for an elective post.

But he explains that he is now well familiar and his name has become a household name in every home and community, so the time is ripe for him to try his popularity.

He promised if elected, his first campaign will be disclosure of full salary, allowance and benefit of

lawmakers for the sake of transparency and accountability.

The Liberty Party Vice Chairman for political affairs also vows to fight for cut of lawmakers' salaries and benefits, suggesting that the best pay for a lawmaker should be US\$5,000 per month, and that anything beyond would be dissentious to the Liberian people, who elect them.

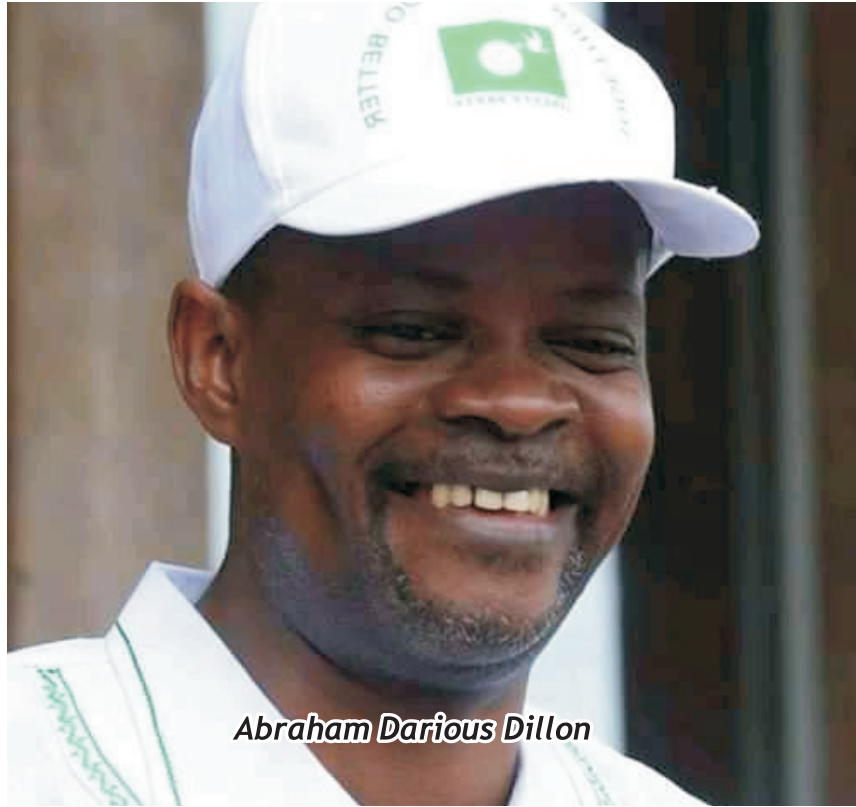
For her part, MsTelia Urey says her work and full participation in the district will elect her to the Capitol. Asked about a residency clause within the district, Telia reveals that she owns property in the district and had resided

there since.

She promises if elected, to work with young people by bringing employment, asking investors to come invest, and to network at home and abroad to ensure smooth working relationship with the people.

The two by-elections are in response to vacant seats created as a result of the death of Senator Geraldine Doe Sherif, who battled a protracted cancer and the demise of Representative Adolph Lawrence in a tragic motor accident along the Roberts International highways, respectively in February and March this year.

Editing by Jonathan Browne



Abraham Darius Dillon

Allow June 7 protest

By Winston W. Parley

In the wake of jittering among Liberians regarding a planned June 7 protest, the United Nations expresses confidence that all Liberians want to fight for peace and not any other war, ruling out fears that protesters' assembly next month could spark conflict here. He urges the government to allow the protest.

"June 7 is a good thing," UN Resident Coordinator Yacoub El Hillo, said adding, "and actually a

demonstration that the Government of Liberia [recognizes] at all time that there is an enshrined right in the Constitution for peaceful protest. That's why June 7 is actually supported, and June 7 should be allowed to take course. June 7 should be given to the people of this country to actually petition their government in a peaceful, orderly and organized way that is conducted in close coordination with the appropriate authorities in the country.

Addressing a peace

dialogue called by President George Manneh Weah with protest organizers Council of Patriots (COP) on Unification Day, 14 May, the UN Resident Coordinator, said in spite of all the sensations that accompany June 7, he believes that it is another peaceful day where Liberians will be given the opportunity as given them by the Constitution to convey their message.

Under the leadership of Justice Minister Frank Musa Dean, Mr. El Hillo says several meetings have been held in the last several months with the protest organizers for a peaceful protest.

Further, he says under the leadership of President Weah, all Liberians want to fight for peace and not any other war, stating that peace is paramount and priority.

Mr. El Hillo expresses believe that all Liberians including government, the opposition and civil servants are on the same side of getting the country move forward.

He believes that the dialogue between President Weah and the COP sends a message to the world that today, Liberians are choosing the force of logic to solve their difference, and not the logic of force.

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

not submitted any budget to that august body for approval as reported by the New Dawn newspaper.

The NEC says, currently its Commissioners and Financial Team are working with authorities of the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning to ensure that the joint budget of USD2.5 million dollars for the Montserrado County Senatorial and Representative By-elections is approved.

Meanwhile, the National Elections Commission says it remains committed to providing updates on the conduct of the joint Montserrado County By-

elections through its regular press briefings and conferences, and at the same time the Commission remains open to the public, including the media to seek or provide any relevant information relating to the functions of the Commission.

Editor's note: The reporter should have ensured that whatever conversation held if there were any - put the speaker on record something he did not prove to the editorial body. Therefore he has been reprimanded. The New Dawn takes its credibility very seriously and does not condoned such unethical practices.

NEC reacts to

Starts from back page

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Pres. Weah and UN Resident Coordinator Yacoub El Hillo

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reasons why opposition and critics of President Weah's regime are saying they will protest and make demands for some reform here.

However, the first dialogue with the COP did not see the discussions ending now, as the group's official spokesperson and official of opposition Liberty Party Abraham Darius Dillon briefly asks President Weah at the dialogue for protection of the protesters comes June 7.

Dillon says the COP will present its grievances to the president and the government during its protest beginning June 7.

But the outcome of the meeting did not please President Weah, though he leaves a room for further dialogue with the COP.

In an effort to persuade the COP, President Weah raises concern on the economic consequences incurred every time protesters get into the

streets.

He informs the COP that paving a community road costs about three to four hundred thousand dollars; but it costs the government US\$1m plus to guard protesters when people get into the street.

He laments that this money could be used to fix community roads instead of putting security in the street.

President Weah indicates that as long "we" continue to protest, there will be of course, economic consequences, urging the COP to be mindful that this is also helping to bring the economy down.

He says his government inherited a bad economy and he has been trying to revamp it, citing the issuance of three executive orders to tackle economic issues, among others.

Besides, President Weah is concerned that if going in the street will not be chaotic, it will also disturb businesses.

Resignation a hoax!



Minister Samuel Tweah

Reports that Finance and Development Planning Minister Samuel Tweah is being coerced to resign his post as minister has been rubbished and described as a hoax.

A local online paper the Independent Probe reported a story in which it quoted multiple sources suggesting that the minister was parking of the treasury building following intense pressure

from President George Weah to do so.

Minister Tweah has been allegedly muddled in the USD25m mopping up exercise. Though he has repeatedly denied any wrong doing, most have called for his resignation or sacking.

Thus the speculation and the interest in his alleged resignation came as no surprise.

A special assistant to Mr.

Tweah, who declined to give credence to the story told this paper Wednesday that at no time the Minister has been asked to resign or has he intimated his resignation from his current portfolio.

This paper received multiple calls from individuals both home and abroad on Sunday seeking confirmation over Tweah's alleged resignation.

Man City at risk of Champions League ban

Uefa financial investigators are reportedly expected to press ahead with recommendations for a Champions League ban against Manchester City within the next week.

Yves Leterme, the chairman and chief investigator of Uefa's club financial control body, has been leading the review into evidence surrounding an alleged £60million payments deception detailed during the Football Leaks scandal last autumn.

Telegraph Sport disclosed in January how European football's governing body was

considering a suspension against the Premier League champions over potential breaches in Financial Fair Play rules. City deny any wrongdoing.

The New York Times now reports that investigation will conclude this week or next week, and is set to recommend a ban from the Champions League of at least one season.

The investigatory chamber is said to have finalised its conclusions two weeks ago in Nyon, Switzerland. A Uefa spokesman said it was unable to comment on a live investigation.



NEC reacts to New Dawn's story

Authorities of the National Elections Commission (NEC) strongly react to a front-page story published in Wednesday, 15 May 2019 edition of the New Dawn newspaper, captioned "NEC wants electoral budget passed", terming it as false and misleading.

According to NEC, the paper falsely attributes the source of the story to its

Acting Communications Director, Prince Dunbar.

But the Commission in a rebuttal clarifies that at no time did New Dawn Reporter Emmanuel Mondaye, authored of the story, have an interview with Acting Communications Director Dunbar or any authority of the NEC.

In a press release, the Commission clarifies that by law it has submitted a joint By-election budget of USD2.5



million dollars to the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, contrary to the New Dawn's story that the Commission has submitted an electoral budget to the Legislature for passage.

The Commission wonders how it can ask the Legislature to give timely consideration to the passage of its budget when it has



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