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Chief Justice Korkpor



Cllr. Tiawan Gongloe

P11

Chief Justice muscles Cllr. Gongloe

Weah: Remain resilient -Amid planned protest



President George M. Weah

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Continental News

Army loses 29 soldiers to B'Haram in five months

About 29 troops of the Nigerian Army were killed in various encounters with the Boko Haram and the Islamic State West African Province fighters in the North-East between January and May 2019.

This figure is obtained from official records of the Nigerian Army Headquarters, Abuja, and from military sources, detailing insurgents' attacks, especially on military bases in the region.

Despite efforts by Operation Lafiya Dole and Operation Yancin Tafki involving troops of Niger Republic, Chad and Cameroon, Boko Haram's affiliation with the ISWAP fighters seems to make them more daring in attacking military bases.

During the general elections, specifically February 23 Presidential and National Assembly elections, the army confirmed an attack by the terrorists on its

outpost in the Geidam area of Yobe State. "A futile attack on a security outpost in Geidam general Area has been recorded. We don't have any casualty," the army spokesman, Col Sagir Musa, had said. On January 23, the army recorded the first

casualties when Boko Haram fighters, in a convoy of at least five gun trucks, attacked Geidam in Yobe State and killed eight soldiers. During the attack, the insurgents attacked some security men attached to the Mai Idris Aloom Polytechnic in the

community. In February, there were failed attacks on military outposts with no recorded casualty.

In March, however, the terrorists intensified attacks on the Banki area of Borno State, with the 7 Division's Deputy Director Public Relations, Col Ado Isa, confirming that the terrorists attempted to infiltrate the location of troops of the 152 Battalion on March 11.

On April 26, three soldiers were killed and scores feared missing after the Boko Haram terrorists attacked a Forward Operating Base in Mararrabar Kimba. At the base were also deployed troops of the 254 Battalion and 25 Task Force Brigade. The army did not confirm losing soldiers in Mararrabar Kimba. However, on May 5, the army confirmed that five soldiers were killed in an attack by the ISWAP fighters on a military base in the Magumeri Local Government

Area of Borno State.

Military sources claimed that in that incident, 15 soldiers were killed, while the insurgents also carted away some ammunition from the base. A captain and a lieutenant were reportedly among those killed.

The Deputy Director, Army Public Relations, Col Ezindu Idima, who confirmed the death of five soldiers, noted that the terrorists attacked Magumeri in search of food supplies.

Idima stated, "The criminals came in numbers to infiltrate the Magumeri village in order to loot food items and other valuables. The troops effectively thwarted the terrorists' plan through their superior fire power.

"During the encounter, the troops exterminated scores of the insurgents and many escaped with gunshot injuries. Unfortunately, five soldiers paid the supreme price. AFP



UAE pens protest letter to Kenya demanding compensation

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has reportedly penned a protest letter to the government of Kenya demanding compensation for losses incurred in a fake gold scam involving senior Kenyan politicians and state officials.

The UAE government is

alleged to be asking for a jaw-dropping KSh 4 billion as compensation to the aggrieved Royal family, a demand that is feared could trigger a diplomatic row between the two countries.

The said letter was allegedly sent after reports emerged Kenyan custom officials were holding at Jomo

Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) gold consignment belonging to Ali Zandi, owner of Dubai-based gold trading company, Zlivia, which has connections with Saudi royal family. According to the Africa Report magazine and other regional and international news outlets, Zandi had entered into a deal with flamboyant Kenyan businessman and politician Zaheer Jhanda who assured him he could source gold from Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and deliver it to him in Dubai. Zandi was then later told his gold had been confiscated by Kenyan authorities at JKIA, after which the Dubai-based businessman allegedly wired KSh 250 million (US\$2.5 million) to have his consignment, estimated to be worth KSh 30 billion, released.

It is understood the foreign businessman was involved in the deal with a number of Kenyan businessmen besides Jhanda, his main partner in Kenya.

Several months later, Zandi had not received his gold, and

it was increasingly becoming clear he had been conned by his Kenyan partners amid reports that consignments of fake gold had been seized in Nairobi by detectives from the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI). Interestingly, Jhanda who is a person of interest in the explosive multi-million gold scam dismissed reports indicating the consignment was being held at the airport. According to him, the gold was yet to leave Congo.

"The company contracted me for my consultancy services, which was purely based on advisory on taxation and exportation of the gold that was to come from the Democratic Republic of Congo," he told Citizen TV.

The 40-year-old Jhanda who vied for Nyaribari Chache parliamentary seat in 2013 and tried again in 2017 but lost in both cases, further claimed he had never done gold business in his life before, and that this was the first time he was involved in such a business. He disclosed he actually holds a 12% share in Zlivia, the company that is

said to be the complainant in the fake gold scam.

His work, Jhanda explained, was to make sure the goods had arrived and that they paid taxes to the government so they could export above board.

"You cannot have gold worth KSh 30 billion in Kenya and the government is not aware about it," he said in protest to allegations he was part of the fake gold racket that was defrauding foreign investors millions of shillings.

Also implicated in the scam was Senator Moses Wetang'ula whose phone conversation with a man believed to be Zandi was recorded and shared on social media where it attracted massive reaction from Kenyans.

Mentioned in the now controversial audio clip were President Uhuru Kenyatta, Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i and former prime minister Raila Odinga. The viral clip appeared to suggest the president, the ODM party leader and CS Matiang'i were part of the fake gold racket. AFP



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EDITORIAL

Tightening grip on all 3 branches

WITH SENATE PRESIDENT Pro-Tempore Albert Chie's declaration of membership for the governing Coalition for Democratic Change, the CDC has a firm grip on both the Executive and the Legislature, and is well on its way to presiding over the judiciary, if not already.

IT IS OBVIOUS that the ruling party automatically runs the Executive, while the Legislature provides check and balance in line with the Constitution, but not in this case right now.

NOW THAT BOTH the Speaker and the Senate Pro-Tempore are partisans of the ruling Coalition, absolute power is successfully being entrenched in Liberia. It is just matter of time when contrary views or thoughts would be crushed or silenced at all levels of our society.

THE JUDICIARY IS tilting on one toe, with the impeachment of Justice Kabina Ja'neh and his subsequent replacement by now Justice Yusif D. Kaba, and it is only a matter of time that a CDCian could emerge at the helm of the judiciary.

THIS SHOULD BE scaring for people with dissenting thoughts, as they just wouldn't have any place to express themselves and to be heard, not even at the 54th Legislature or the Judiciary.

WE CAN DEDUCE clearly where this is going: War and Economic Crimes Tribunal for Liberia? Not possible with CDCians at the control of all three branches of the Liberian government. Liberians should brace themselves for even more difficult times with the international community, as culture of impunity is on its way to become official policy here.

WHEN THE RULING establishment takes complete control of all three separate but coordinate branches of government, as is being hatched, then it loses sight of the plight of the people and instead, becomes cheering squad of the President.

UNDER SUCH LEADERSHIP style, tyranny and dictatorship become order of the day, as no one dares speak otherwise. Already, dissenting views from opposition lawmakers at the House are being crushed under the watch of Speaker Chambers, a stalwart of the ruling CDC.

LIBERIA RISKS REVERSING to the days of the grand old True Whig Party (TWP) that held onto power in this country for over a century, if care is not taken.

WHO IS THERE to thoroughly and independently scrutinize the national budget, including income and expenditure of the Executive when only CDCians preside over the affairs of State? Liberians should take cue from the current state of affairs in their country and think twice.

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

COMMENTARY

By Shlomo Ben-Ami

The Resilience of the Arab World's Pouvoir

Algeria and Sudan, neither of which was swept up in the turmoil of the 2011 Arab Spring, are now trying their luck at challenging the often-surreptitious powers that be - what Algerian demonstrators back in 1988 dubbed le pouvoir. Will Arab democracy movements fare any better than they did eight years ago?

TEL AVIV - Eight years after the Arab Spring, dreams of democracy in the Arab world have been dashed by the harsh reality of autocracy, corruption, and military rule. Yet Algeria and Sudan, neither of which was swept up in the 2011 turmoil, are now trying their luck at challenging the often-surreptitious powers that be - what Algerian demonstrators back in 1988 dubbed le pouvoir. Will Arab democracy movements fare any better this time?

In Algeria, the government's plans to reduce its robust subsidy program - a response to years of declining hydrocarbon revenues - triggered protests so potent that they drove the military to pressure President Abdelaziz Bouteflika to resign last month, after 20 years in power (six of which were spent incapacitated after a stroke). But this does not mean a fresh start for the country.

To be sure, following Bouteflika's resignation, five of Algeria's leading oligarchs were arrested, and the CEO of the state energy company was dismissed. This was followed by more high-profile arrests, including of Said Bouteflika, the ousted president's brother and Algeria's de facto leader, as well as former intelligence chiefs General Bachir Athmane Tartag and General Mohamed Mediène (better known as Toufik).

But, as badly as Algeria's military, led by General Gaid Salah, wants citizens to believe that it is dismantling the cabal of well-connected cliques that form le pouvoir, the protesters remain convinced that this is just a smokescreen. Salah should be arresting himself, shout the masses, who continue to spill out onto the streets each week, in order to demand that le pouvoir truly be swept away, so that it cannot handpick Bouteflika's successor.

Algerians know how resilient le pouvoir is. It was given this name during the 1988 Black October riots - an explosion of mass rage against a corrupt, autocratic one-party system controlled by the National Liberation Front (FLN). The government responded by ordering the security forces to crack down, resulting in some 500 deaths and more than 1,000 injured demonstrators.

The protests did drive President Chadli Bendjedid to promise to hold free elections for the first time in Algeria's history, and political parties other than the FLN were legalized in 1989. But when the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) appeared poised to defeat the FLN two years later, the elections were canceled. The military took effective control of the government and banned the FIS, arresting thousands of its members. This triggered a brutal decade-long civil war that left more than 200,000 dead - and Algeria with a military-backed government led by Bouteflika.

Algeria's experience up to this point foreshadowed the Arab Spring, during which le pouvoir's survival instinct was on stark display. Syria's pouvoir, led by Bashar al-Assad, has defended its business and tribal interests mercilessly, with the help of foreign actors that have a strategic interest in his political survival. None of them loses sleep over the more than half-million Syrians killed and millions more who have been displaced since 2011.

But there are also plenty of examples of Arab societies managing to topple secular dictatorships. Lacking a sufficiently large middle class or a strong

liberal tradition, the people then democratically elect an Islamist party. Unable to accept that outcome, le pouvoir - in this case, led by the military, without its dictator-figurehead - takes action to restore secular strongman rule.

Though militaries have often proved adept at staging coups, from Egypt to Thailand to Myanmar, they have been far less effective in securing transitions to civilian rule. This is because the military has held power all along: while it may be happy to trade one figurehead for another, it has no real interest in upending the political and economic structures it commands.

Egypt's experience exemplifies this pattern. After the 2011 ouster of Hosni Mubarak, Egyptians elected President Mohamed Morsi and his Muslim Brotherhood. By 2013, Morsi's elected government was overthrown, and Morsi's military-backed successor, Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, has been in power ever since.

Last month, Sisi's government held a sham constitutional referendum that extended his term from four years to six and lifted the two-term limit. With that, Sisi's one-man rule and the supreme authority of the military - which controls at least 30% of the economy - was solidified, and whatever remained of democratic governance in Egypt was demolished.

This pattern could be set to repeat anew in Algeria, and Sudan may well be heading toward a similar fate. Like in Algeria, mass protests drove a cabal of army officers last month to topple President Omar al-Bashir, who had been in power for 30 years.

Following a few days of confusion among the military hierarchy, General Abdel Fattah Abdelrahman Burhan, the de facto head of state, announced that the army would take charge to "uproot" the military government and prosecute those, including Bashir, responsible for killing protesters. Power, he vowed, will be handed over to a civilian government within two years.

Given the historical precedents, it is not the most convincing promise. Yet Sudan has one factor on its side: whereas the Arab League behaves essentially as a regional club of autocracies, the African Union has limited tolerance for coups d'état - a preference that might partly explain the decline in military takeovers in Africa in recent years. The AU has now threatened Sudan's new rulers with suspension from the group, unless they transfer power to a civilian authority.

Even if Sudan's military leaders succumb to AU pressure, however, political stability is far from guaranteed. For decades, le pouvoir used oil revenues to buy relative public quiescence through massive subsidies. But those reserves were concentrated in the south, and were thus lost when South Sudan seceded in 2011. And now political stability is gone.

As in Algeria, however, the struggle for genuine change is hardly over. The demonstrators in both countries have fought for the opportunity to be governed by leaders with broad popular support. But, as they attempt to redeem the promise of the Arab Spring, le pouvoir will regroup, demonstrating once again that its resilience remains the biggest obstacle to reform in the Arab world.

O-PED

By Andrew Donaldson

Can Ramaphosa Do It?

CAPE TOWN - South African President Cyril Ramaphosa led his ruling African National Congress (ANC) party to a comfortable victory in the country's parliamentary election earlier this month. But engineering the economic recovery that South Africa needs is likely to be much harder.

True, the country's banks withstood the stresses of the 2008-2009 recession, and the Reserve Bank of South Africa has kept inflation within or near a 3-6% target range for the past 20 years. But a decade of stagnating incomes, rising unemployment, and serial revelations of business wrongdoing and official corruption has fueled widespread public discontent. Little wonder, then, that the share of the vote for both the ANC and its main rival, the opposition Democratic Alliance (DA), fell amid a marked decline in turnout and rising support for left- and right-wing nationalist parties.

Moreover, the new ANC-led government will have little room to provide fiscal stimulus. Government debt is rising as a share of GDP, the country's credit ratings are under critical scrutiny, and huge shortfalls in the balance sheets of state-owned enterprises are straining public finances.

The government's growth plan must therefore go beyond ANC party ideology and narrow orthodoxies. It must emphasize private-sector investment, together with consistent and credible policy reforms, and also aim to redistribute income. And agreement on such a plan's key elements among a broad range of political leaders and other stakeholders will be crucial to success.

A government-funded research program on employment and inclusive growth, managed by the University of Cape Town's Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit, recently outlined several possible priorities. The central idea, according to Ravi Kanbur of Cornell University, is a "grand bargain" that balances short-term job creation and growth against deeper long-term structural reforms.

Urban infrastructure investment and city development should be immediate priorities, because research suggests that these are an important source of upward mobility and rising living standards. Improving basic infrastructure and services will require a mix of public and private financing, as well as improved cost recovery for urban services. But with an ANC-led national government, and three of South Africa's major cities under DA or coalition rule, political gamesmanship could stall progress.

Accelerating investment in housing is also vital. Government-sponsored housing schemes and upgrading of informal settlements should continue, but the main growth potential lies in easing barriers to private housing investment and co-financed development. Urban housing, land ownership, and associated small-business growth are important avenues for improving family wealth distribution and living standards. These require joint initiatives by government, municipal authorities, financial institutions, and developers.

With South Africa's unemployment rate currently above 25%, the government must make job creation central to its industrial and urban-development policies. Agriculture, tourism, repair and maintenance services, and more labor-intensive manufacturing all have growth potential. But, as Jim O'Neill and Raghuram Rajan have recently argued, investments in geographic areas and community development are more likely to generate lasting productivity and enterprise gains than narrowly targeted sectoral support.

The new government should also consider regulatory changes and enabling measures to support informal employment and small business growth, and should reinforce competition policy to counter incumbents' market power. Ramaphosa himself, meanwhile, has rightly endorsed a business-led "youth employment service" initiative: this needs to be expanded rapidly as a public-private partnership.

While addressing these immediate priorities, the new government must also push ahead with reforms aimed at strengthening the economy in the longer term. Three measures stand out.

First, South Africa's biggest challenge is restoring its vertically integrated electricity monopoly, Eskom, to financial health. Long delays in restructuring the energy sector, overstaffing, cost overruns, technical misspecifications in building new coal-fired power plants, and systemic governance failures have brought the state-owned utility close to bankruptcy. Large-scale refinancing must be negotiated, together with an enterprise reorganization that brings competition and market incentives into the power generation sector. Electricity tariffs must rise, and weaknesses in municipal revenue collection need to be addressed.

The restructuring that is required will be complex, costly, and contentious. But, if successful, it will go a long way toward restoring confidence in South Africa's government and economic prospects.

Second, the incoming government plans to phase in social-insurance reforms aimed at providing comprehensive income security and universal health coverage. These changes include shifts in the balance between private savings and medical insurance arrangements, and mandatory funding of statutory benefits. They also involve substantial changes in the way fiscal redistribution works. South Africa would move from "on-budget" funding of means-tested income support for the poor and public provision of health services for the uninsured to separately funded universal programs of income protection and access to health care.

These long-term reforms are needed to reinforce solidarity and reduce inequality, and to complement urbanization and modernization. But the institution-building required is formidable, and the sequencing of reforms needs careful consideration.

Finally, the new government needs to revitalize education, training, and skills development. Much of what must be done is well understood. Basic reading skills need to be taught properly in the early years, school management must be improved, and the sectorally-organized, levy-based training system should be replaced by skills academies accountable to local business chambers and employers. Centrally-driven standards and curricula are needed, along with greater decentralization of management to foster accountability and adaptation to local needs.

Ramaphosa has a long economic reform agenda and a public impatient for results. His recent decision to revive an expert policy coordination unit in the president's office is an encouraging sign. But he will need both skill and statesmanship to overcome the corruption and bureaucratic inertia holding back South Africa's economy.



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MONROVIA, LIBERIA

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Provisional List of Aspirants for the 2019 Montserrado County

Senatorial By-Elections

No.	Name of Applicant	Gender	County	Position	Party
1	COOPER, MACDELLA MACKIE	Female	Montserrado	Senate	Independent Candidate
2	DILLON, ABRAHAM DARIUS	Male	Montserrado	Senate	Liberty Party (LP)
3	DUKULY, MOHAMMED AYOUB	Male	Montserrado	Senate	Vision for Liberia Transformation (VOLT)
4	ENDERS, SAMUEL REAGEN	Male	Montserrado	Senate	Independent Candidate
5	KANYON, MASSA MASSAQUOI	Female	Montserrado	Senate	Independent Candidate
6	WEEKS, KIMMIE L	Male	Montserrado	Senate	Independent Candidate
7	WIE, PAULITA C. C	Female	Montserrado	Senate	Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC)



Republic of Liberia

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MONROVIA, LIBERIA

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PROVISIONAL LIST OF ASPIRANTS FOR THE 2019 MONTSERRADO COUNTY

DISTRICT #15 REPRESENTATIVE BY-ELECTIONS

No.	Name of Applicant	Gender	County	Position	Party	District
1	BAYOH, KELVIN MORRIS	Male	Montserrado	Representative	Independent Candidate	15
2	Fahnbulleh, Sr. Erasmus Daoda	Male	Montserrado	Representative	Vision for Liberia Transformation (VOLT)	15
3	FRANK, BISHOP SLEBO	Male	Montserrado	Representative	Independent Candidate	15
4	KAMARA, ABU BANA	Male	Montserrado	Representative	Coalition for Democratic Change	15
5	KAMARA, LAMENU CHAPY	Male	Montserrado	Representative	True Whig Party (TWP)	15
6	TUBOR, JR. AMOS NYANWLEH	Male	Montserrado	Representative	Coalition for Liberia's Progress (CLP)	15
7	UREY, TELIA J.	Female	Montserrado	Representative	All Liberian Party (ALP)	15

LIBERIANS DEBATE

With Sally Gaye

President George Manneh Weah met with leaders of the planned 07 June protest here on Tuesday, 14 May in his office at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Monrovia but the discussions ended in deadlock on the crucial issue of protesters' demands, which the President wanted at the talk, but the organizers deferred it to the day of the protest. Traditional and religious leaders, and international partners, including the United Nations, African Union and ECOWAS were in attendance. The New Dawn asks some Liberians in Monrovia to give their views on the outcome of the engagement between protesters and the President.



Aminata Grant

"For me, I think the meeting with them was very good and timely; I say this because the organizers of the protest had the opportunity to present their plights but did not do so. They abused the magic moment they had. What I strongly believe is that, they have some motives which are not in the interest of this country. The government has the responsibility under our Constitution to protect us the citizens. Any belligerent acts or forces should be resisted vehemently as the Constitution provides.

We, too, have the right to freedom of movement and association as inscribed in our organic laws."



Dowaity Dowaity

"Hold on, in the presence of witnesses, why couldn't the leaders of the protest present their concerns they want to present on June 7 and see if the President would have addressed them on the spot or given a timetable? As much as every citizen of Liberia has a right to protest and petition their government for redress, is it wrong to do the petition at a table of partners and witnesses?"

Maybe this could avoid the June 7 protest. Protests are good but come with an aftermath burden. You protest against a President, who refuses to listen to you or meet you. What a missed opportunity for the protest planners. Only the poor suffers from these kinds of protest. We have seen them before, read about them and the end results are always hardship."

Edward Juwor Bangarwo

"I don't think it was important for the President to meet them because these guys truly have no clear basis for the agitation. All they want is to stir up trouble and 'chakla' [disrupt] the country so that transitional government will take over and they will again butcher Mama Liberia. That was their plan during the elections and they are committed to hatching it.



It is evident in the fact that they failed to discuss their grievances with the President; further, they are using cash by luring people in massive recruitment drive. Protest is when people feel aggrieved and willingly come together to air their concerns, but wherein planners of the so-called protest have engaged in recruitment drive and forcefully conscripting people through cash violence then it is not protest; it is something else, so this Government must not grant their request because we prefer prevention to damage control especially, considering our ailing economy."

Edwin Jones

"The President sees us as people, who he can play with? Did you have meeting with President Sirleaf in recent years before carrying casket on your heads? When you were putting red oil on female underclothes, matching around here, you didn't know? We criticized Ellen's regime for high level of corruption. Not knowing this other group [is] worse than any previous government.



No corrupt leader will have rest in this country until they change their black hands.

We are not fools; reconciliation goes along with restitution. One of the reasons why current leaders as well as passed [ones] have failed to reconcile Liberia is, those who have stolen from Liberia are not willing to retribute what they have taken from us illegally."



Stephen Kapel

"Let me use this media alert to extend thanks to the President for the step toward harmonizing the situation. But instead, the larger Liberian population has got to establish from which angle the Council of PATRIOTS comes. We are closely watching with ego [eagle's] eyes. Trust me, we aren't going to make them lazy, but observe them closely.

Thanks to our noble and people centered leader. Let's be reminded that everyone of us has a responsibility to protect and defend this country, not only the President. Demonstration is not the solution. The most difficult problem on earth is to deal with human beings."

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TRC implementation good for lasting peace -UN says

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan
in Bong

The United Nations (UN) Resident Coordinator to Liberia, Yacoub El Hillo says the UN strongly believes that implementing the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) recommendations is one of the essential channels of achieving long lasting peace and fostering full reconciliation here.

Mr. El Hillo spoke recently in Gbarnga, Bong County at the National Colloquium on the Implementation of the TRC Recommendations in Liberia.

The colloquium is imperative as it strives to convene all stakeholders to agree on the way forward with the TRC recommendations.

According to Mr. El Hillo, Liberia so far has enjoyed 15 years of uninterrupted



stability crowned by the successful completion in March 2018, of an extended peacekeeping period.

"We at the United Nations believe that for the gains that have been realized to be sustainable, grievances from the past must be addressed,"

he said.

At the colloquium, Mr. El Hillo expressed the UN's commitment to continue supporting the government and the people of Liberia in their quest for lasting stability, peace and reconciliation.

The series of conversations

that will take place in the colloquium, he asserted, will hopefully contribute to the discourse.

"I therefore urge all participants to be frank, constructive and solution oriented, bearing in mind that the overarching need for peace, stability, progress and economic development of Liberia can only be sustained if Liberians speak out and dialogue on how to heal the wounds of the past," he urged the participants.

Mr. Yacoub El Hillo also told the gathering that to attain sustainable peace, there is a need for Liberians to continue to respect the right and dignity of one another, promote access to justice, ensure inclusive and equitable growth, increase basic quality services for all, and establish capable institutions able to resolve conflicts and enforce laws fairly.

The UN Envoy cautions that "In any country where the rule of law is not effectively administered," injustice, violence against women and girls, corruption, and general criminality are often endemic.

He accentuates that that rule of law in this instance presupposes remedies and redress for violations, and dedicated efforts to seek

closure to the past and forge a peaceful future.

On accountability, he says all Liberians have the right and the opportunity to discuss and agree on the restorative mechanism they want to put in place to bring closure to this important question.

"This mechanism needs not come from outside and need not be set up outside. It can be right here, led and owned by Liberians," he admonishes the participants further.

He suggests that for any country to attain enviable heights among the comity of nations, there must be sustainable peace.

He points out that the United Nations has a vision to support Liberia to become a reconciled, transformed and prosperous nation anchored on accountable institutions and equitable, inclusive sustainable development.

"This vision is achievable if all Liberians rise to the occasion of placing national interests over and above any other interest," he says.

He then expresses the UN's commitment to the government and people of Liberia towards promoting peace, stability, reconciliation and development here.--

Edited by Winston W. Parley

SOS parents celebrate Mother's Day with difference

In commemoration of Mother's Day here, mothers from the SOS Children's Village Monrovia embark on an outreach program in SD Cooper road community, outside Monrovia, educating residents, specifically women on positive discipline, good parenting, child safeguarding

disadvantage and the needy", says Mother Kantan. She indicates that the visit to the SD Cooper Road Community was initial visitations to this year's outreach activities within Monrovia and its environs. "Our focus is to provide child safeguarding and other relevant skills to parents

parents", and adds, "the minds of women need to be transformed, because our survival as women depends on our ability to adapt to new environment and to new mindsets."

As part of the outreach activities children were also taught protective behavior as well as their rights and responsibilities. Over two



Cross section of SOS mothers at the 2019 mother's day indoor program

and other relevant skills.

The head of the delegation Mother Ruthie Kantan, cautions residents about personal hygiene and sanitation.

"As we celebrate Mother's Day, we thought to reach out to residents of this community particularly the

of various communities especially, the most vulnerable," she affirms.

Speaking at the outreach program, Ruth Blamah, an SOS parent notes, "taking care of your children is your sole responsibility as parents; therefore, you need to play that role as a responsible

hundred children benefited from the outreach program and received gifts in addition to the knowledge acquired.

In appreciation, Prince Somah, Community Chairman of the SD Cooper community lauds the SOS family for selecting his community for its outreach. "The gesture of the

SOS mothers was timely and is welcoming by the women and residents of this community."

The Chairman also says the children needed all the help they could get from other partners and SOS Children's Village intervention was necessary. "The candies, biscuits, juice, cheese buds and the takeaway bags demonstrated your love for children," he asserts. Marie Zogar, chairlady for women of the community thanks the SOS mothers and describes their visitation as timely, saying, "The knowledge impacted and the gift of food items will be remembered.

The mothers of the SOS children's Village Monrovia also

participated in radio discussions on two local radio stations, providing education on similar topics.

SOS Children's Villages Liberia is a member of a global federation working to protect and care for children who have lost parental care, or who stand at risk of losing it. The organization works in 135 countries and territories, ensuring that the rights of all children, in every society, are fulfilled. The organization has been working in Liberia since 1981 and has impacted the lives of many children and working to empower vulnerable children and families.

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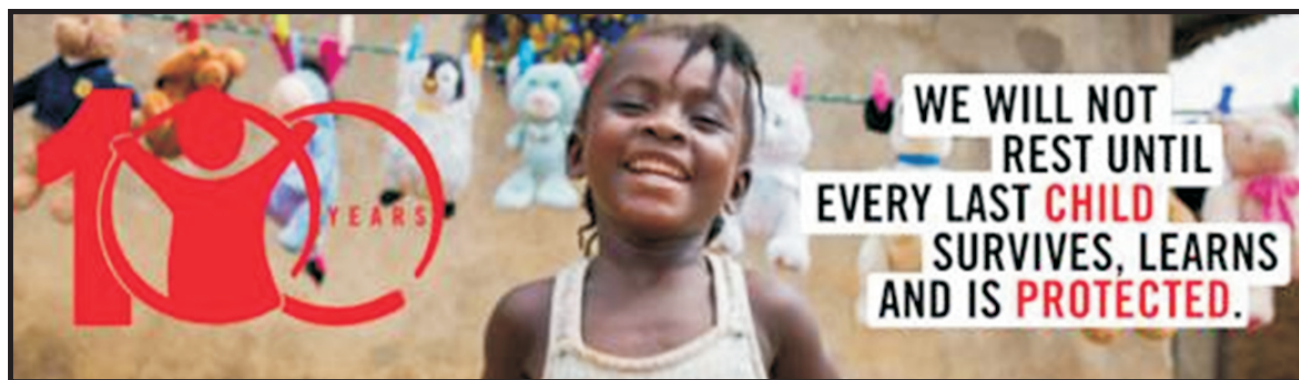
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Save the Children celebrates 100 years

Save the Children International (SCI) celebrates one hundred years of existence with an ambition to ensuring survival, education and protection of children worldwide by 2030.

Established in April 1919 by an outspoken and pioneering champion of children, Eglantyne Jebb, who stood for the rights of children and authored the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, and subsequently inspired the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Speaking at programs making the centennial



celebration at the 'All Girls Public School' in Kakata, Margibi County on May 16, 2019, the Education Advisor of Save the Children International Liberia Office, Mr. Emmanuel C. Goko, notes that since 1991 SCI has been recognized by the Liberian

government as a leading organization in child-centered programming.

Goko discloses that SCI Liberia will ensure holistic service delivery of maternal, newborn and reproductive health through the implementation of the

Essential Primary Health Services package.

"SC will promote access to basic education; strengthen community based child protection systems, including schools adherence to the MOE code of conduct, child-friendly reporting mechanisms, among others", he tells a jubilant crowd of girl students.

He further explains that SCI Liberia Programs include Health and Nutrition, Education, Child Protection and Humanitarian Response.

According to him, SCI's vision is to see a world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development and participation; adding, "Our mission is inspiring breakthroughs in the way the world treats children and achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives."

Goko continues that SCI values accountability, ambition, collaboration, creativity and integrity as commitment to children.

Save the Children International is the world's leading independent organization for children, which operates in 120 countries. In Liberia, SCI operates in seven counties, including Montserrado, Margibi, Bong, Grand Bassa, River Cess, River Gee and Grand Gedeh, respectively. - *Press Release*

First Lady Clar Weah dedicates award to Liberian women

The Winner of the SHEROES Foundation's 2019 Humanitarian Award Liberia's First Lady Clar Marie Weah, expresses deep gratitude to the international women organization for recognizing her many humanitarian initiatives here.

Speaking at the SHEROES Awards Ceremonies in Accra, Ghana on Friday, 17 May Mrs. Weah expresses gratitude to have been selected for such a great honor. "I'm so grateful for the award", she asserts in her acceptance speech, as she stood on the stage with other awardees, including former Mauritius President, Dr. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim.

"The award that I have received, I dedicate it, sincerely from the bottom of my heart to all the hard working underprivileged women and children of Liberia. These are the women whose shoulders I am standing on today," the First Lady notes.

A dispatch from Accra, Ghana, quotes the SHEROES citation

for Mrs. Weah as saying that the Liberian First Lady was awarded "In recognition of your many outstanding contributions to the development and the welfare of women and children in the Republic of Liberia."

Mrs. Weah, however, says while she welcomes the recognition, she is not complacent with the level of accomplishments, as it has been about one and a half years now since becoming First Lady, stressing that there is more to be done.

She then informs the huge gathering of her many humanitarian initiatives, all of which are aimed at improving the lives of the underprivileged people of Liberia.

The initiatives include full renovation of several orphanages and schools; provision of food and non-food supplies to orphanages and the

elderly feeding program which provides monthly assorted food rations to Liberia's senior citizens.

Madam Weah also names the ongoing construction of a 30-bedroom residential facility through the Clar Hope Foundation for the elderly and physically challenged, and the pending launch of the She's You Movement, a national advocacy campaign aimed at empowering women and building a better Liberia.

The recruitment of 30 Liberian girls for advanced training in industrial hair production in China through her Women and Girls' Empowerment Project and the pending construction of the City of Hope to educate, rehabilitate and transform disadvantaged children, youth, street girls and women, among others were also mentioned.

She says her decision to undertake such programs was based on the pressing need to help and make a positive impact on the lives of Liberians.

"When I became First Lady, I did not want to sit behind the desk and be the pretty first lady. I told my people that I want to go the orphanages and the old folk's homes because I wanted to see how they are living."

As a result of such interventions, orphans at many orphanages along with elderly people are now briefing a sigh of relief.

Mrs. Weah assured that she will continue to work harder in lifting the less fortunate Liberians out of poverty thereby, supporting her husband, President George Manneh Weah, and his government's Pro-poor Agenda

Police induct community watch team

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan
in Bong

The Liberia National Police (LNP) Bong Detachment has officially inducted into the community watch teams of Kokoyah and Dementa communities a batch of community policing officers in Gbarnga.

Our correspondent says 30 men were inducted into the teams, charged with the responsibility of aiding state securities in the reduction of crimes in their respective communities.

The induction ceremony of the Kokoyah and Dementa community watch team members took place over the weekend at the SDP intersection in Gbarnga.

Under the auspices of the LNP, members of the various community watch teams in Bong County will help to buttress the efforts of the police force in their neighborhoods.

Speaking to reporters at the end of the installation exercise, an officer of the LNP Mohammed Kromah said they intend to market the police to the communities by establishing the community watch teams as a way to track down unscrupulous individuals. At the same time, Mr. Kromah urged community dwellers to allow the establishment of the community watch teams in their respective environments.

For her part, Kokoyah and Dementa Chairlady, Musu Mulbah described the security program as welcoming.

She encouraged her fellow community dwellers to initiate the program in their areas.

Madam Mulbah added that the presence of the watch team is a total threat to would-be criminals that move during night hours.

She revealed that the watch forum will quickly respond to incidents before the intervention of state securities. -- *Edited by Winston W. Parley*



First Lady Clar Marie Weah

Visit: www.thenewdawnliberia.com

for Prosperity and Development.

In a brief statement, the Founder and Executive Director of the SHEROES Foundation, Flossy T. Menson, acknowledges that the Liberian First Lady's tremendous work, humility, and dedication to humanity are outstanding.

The SHEROES Awards Gala, which was part of the eighth

International

SHEROES Forum, took place at the Labadi Beach Hotel under the theme: "Setting New Paradigms for Women's Leadership in Africa."

First Lady Clar Weah was among several dignitaries awarded for distinguished achievements in their respective fields. - *Dispatch*

Français

Les sénateurs libériens semblent mécontents de la gratuité de l'enseignement supérieur

Il semble que les sénateurs du Libéria ne sont pas du tout contents de la décision du président George Weah de rendre gratuit les études supérieures dans les universités étatiques. Ils dénoncent une décision prise à la hâte sans procéder à la moindre consultation auprès des principaux acteurs.

La plupart des sénateurs n'ont pas caché leur déception au regard de la manière dont le président Weah a fait cette annonce en octobre 2018.

Au cours de la dernière séance parlementaire au Capitole (siège du parlement libérien), les sénateurs se sont penchés sur la politique du président de la république en ce qui concerne la gratuité des cours universitaires. Les sénateurs ont trouvé à l'unanimité que le président avait pris cette décision de manière précipitée.

Le Comité sénatorial sur l'éducation et l'administration publique, présidé par le sénateur du

comté de RiverCess, Dallas Gueh, a présenté un rapport à l'ensemble de l'assemblée plénière du Sénat, indiquant que le chef de l'exécutif n'a procédé à aucune consultation avant d'introduire cette politique à cause de laquelle l'université du Libéria est aujourd'hui confrontée à un

déficit sans précédent.

Lors d'un premier débat sur cette question, certains sénateurs ont indiqué que le président avait été mal conseillé sur l'introduction de la gratuité de l'enseignement supérieur sans prendre en considération la nécessité d'une politique de

rechange capable de compenser le manque à gagner.

Les sénateurs Varney Sherman du comté de Grand Cape Mount, Milton Teahjay du comté de Sinoe et Daniel Naatehn du comté de Gbarpolu ont proposé un certain nombre de conditions, parmi lesquelles l'obligation de servir l'Etat pour un certain nombre d'années à la fin des études universitaires des bénéficiaires de la gratuité de l'enseignement supérieur.

« Nous ne pouvons pas donner aux étudiants une éducation gratuite et demain ils quittent le Libéria et vont servir d'autres pays. Si nous voulons leur donner des cours gratuitement, il faut que nous mettions en place des mesures qui obligeront ces étudiants à servir le pays dans les différents comtés pendant au moins un an », a déclaré le sénateur Sherman.

Le sénateur Jonathan Kaipay du comté de Grand Bassa a pour sa part fait valoir que ce ne sont pas tous les étudiants des universités étatiques qui

sont sans emploi ou qui n'ont pas les moyens de payer des frais universitaires. Pour lui, le programme des cours gratuits ne devrait bénéficier qu'aux étudiants indigents qui ne sont pas à mesure de payer leurs frais universitaires.

Quant au sénateur Henrique Tokpa du comté de Bong, il a invité les autorités de l'Association des établissements d'enseignement supérieur à donner leur avis sur la question.

Cependant, la plénière a demandé au comité sénatorial sur l'éducation et l'administration publique d'organiser une réunion avec le ministre des Finances et de la Planification du développement afin de justifier la gratuité de l'université et la manière dont ils entendent faire fonctionner les universités étatiques. Pour rappel, en octobre 2018, le président Weah annonçait à la surprise générale la gratuité des cours dans toutes les universités publiques du pays.



L'inspection des permis de travail et d'autres documents a commencé

Le gouvernement du Libéria, à travers le ministère du travail, l'Administration fiscale du Libéria, le Service de l'immigration du Libéria et la Société nationale de sécurité sociale et de la protection sociale (NASSCORP), entre autres, aentamé depuis vendredi 17 mai une inspection à l'échelle nationale pour dénicher les étrangers qui sont en situation irrégulière et sont employés

dans les différentes sociétés.

Faisant l'annonce récemment à Monrovia au ministère de l'Information, le ministre du Travail, Moses Y. Kollie, a déclaré que le début de l'inspection était conforme à une déclaration commune publiée fin mars dernier par les différentes agences concernées.

Selon lui, l'inspection conjointe aurait dû commencer en mars ou avril, mais par

manque de préparations appropriées, elle avait été reportée au mois de mai.

Au ministre Kollie d'expliquer que l'idée d'une inspection conjointe vise à éviter plusieurs inspections distinctes par les institutions de l'Etat concernées. Il a dit que les inspecteurs du travail inspecteront les permis de travail, les lettres de demande, les registres de congés, les politiques d'emploi et les

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contrats, ainsi que le matériel de protection individuelle, entre autres.

Selon lui, l'inspection est destinée à veiller à ce que chaque employé soit protégé conformément à la loi de 2015 sur le travail décent au Libéria.

Pour faciliter les choses, le pays a été divisé en quatre régions. La région 1 comprend Cape Mount, Bomi et Gbarpolu. La région deux comprend les comtés de Bong, Lofa et Nimba. La région trois comprend Margibi, Grand Bassa et River Cess, tandis que la région quatre comprend les comtés de Grand Kru, Maryland, Grand Gedeh et Sinoe. Quant au comté de Montserrado, il est divisé en quatre zones.

La sous-Commissaire de la Liberia Revenue Authority chargée des affaires techniques (LRA), Mme Deontee King Sackie, a déclaré aux journalistes que la LRA fait partie de l'équipe d'inspection conformément à son mandat consistant à générer des recettes et à appliquer la loi sur les revenus chaque fois que cela s'avère nécessaire. Partout où l'équipe ira, la LRA sera là pour

veiller à ce que les recettes légitimes soient collectées à travers le pays.

Selon elle, la LRA a eu à collecter 1, 37 millions de dollars américains pour ce qui concerne l'emploi et plus de 3, 5 millions de dollars américains pour ce qui concerne l'immigration. Elle a ajouté qu'une fois cet exercice terminé, l'équipe informera à nouveau le public sur le montant collecté.

Le porte-parole du service d'immigration du Libéria LIS, Abraham Abraham, a pour sa part déclaré que le service de l'immigration est une institution qui est chargée de réguler les vagues d'immigration au Libéria et de générer des recettes. Elle est créée par une loi de 1956 et modifiée en 1976 dans le but de surveiller les limites territoriales du Libéria et l'octroi du statut de résident aux personnes qui vivent ici conformément à la loi.

Il dit que les officiers de LIS seront chargés d'examiner des documents spécifiques tels que les permis de séjour, les rapports semestriels, les ajustements de statut et les annulations de caution, entre autres.



Français

Éditorial

Le Président George a le contrôle total des trois pouvoirs de l'Etat

Avec l'adhésion du Président du Sénat, Albert Chie, à la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC), le parti au pouvoir contrôle désormais l'exécutif, le législatif et bientôt le pouvoir judiciaire.

Le pouvoir exécutif choisit toujours au parti au pouvoir, tandis que le pouvoir législatif sert de contrepouvoir dans tout système démocratique et selon la Constitution. Mais il semble que cela soit une illusion dans le cas présent dans la mesure où le pouvoir législatif est lui aussi entièrement contrôlé par le parti au pouvoir.

Etant donné que les présidents des deux chambres du parlement (Sénat et chambre des représentants) sont des partisans à part entière de la coalition au pouvoir, il faut craindre l'établissement d'un pouvoir absolu au Libéria. Ce n'est qu'une question de temps pour que les opinions ou les pensées dissidentes soient écrasées ou réduites au silence à tous les niveaux de notre société.

La justice penchera d'un côté, avec la destitution du juge Kabina Ja'nehet la nomination du juge Joseph Nagbe, un militant de première heure du parti au pouvoir, à la cour suprême. Et peut-être un autre militant de la CDC fera son entrée à la cour suprême. Ce n'est qu'une question de temps.

Il y a donc lieu que l'opposition soit inquiète, d'autant plus qu'elle n'aurait tout simplement nulle part où s'exprimer et être entendue, pas même à l'Assemblée législative encore moins au pouvoir judiciaire.

Nous pouvons en déduire sans le risque de se tromper qu'à cette allure, le Tribunal des crimes de guerre et des crimes économiques que la plupart des libériens appellent de leur vœu est déjà une cause perdue sous le régime de la CDC qui contrôle entièrement tous des trois pouvoirs de l'Etat. Les Libériens doivent se préparer à affronter des moments encore plus difficiles avec la communauté internationale, car la culture de l'impunité est en passe d'être institutionnalisée officiellement dans notre pays.

Lorsque le parti au pouvoir prend le contrôle total des trois pouvoirs de l'Etat qui fonctionnent de manière distincte mais coordonnée, il perd de vue le sort tragique de la population et devient une équipe de louange du président.

Avec un tel schéma dans la gouvernance, la tyrannie et la dictature s'installent automatiquement et personne n'osera contredire le pouvoir comme en témoigne ce qui se déroule au parlement, où les députés issus de l'opposition sont réprimés sous l'ordre du Président de la Chambre des Représentants, Boffal Chambers, qui est un incondtionnel de la CDC au pouvoir.

Le Libéria risque de revenir à l'époque du grand vieux True Whig Party (TWP) qui a conservé le pouvoir dans ce pays pendant plus d'un siècle, si on n'y prend pas garde.

Qui va examiner de manière approfondie et indépendante les projets de budgets nationaux, y compris les montants alloués à l'exécutif ? Il est grand temps que les Libériens méditent sur la situation actuelle.

COMMENTAIRE

By Shlomo Ben-Ami

La résilience du Pouvoir dans le monde arabe

TEL AVIV - Huit ans après le printemps arabe, les rêves de démocratie dans le monde arabe ont été réduits à néant par la dure réalité de l'autocratie, la corruption et les régimes militaires. Pourtant, l'Algérie et le Soudan, qui avaient tous deux évité la tourmente de 2011, tentent aujourd'hui leur chance pour remettre en cause les pouvoirs qui contrôlent la société souvent de manière sournoise - ce que les manifestants algériens en 1988 ont surnommé le Pouvoir. Les mouvements démocratiques arabes connaîtront-ils une plus grande réussite cette fois ?

En Algérie, les plans du gouvernement visant à réduire son solide programme de subvention - une réponse à des années de baisse des recettes tirées des hydrocarbures - ont déclenché des protestations si puissantes qu'elles ont conduit les militaires à faire pression sur le président Abdelaziz Bouteflika jusqu'à le pousser à démissionner le mois dernier, après 20 ans au pouvoir (dont six dans un état d'incapacité suite un accident vasculaire cérébral). Mais cela ne signifie pas pour autant un nouveau départ pour le pays.

Certes, après la démission de Bouteflika, cinq des plus grands oligarques de l'Algérie ont été arrêtés et le PDG de la société énergétique publique a été limogé. Ont suivi d'autres arrestations de grande envergure, y compris de Saïd Bouteflika, le frère du président déchu et chef de facto de l'Algérie, ainsi que les anciens chefs du renseignement général Bachir Athmane Tartag et le général Mohamed Médiène (mieux connu sous le nom de Toufik).

Cependant, même si l'armée algérienne, dirigée par le général Gaid Salah, fait tout pour convaincre les citoyens qu'elle est en train de démanteler la cabale des cliques bien connectées qui forment le Pouvoir, les manifestants continuent de penser qu'il s'agit juste d'un écran de fumée. Salah devrait lui-même être arrêté, crient les masses qui continuent de se répandre dans les rues chaque semaine afin d'exiger que le Pouvoir soit véritablement éloigné, de sorte qu'il ne puisse pas sélectionner le successeur de Bouteflika.

Les Algériens connaissent la résilience du Pouvoir. Ce nom lui a été donné au cours des émeutes de l'octobre noir de 1988 - une explosion de rage massive contre un système à parti unique autocratique et corrompu contrôlé par le Front de libération nationale (FLN). Le gouvernement avait réagi en ordonnant aux forces de sécurité de réprimer les émeutes, causant quelques 500 morts et plus de 1 000 blessés parmi les manifestants.

Les manifestations ont néanmoins réussi à faire promettre le président Chadli Bendjedid d'organiser des élections libres pour la première fois dans l'histoire de l'Algérie, et les partis politiques autres que le FLN ont été légalisés en 1989. Mais, quand le Front islamique du salut (FIS) semblait sur le point de battre le FLN deux ans plus tard, les élections ont été annulées. L'armée a pris le contrôle effectif du gouvernement et interdit le FIS, arrêtant des milliers de ses membres. Cela a déclenché une guerre civile brutale qui a duré dix ans et fait plus de 200 000 morts - et a laissé l'Algérie aux mains d'un gouvernement soutenu par l'armée dirigé par Bouteflika.

L'expérience de l'Algérie jusqu'à ce point laissait présager le printemps arabe, au cours duquel l'instinct de survie du Pouvoir a été bien visible. Le Pouvoir en Syrie, dirigé par Bachar al-Assad, a défendu sans pitié ses intérêts commerciaux et tribaux, avec l'aide des acteurs étrangers ayant un intérêt stratégique à sa survie politique. La mort de plus d'un demi-million de Syriens et l'exil de millions d'autres depuis 2011 n'ont empêché de dormir aucun d'entre eux.

Mais il y a aussi beaucoup d'exemples de sociétés arabes qui parviennent à renverser des dictatures laïques. En l'absence d'une classe moyenne

suffisamment grande ou d'une forte tradition libérale, le peuple élit alors démocratiquement un parti islamiste. Incapable d'accepter ce résultat, le Pouvoir - dans ce cas, dirigé par l'armée, dépourvue de sa figure de proue de dictateur - prend des mesures pour rétablir la règle de l'homme fort laïque.

Bien que les forces militaires se soient souvent révélées adeptes de l'organisation de coups, de l'Egypte à la Thaïlande en passant par le Myanmar, elles ont été beaucoup moins efficaces pour assurer la transition vers un régime civil. En effet, l'armée a tendance à s'accrocher au pouvoir: bien qu'elle puisse être contente de troquer une figure de proue pour une autre, elle n'a aucun véritable intérêt à bouleverser les structures politiques et économiques qu'elle commande.

L'expérience de l'Egypte illustre ce modèle. Après l'éviction en 2011 de Hosni Mubarak, les Egyptiens ont élu comme président Mohamed Morsi et son parti des Frères musulmans. En 2013, le gouvernement élu de Morsi a été renversé et le successeur de Morsi soutenu par les militaires, Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, est resté au pouvoir depuis lors.

Le mois dernier, le gouvernement de Sisi a organisé une imposture de référendum constitutionnel qui a prolongé son mandat de quatre à six ans et a enlevé la limite de deux mandats maximum. Grâce à cela, la règle du pouvoir personnel de Sisi et l'autorité suprême de l'armée - qui contrôle au moins 30% de l'économie - ont été solidifiées, et ce qui restait de gouvernance démocratique en Egypte a été démolé.

Ce modèle pourrait être prêt à se répéter en Algérie, et le Soudan pourrait être en train de se diriger vers un sort similaire. Comme en Algérie, des manifestations de masse ont conduit une cabale d'officiers de l'armée le mois dernier à renverser le président Omar el-Béchir, qui avait été au pouvoir pendant 30 ans.

Après quelques jours de confusion au sein de la hiérarchie militaire, le général Abdel Fattah Abdelrahman Burhan, le chef de facto de l'Etat, a annoncé que l'armée prendrait en charge le « déracinement » du gouvernement militaire et le jugement de ce dernier, y compris Bashir, responsable de la mort de manifestants. Le pouvoir, a-t-il promis, sera remis à un gouvernement civil dans les deux ans.

Compte tenu des précédents historiques, il ne s'agit pas de la promesse la plus convaincante. Néanmoins, le Soudan a un atout : alors que la Ligue arabe se comporte essentiellement comme un club régional d'autocraties, l'Union africaine a une tolérance limitée pour les coups d'État - une préférence qui pourrait expliquer en partie la baisse dans les prises de contrôle militaires en Afrique au cours des dernières années. L'UA a menacé les nouveaux dirigeants du Soudan de les suspendre du groupe s'ils ne transfèrent le pouvoir à une autorité civile.

Même si les dirigeants militaires du Soudan succombent à la pression de l'UA, cependant, la stabilité politique est loin d'être garantie. Pendant des décennies, le Pouvoir a utilisé les revenus pétroliers pour acheter le calme du public au moyen de subventions massives. Mais ces réserves sont concentrées dans le sud et ont donc été perdues lorsque le Soudan du Sud a fait sécession en 2011. Et maintenant, la stabilité politique est partie.

Comme en Algérie, cependant, la lutte pour un véritable changement ne fait que commencer. Les manifestants dans les deux pays se sont battus pour l'opportunité d'être gouvernés par des dirigeants avec un large soutien populaire. Mais, alors qu'ils tentent de racheter la promesse du printemps arabe, le Pouvoir se regroupera, démontrant encore une fois que sa capacité de résistance demeure le plus grand obstacle à la réforme dans le monde arabe.

FEATURE

FEATURE

Analysis of the Impact of China-Liberia 42 Years of an Amazing Friendship and Cooperation

By: Josephus Moses Gray

There is an old Chinese saying: It is better to teach somebody how to fish than simply give him the fish. In order to help Liberia in the areas of socio-economic development, industrialization, innovation and technical advancement, global economic powers should principally teach the Liberian society how to fish than simply give the society the fishes and milks to prepare the society cope with future challenges. But whilst other big powers continue to debate the merits of economic assistance and foreign aid to Liberia, other global economic power from the east continue to fill a major gap in several areas of interventions.

“Delicious soup is made by combining different ingredients”, therefore Liberian must seize the historical opportunity presented in the new era of China-Liberia relationship for the realization of the nation's socio-economic development. The impact of China in the country is highly visible in several areas while China's remarkably transformation from a poor and backward nation into a modernized and prosperous one is proven to be an amazing achievement in human history of tackling poverty and providing a valuable experience for other under-developing states to track. The transformation of China is repeatedly graded as “human phenomenon” in the contemporary world.

This article-based on qualitative analysis is aimed to contribute to the multilayered discussion on China-Liberia bond of friendship and cooperation. Applying a hypothetical lens that examined the 42 years of relations and cooperation, this article focused in several main areas of economic, foreign aid assistance, infrastructure development, and Beijing practical presence and impact in Liberia. Going further, this article is intended to understand how the former Liberian and Chinese leaders and state actors have helped to facility and influence the growing relationship between both states, and goes further to dip into the diplomatic plays, and concludes with a critical assessment of the role played by China in the ongoing development processes in the country.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China (2019), the main characteristics of Beijing's foreign policy basic objectives center on safeguarding national independence and state sovereignty, and creating an international environment favorable to its reform, opening and modernization efforts, maintaining world peace, friendly relations and cooperation, good-neighborly and friendly relations, enhanced unity and cooperation with developing countries, and promoting common development.

For Liberia, the *guiding principles of foreign policy* has been the maintenance of national security and the preservation of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the country, the promotion of peace and harmony based on the *principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other states* (MOFA, 2016). The Chinese growing economic presence in the country, centered on trade, foreign aid assistance, industrialization, social development and investments has resulted in win-win cooperation between the two states, governments and people, bounded by an amazing ties and cooperation.

The contemporary China's active rendezvous in Africa dates to the 1950s, while both countries People's Republic of China and the Republic of Liberia entered bilateral relations on February 17, 1977 during the leadership of former president William Richard Tolbert, Jr., a year after the death of Premier Zhou and Chairman Mao Zedong's deaths; with Hua Guofeng at the head of the top offices of the state, government and party. Beijing has always viewed Liberia as a true friend and this friendship underpinned the two sovereign states amazing dealings since this unique bond manifested itself through economic assistance, even though China is still being classed by the West as developing country.

China's win-win policy of core principles is welcomed by Liberia's former leaderships and the current administration because it places socio-economic,



development and equality at the forefront of diplomatic ties and cooperation. Recent trends confirmed that China-Liberia relations are moving ahead in a very positive way, based on a vision of the community of a shared future, mutual support and equality grounded on a common historical struggle against imperialism and national independence. A closer strategic alignment between China and Liberia and in areas of key focus such as economic cooperation will produce win-win cooperation for both nations.

The friendly relations and cooperation between China and Liberia enjoyed sound and all-round growth in 2013. The two countries had frequent political exchanges. Through the cultivation of responsive ties between China and Liberia, through the two states shared colonial and imperialist sore past, both China and Liberia since 1977 have cultivated friend and brotherly relations, although the bond on one occasion ex-president Charles Taylor (sentence for 45 years for crimes gross human rights violations) switched ties to Taiwan (Republic of China). But the former regime of Charles Gyude Bryant once National Transitional Government of Liberia severed diplomatic ties with Taiwan (ROC) and reestablished relationship with mainland China (PRC).

To edify this article to another scholarly dimension since it is impossible to assess china-Liberia bond of friendship and cooperation without discussing the involvement of African states relations with China. Therefore, permit me to provide a little clear balance of China-African long standing exceptional relationship which centered on mutual ties and win-win cooperation.

The President of China, Xi Jinping stressed in his addressed to the 2018 FOCAC that China and Africa have always been a community of common destiny sharing weal and woe, and a community of shared interests featuring win-win cooperation. The Chinese leader reiterated that traditional friendship between China and Africa is deeply rooted in people's hearts, and promoting solidarity and cooperation with African countries has always been the cornerstone of China's foreign policy.

World Meters (2016) discloses that scientists believe that Africa was the birthplace of mankind and by 100,000 BC modern humans lived by hunting and gathering with stone tools. From Africa they spread to Europe while about 3,200 BC writing was invented in Northeast Africa, in Egypt. Africa's current population stands at 1,221,269,843 as of Tuesday, September 6, 2016, based on the latest United Nations' estimates while Africa's population is equivalent to 16.14% of the total world population.

Africa ranks number 2 among regions of the world ordered by population and the population density in Africa is 41 per Km² (106 people per mi²). The total land area is 29,661,703 Km² and the 39.8% of the population is urban (488,296,186 people in 2016), while Africa holds the world's youthful population with the median age is 19 years. Africa is very rich with natural resources such as fertile soil, enough rain and sunshine for cultivation, raw materials, oil, gold and many other major resources, but corruption and bad governances as well as lack ways of exploiting Africa's resources.

China is the largest developing country in the world

and Africa is the continent with the largest number of developing countries. China and Africa are faced with both historical opportunities for greater development and unprecedented challenges that without doubts are turning into prospects for both countries and peoples. Despite the vast oceans that separate China and Africa, the friendship between China and Africa remained unquestionable, dated back to ancient times and transcended both time and space.

According to a Yang (2008), the beginning of the relations between China and Africa can be dated back to the voyages of Zheng He (1372-1433) in the Ming dynasty, while some scholars regarded the Bandung Conference of 1955 marked the real start of Africa-China relations. Professor Yang, in his publication: Contemporary Chinese Foreign Policy reiterates that communication and indirect trade between China and Africa started as early as over 3000 years ago.

He disclosed that By the 6th century, China and Africa already had direct contacts via sea route. According to pages of history, in the 15th century, Zheng He, the well-known Chinese navigator of that time, led fleets to the east coast of Africa for four times, and visited places in Somalia and Kenya of today. Even now, the remnants of the crew of Chinese fleets can still be found in Kenya.

In 2002, the copy of a Chinese map entitled “Da Ming Hun Yi Tu”, which dates back to the year of 1389 and is identified as the earliest map indicating the outline of the whole African continent in the world, made a stir in South Africa, when it was displayed as part of the Parliamentary Millennium Project exhibition in Parliament of South Africa. It proves that the contact between Chinese and Africans predates the European “discovery” of the African continent by over 100 years and China was the first country that established contacts with Africa (Yang, 2008).

While in his 2018 instructive speech at the last China-Africa Think Tanks Forum held in Beijing, the author of this article, Professor Gray asserted that in modern and contemporary history, China and Africa shared similar experiences both having suffered from aggression, plunder and enslavement by colonialists. The people of Chinese and Africa have all along rendered each other solidarity and support and shared weal and woe in their struggles against imperialism and for national independence and liberation.

According to persistent publications which have been authenticated by researchers and authors, in 1949, the birth of new China opened up a new chapter in Sino-African relations. Since 1950s and 1960s, as more and more African countries won independence and established diplomatic relations with China, the Sino-African relationship was ushered into a new era of all-round development that is having great impacts on the lives of millions on both fronts; the presence of China in Africa's development cannot be questioned, China is visible on the continued march as evident by the hundreds of projects undertaking or completed, while new agreements have been consolidated for an effective implementation.

TO BE CONTINUED

Chief Justice muscles Cllr. Gongloe

By Winston W. Parley

There was a dramatic scene at the Supreme Court on Monday May 20, when Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor tried to muscle the President of the Liberian Bar Association, Cllr. Tiawan Gongloe, after the latter criticized the bench for not standing up to the Executive and Legislative Branches of government.

Cllr. Gongloe was in speech calling on the superior court to stand up against unconstitutional actions from the two branches of government that attempt to subdue judges to fear, when Justice Korkpor interrupted, describing statement coming from Cllr. Gongloe as provocative and that the occasion was not intended for him (Cllr. Gongloe) to fight a cause.

"If you continue this way I will not allow you to speak at the opening of Court. You did it the other day, you sat down here, and listened, you were lawyer in a case before this



Chief Justice Korkpor



Cllr. Tiawan Gongloe

court, and you lost. The Supreme Court spoke ...," Chief Justice Korkpor said as he raged at Cllr. Gongloe who was still standing with his speech.

As part of protocol at the Supreme Court, Cllr. Gongloe had mounted to podium to give a statement on behalf of the Bar at Justice Kaba's

seating on the Supreme Court Bench as the newest Associate Justice, when he seized the opportunity to caution against influential people or institutions' actions that could intimidate judges, referencing Ja'neh's impeachment.

Cllr. Gongloe in his prepared speech decried the unconstitutional removal of

Associate Justice Kabineh M. Ja'neh from the superior court during the official seating of President George Manneh Weah's newly appointed Associate Justice Yussif D. Kaba.

"The LNBA cautions members of the Bench to stand up in defense of the rights of each other against any illegal action from the Executive or the Legislature, for it goes without saying that the violation of the rights of one person is the beginning of the violation of the rights of all," Cllr. Gongloe warns.

"The removal of a justice for performing a legal duty creates a precedent that has a potential of making other judges, especially of subordinate courts to be afraid to freely perform their legal duties when it comes to cases in which the interest of government or of powerful persons or entities are involved, thereby defeating the purpose for which courts exist in our system of government," Cllr. Gongloe adds.

But Chief Justice Korkpor argues that no one at the seating of Justice Kaba had talked about Ja'neh's removal, saying the [case] has been determined by the Legislature, suggesting that there was no need for Cllr. Gongloe to even

mention that in his speech.

The Liberian Senate voted on 29 March approving former Justice Ja'neh's impeachment by the House of Representatives for issuing a writ that prohibited government from collecting taxes imposed on oil and gas companies for road funds because the process was not legislated.

In between time of his impeachment process, Ja'neh sought a legal redress at the Supreme Court against the action of the House of Representatives over violation of the Constitution, but majority of Justices on the Supreme Court bench determined that the House was not in error, allowing the impeachment process to go ahead.

In few days after Ja'neh's removal, President Weah nominated Justice Kaba, a long serving resident circuit judge of the Civil Law Court at the Temple of Justice to replace the impeached Ja'neh.

Regarding Justice Kaba's ascendancy to the Supreme Court Bench, Chief Justice Korkpor says the Bench welcomes the newly inducted justice with open arms, assuring him of the Bench's cooperation so that he finds a place to serve in the interest of the country.

Weah: Remain resilient

President George Manneh Weah appears paranoid and jittery amid planned protest by a group of citizens, calling on partisans of his ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) and all well-meaning Liberians to remain resilient, terming opposition and critics' plan to stage a protest beginning June 7 as "machinations and trickery to divert attention from ongoing national developments."

However, President Weah had earlier acknowledged that Liberians have right under the Constitution to protest and subsequently called on the Ministry of Justice to provide protection for would-be protesters and the citizenry at large.

According to an Executive Mansion release issued in Monrovia Monday, 20 May, President Weah's call came on Friday, 17 May in New Kru Town at CDC's primaries to choose candidates for the pending Montserrado County Senatorial and District #15 Representative By-elections.

The President in an apparent turnaround says the June 7 protest is a ploy shrouded in hypocrisy only to distract Liberians' attention from many positive interventions his government is making to improve lives and develop the country.

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 the regime are

planning to protest to demand reforms here.

A latest report released by the General Auditing Commission (GAC) on the US\$25m mop -up is stirring debate among Liberians, as some fears that it appears to put more burden on the Executive Governor of the Central Bank Nathaniel Patray, who co-chairs a Technical Economic Management Team (TEMT) headed by the Minister of Finance and development Planning, Samuel Tweah.

The pending June 7 protest has been causing panic among Liberians after a dialogue between President Weah and protest organizers under the banner Council of Patriots (COP) ended in a deadlock in Monrovia on Tuesday, 14 May.

The COP's planned protest is endorsed by Liberia's four collaborating opposition political parties, and it insists on presenting its grievances to President Weah during the protest.

But President Weah questions the moral justification and significance of street protest being organized by detractors under the hallowed pretext of "Save the State".

He acknowledges challenges in the economy here which his government is endeavoring to ameliorate, but argues that it does not amount to total collapse of the state.

"Yes, there are challenges, but what we are doing here is to cover the dark holes that

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have been dug," says the President.

"Today, they are accusing you for the economy that was bad under their leadership," President Weah continues, in an apparent reference to his predecessor, former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

"But let me say that the only reason any Liberian will get into the street is simply because they were defeated and don't want you to lead", he informs cheering partisans.

He argues that the planned protest was a mere display of frustration against the CDC-led government for performing to expectations far more than his predecessor did in 12 years.

"What they are doing is to stop you from doing what you are doing," he further argues, and explains: "It is intended to stop you from paving the community roads. It is to stop you from connecting the country with paved roads. They do not want to see you modernize the huts poor people who have been living in squalor since the founding of

the country. It is to stop you from improving the education system."

Weah says his government is giving opportunities to Liberian-owned businesses in keeping with the promise that "Liberians will not be spectators in their own economy."

Meanwhile, President Weah calls on partisans of the ruling CDC to stand together during these trying times to lend support to candidates that will contest on the party's ticket during the 2 July by-elections.

He describes Montserrado County as stronghold, heartland and cherished territory of the CDC, which must be shown during these elections, and urges all CDCians and members of the Coalition for Democratic Change to come out and support their candidates against any opposition candidate to prove the party's supremacy in the county that has a population of over one million people. -- Press release



President George M. Weah

Pressure mounts for Taylor's release

By Winston W. Parley

A number of young people led by the Patriotic Consciousness Association of Liberia (PACA) have peacefully protested outside President George Manneh Weah's office in Monrovia, demanding former First Lady Agnes Reeves Taylor's release from British cell.

During the protest Monday, 20 May, PACA National Executive Chairman Mr. E. Frederick Baye said the protesters assembled to demand response from the president of Liberia regarding their official communication addressed to him seeking redress to Agnes' case.

Madam Agnes Reeves Taylor has been in British custody for about two years since her arrest in east London in early June 2017 on four counts of war crimes allegedly committed here during Liberia's civil conflict between 1989 and 1991.

Her ex-husband, former



Liberian President Charles Ghankay Taylor is also facing a 50 - year jail sentence in a British prison.

The British authorities charged her with three counts of intentionally inflicting severe pain or suffering on an individual in the performance of her official duties.

Additionally, the British authorities also charged Madam Agnes Taylor after allegedly agreeing to conduct that amounts to the

commission of torture.

An estimated 250,000 people were reported killed during Liberia's civil conflict, properties destroyed and many more displaced by the bloodshed.

But her supporters including the group leading the advocacy for her release have disputed the charges brought against her, arguing that she is not one of those indicted by the erstwhile Truth and Reconciliation Commission

(TRC) report.

"We are here to demand response for communication submitted to President Weah on April 16 of this year," Mr. Baye says.

According to him, the government of Great Britain submitted an inquest to President Weah's government, asking him to give some information regarding Madam Agnes Reeves Taylor.

Mr. Baye vows that the protest will continue as long as

Agnes remains in prison "unjustifiably" and cannot be extradited to Liberia.

As a result of his engagement with the British Embassy near Monrovia, Mr. Baye narrates that PACA was informed by the Embassy that the case now lies in the hands of President Weah and his Justice Minister.

He suggests that the British authorities simply want their Liberian counterparts to respond to the inquest sent to Monrovia.

He claims that Madam Taylor is languishing in British cell without any justifiable reason, blaming the situation on alleged ill-advice being given to President Weah.

He argues that the British got interest in Liberia and the British will not sit without reacting if Liberia were to grab a British citizen and hold the person hostage.

"And the president has not reacted. I think he's been ill - advised, that's why we are here to get response," Mr. Baye continues.

Ronaldo wants Mourinho at Juventus

Cristiano Ronaldo has reportedly suggested that Jose Mourinho should be considered for the Juventus managerial position.

Massimiliano Allegri has left Juventus after five trophy-laden years as manager, leaving the Italian giants on the hunt for a new boss.

La Gazzetta dello Sport say that Ronaldo has

suggested Mourinho takes over from Allegri.

Mourinho has been out of work since he was sacked as United manager last December.

But he has a track record of success in Italy, steering Inter Milan to the Treble in 2010.

Allegri and Juve celebrated the club's eighth consecutive Serie A title on Sunday after they were awarded the trophy following a 1-1 draw with

Atalanta.

Carlo Ancelotti, another manager Ronaldo is known to speak highly of, has ruled himself out of the running to take over at Juventus.

The Italian says he wants to stay in his current job at Napoli.

Ronaldo worked with Mourinho at Real Madrid and they have the same agent - Jorge Mendes.

The Portuguese attacker



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