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# **The New Dawn**

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VOL.9 NO. 081

THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2019

PRICE LD\$40.00

# Patray hangs to dry





# Continental News

## Kenyan court due to rule on decriminalising homosexuality

Kenya's High Court is on Friday expected to deliver a long-awaited ruling on whether to scrap colonial-era laws which criminalise homosexuality, a verdict that could have repercussions across Africa.

However, the LGBT community fears yet another postponement. In February, the three-judge bench pushed back its decision, citing a heavy workload, prompting dismay from a persecuted community who have fought for years to be accepted. "There are a lot of mixed emotions around this because people are just wary of the fact that it could be postponed yet again," Brian Macharia of the Gay and Lesbian Coalition of Kenya (GALCK), one of the petitioners, told AFP.

"Everyone is just hopeful and we recognise that things could go either way." Gay rights organisations are asking the court to scrap two sections of the penal code that criminalise homosexuality.

One section states that anyone who has "carnal knowledge... against the order of nature" can be imprisoned for 14 years. Another provides for a five-year jail term for "indecent practices between males". Activists believe Kenya has a chance to blaze a trail in Africa where homophobia is virulent in many communities,

with similar laws in over half the countries on the continent.

While convictions under the decades-old laws are rare, gay activists say the legislation is unconstitutional and fuels homophobia.

The National Gay And Lesbian Human Rights Commission says it dealt with 15 prosecutions under the laws

in 2018, with no convictions recorded. 'Unimaginable harm'

The petitioners argue that under Kenya's 2010 constitution, every person is said to be equal before the law. However members of the LGBT community are blackmailed, evicted, fired, expelled from school, or assaulted over their sexual orientation, but are unable to access justice without effectively confessing to a crime. "LGBTQ people in Kenya for years and years have faced and suffered violence and harm in unimaginable ways, but justice has not been afforded to them because of the penal code," said Macharia.

Activists are optimistic of an eventual ruling in their favour, given recent decisions by the court.

In March, the High Court banned forced anal testing of men suspected of being gay.

And in September, a court ruled that "Rafiki" ("Friend"), a film about a lesbian love affair which was the first Kenyan movie to be shown at the Cannes film festival, could be screened domestically for seven days after its initial banning.

Macharia said Kenya's powerful churches had been holding special events in the leadup to the ruling to fight what they term "the LGBT agenda". AFP



Kenya's decision on gay rights could reverberate across Africa

## Suicide car bomb kills at least 9 in Somalia's

NAIROBI, Kenya — Islamic extremists exploded a suicide car bomb and killed at least nine people, including Somalia's former foreign minister, near the presidential palace in the capital on Wednesday, police said. Former foreign minister Hussein Elabe Fahiyeh, who was an advisor to the current

president, was among those killed in the blast. Capt. Mohamed Hussein told The Associated Press another 13 people were wounded and most of the casualties were soldiers.

The Somalia-based extremist group al-Shabab claimed responsibility for the blast in Mogadishu, saying it targeted vehicles carrying

government officials. The car bomb exploded at a security checkpoint near the presidential palace as soldiers were conducting security checks on vehicles on the main road. A white column of smoke rose over the seaside city as gunfire rang out and people scattered.

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The al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab frequently carries out such blasts in the capital near the presidential compound and at hotels frequented by government officials and foreigners.

"In the past I was wounded in this area, and again today my daughter has been killed in this attack which also destroyed my home. This is terrible," witness Madey Ahmed told the AP.

Amid the crumpled vehicles and tangled metal roofing, a small corps of yellow-vested workers carried bodies and began sweeping the dusty street. AP



## Libya at start of 'long and bloody war'

The UN envoy for Libya has warned that the battle for Tripoli is "just the start of a long and bloody war".

Ghassan Salame is calling for immediate steps to cut off arms flows fuelling the fighting in Libya.

One side of the conflict said it is receiving armoured vehicles from Turkey, while the other said it is receiving them from Jordan.

More than 75,000 people have fled their homes in the latest fighting, according to the World Health Organization.

At least 510 people have

video footage of Jordanian-built armoured cars being supplied to the general's militia, reports AFP news agency.

AFP adds that at the weekend the Tripoli-based government of national accord posted photographs of dozens of fresh deliveries that it had received of Turkish-made armoured vehicles on its Facebook page.

A Turkish foreign ministry spokesperson told the BBC they had no knowledge of any shipments to Libya.

The conflict heightened at



been killed, WHO figures show. Addressing the UN Security Council, Mr Salame warned that the conflict could descend into what he called an "all-against-all" state of chaos.

"I am no Cassandra, but the violence on the outskirts of [the capital] Tripoli is just the start of a long and bloody war on the southern shores of the Mediterranean, imperilling the security of Libya's immediate neighbours and the wider Mediterranean region," Mr Salame said. Websites supporting military strongman Gen Khalifa Haftar have posted

the weekend when the water supply to Tripoli was cut off - something the UN said was a possible war crime. Libya's internationally recognised government accused forces loyal to Gen Haftar of being behind the blockage.

The battle for Tripoli began on 4 April when Gen Haftar launched his offensive to try and capture the capital, where the internationally recognised government is based. He has his powerbase in the east of the country where he is allied to a rival government. BBC

# EDITORIAL

## Tuition-free education program lacks realistic policy

FROM ALL CALCULATIONS, it seems like President George MannehWeah's much publicized tuition-freed education program for undergraduate students at the University of Liberia and in all public universities, community colleges and tertiary institutions across the country took off without any clear policy to make it workable. Ever since the President made the pronouncement in October 2018 in the auditorium of the Capitol Hill campus of the University Liberia, the government is yet to fulfill its promise, leaving heads of public universities here strangled financially.

FOR NEARLY TWO semesters at the University of Liberia after this pronouncement, the government hasn't paid a dime against tuition for thousands of undergraduate students enrolled particularly at the UL and in other public institutions across the country. The University of Liberia is currently in a serious deficit, unable to fund its operations.

SEVERAL ATTEMPTS BY the National Legislature to have authorities from both the Ministries of Finance and Education to provide detail on funding process of the scheme have proved futile with nothing said and done.

IN FACT, SENATORS at the Capitol expressed their frustrations last week over what they described "hasty" manner in which the President made the pronouncement without a blue print for implementation. This paper also gathers the UL Administration was not even consulted, as its President, Dr. Ophelia Weeks, was reportedly out of the country when President Weah, who is also Visitor to the University, announced the program.

LAST WEEK, THE Senate Committee on Education and Public Administration chaired by RiverCess County Senator Dallas Gueh reported to plenary, noting there was no consultation made on the introduction of such policy statement with serious public concern about its source of funding.

SENATORS VARNEY SHERMAN of Grand Cape Mount County, Milton Teahjay of Sinoe County, and Daniel Naatehn of Gbarpolu County, respectively argued that criteria should be set up to acquaint beneficiaries of the program on the need to contribute their quotas upon graduation from the University.

IN EARLIER DEBATE, some senators note that President Weah might have been wrongly advised on the introduction of the tuition-freed program without taking into consideration source of revenue to fund the exercise.

MEANWHILE, PLENARY HAS mandated the Senate's Committee on Education and Public Administration to schedule a meeting with the Minister of Finance and Development Planning Samuel Tweah to give detail on the scheme, including sources of funding.

INDEED, THE FINANCE boss should provide clarity on the ambitious plan that is going to cost government millions of dollars in such a time when the economy is at rock bottom with walloping inflation, sky-rocketing prices and uncontrollable depreciation of the Liberian Dollar.

UNLESS A REALISTICALLY workable plan is drawn out for the scheme and funding identified, we think the government should muster enough courage to modify the program or suspend it for now until the economy is restored, for as it is, the University of Liberia, including other public universities and colleges are in the 'red'.

# COMMENTARY

By Michel Barnier

## In Defense of Europe

*Faced with growing geopolitical challenges from Russia, China, and the United States, Europe must take its future into its own hands by defending its interests and values. Otherwise, the European Union and its member states will become others' prey in the new global (dis)order.*

**B**RUSSELS - The geopolitical chessboard is back. Following a post-1989 interlude in which the direction of history seemed to tilt toward a peaceful liberal international order, we now witness mounting great-power competition, quests for hegemony, and quasi-imperial expansion.

Russia is brazenly breaking international law and asserting its regional influence. China is engaging in strategic competition across the board and promoting an alternative international model. And the United States has chosen to defend its interests with unilateral action and pressure.

Faced with this violent geopolitical awakening, Europe must take its future into its own hands. If we do not stand up to voice and defend our interests and values, the European Union and its member states will become others' prey in the new global (dis)order. The time has come for Europeans collectively to build their sovereignty in all areas where they want to be actors, rather than spectators: foreign policy and defense, economy and trade, digital technology, and environmental sustainability.

Under the leadership of European Council President Donald Tusk and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, the EU has taken significant steps in this regard. We have sharpened our trade policy in response to the prospect of trade wars, and made our economy less vulnerable to foreign takeovers of strategic assets. In addition, we have invested in resilience to protect critical networks and infrastructure against cyber attacks.

Perhaps most surprisingly, we have taken big strides in pooling our defense efforts. Once a taboo, defense has become a political priority for the Commission. The €13 billion (\$14.6 billion) European Defense Fund, for example, will break new ground in joint planning and the procurement of common equipment.

But Europe can, and must, do more in this area. Outsourcing Europe's security is no longer an option. And although increased expenditures will make us stronger, they are not enough on their own. Europe needs a plan - a political compass - and our citizens expect one, too.

The EU's Global Strategy - spearheaded by Federica Mogherini, the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission - set a new collective level of ambition for external European action back in 2016. But now, with other global powers racing ahead, and cross-border threats, from Riga to Nicosia, becoming increasingly common, this strategy needs to be updated and translated into foreign policy and defense planning.

The time is therefore ripe for a Strategic Defense Review, consisting of the joint assessment of the core threats Europe will face between now and 2030; strategic guidance about common priorities for the EU and its member states; and the translation of this into joint equipment and institutional structures.

While reaffirming NATO's core role in collective defense, this Strategic Defense Review must develop Europe's capabilities and enhance our readiness for common external action. We need unified capabilities to face new asymmetric challenges such as terrorism; cybercrime; disinformation campaigns; and chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats. Cyber, in particular, is an area where our

civil and military capacities must be scaled up to match future challenges. In addition, such a review should provide guidance to the European defense industry as a core component of our security.

To sustain these efforts and deliver on a renewed level of ambition, we must also build our Foreign Policy and Defense Union. EU institutions and member states form one team. The aim is not to erode the sovereignty of member states, but rather to make all - and each - of us stronger.

A common foreign and defense policy takes advantage of the diversity of intelligence services, armed forces, equipment, and combat experience, together with the different regional outlooks - toward Africa, the Middle East, the Western Balkans, and Europe's Eastern flank - bequeathed to them by history and geography.

Within this framework, willing and capable member states should also act as ambassadors or lead countries in different areas. This would permit flexibility and consistency in regional formats or initiatives, and would also enable member states to use their influence to support both national and European interests.

In parallel, defense should be properly institutionalized at the EU level: a Defense Council to provide a platform for coordination among defense ministers, an Operations Headquarters to plan and conduct the EU's Common Security and Defense Policy, a responsive and efficient chain of command, and a full-fledged defense academy.

These practical steps will help foster a common European strategic culture and make European defense an operational reality. They will also better equip the EU to engage with strategic partners - first and foremost the United Kingdom, which will remain a key ally and strong partner after it leaves the bloc.

For too long, however, internal matters such as Brexit have monopolized European leaders' agenda at the expense of pressing security challenges. Stability in Africa, the peace process in Syria, the crisis in Libya, the Western Balkans, the Eastern Neighborhood, and the Arctic also deserve more of our attention, in addition to our capacity to engage with strategic partners.

Common security challenges should be on the European Council's agenda every three or six months. Through regular, structured discussions, leaders would address strategic trends and define a common course of action, using the EU's full foreign-policy toolbox.

At the same time, the EU must wield its foreign-policy tools - diplomacy, trade, development aid, and defense - in a more coherent manner. To meet the coming challenges of a world in which Africa and Asia will play an ever-larger role, Europe must break out of its silos and align its external instruments. In March, for example, Tusk initiated a discussion among EU leaders about the EU-China relationship. This should be a top priority for the coming years.

But the key to a successful foreign policy is the power to back it up. Europe still wields significant soft power, but we remain a hard-power minnow. The return of great-power politics means this imbalance is no longer sustainable. Europe needs a second leg to stand on - and our citizens expect a union that protects, that is more capable, and that is sovereign. We can achieve this only if member states and EU institutions join forces.

## O-PED

By Robert Skidelsky

# Has Austerity Been Vindicated?

LONDON - Harvard University Professor Alberto Alesina has returned to the debate on budget deficits, austerity, and growth. Back in 2010, Alesina told European finance ministers that “many even sharp reductions of budget deficits have been accompanied and immediately followed by sustained growth rather than recessions even in the very short run” (my italics). Now, with fellow economists Carlo Favero and Francesco Giavazzi, Alesina has written a new book entitled *Austerity: When It Works and When It Doesn't*, which recently received a favorable review from his Harvard colleague Kenneth Rogoff.

New book, old tune. The authors' conclusion, in a nutshell, is that “in certain cases the direct output cost of spending cuts is more than compensated for by increases in other components of aggregate demand.” The implication is that austerity - cutting the budget deficit, not expanding it - may well be the right policy in a recession.

Alesina's previous work in this area with Silvia Ardagna was criticized by the International Monetary Fund and other economists for its faulty econometrics and exaggerated conclusions. And this new book, which analyzes 200 multi-year austerity plans carried out in 16 OECD countries between 1976 and 2014, will also no doubt keep the number crunchers busy.

But that is not the main point. Correlation is not causation. The association of fiscal retrenchment and economic growth tells us nothing about the underlying relationship between the two. Does shrinking the deficit cause economic growth, or does growth cause the deficit to shrink? All the econometrics in the world cannot prove that one caused the other, or that both may not be the result of something else. There are simply too many omitted variables - that is, other possible causes of either or both outcomes. So-called statistical proofs always start with a theory of causation, to which the data are “fitted” to get the result the theorist wants.

Alesina's theory rests on two conceptual pillars. The main one is that if deficits persist, businesses and consumers will expect higher taxes and will therefore invest and consume less. Spending cuts, on the other hand, signal lower taxes in the future, and thus stimulate investment and consumption.

The second, supplementary pillar is the assumption that rising public debt leads investors to expect a default. This expectation forces up interest rates on government bonds, leading to higher overall borrowing costs. Austerity, by stopping the growth of debt, can bring about a “sizeable reduction” in interest rates, and thus enable increased investment.

This supplementary case cannot be regarded as a general rule. If a country has its own central bank and issues its own currency, the government can cause interest rates to be whatever it wants them to be by ordering the central bank to print money. In this case, low interest rates will be the result not of austerity, but rather of monetary expansion. And this, of course, is what has happened with quantitative easing in the United States, the United Kingdom, and the eurozone. Interest rates have stayed at rock bottom for years as central banks have pumped hundreds of billions of dollars, pounds, and euros into their economies.

So we are left with Alesina's main pillar: a credible commitment to public spending cuts today will boost output by removing the expectation of higher taxes tomorrow. The same argument explains why, on Alesina's view, it is better to reduce the deficit by cutting spending than by raising taxes. Spending cuts address the “problem” of “the automatic growth of [welfare] entitlements and other spending programs,” whereas tax increases do not.

Alesina writes: “Modern macroeconomics emphasizes that people's decisions about what to do today are influenced by their expectations of what will happen in the future.” John Maynard Keynes, too, understood the crucial importance of expectations: he is credited by John Hicks with introducing the “method of expectations” into economics. However, Keynes's expectational map was very different from Alesina's. His investors do not form their expectations by looking at the government's deficit and calculating what effect it will have on their future tax bills. In fact, they scarcely notice the deficit at all.

What they do notice is the size of their markets. For Keynes, entrepreneurs' decisions to create jobs depend on their expected income from increasing employment. An economic downturn reduces their expected sales proceeds, causing them to lay off workers. A cut in government spending implies that they can expect still fewer sales, causing them to lay off even more workers, thus deepening the recession. Conversely, a rise in government spending, or tax cuts, increases expectations of sales and so reverses the downturn.

For example, if the demand for automobiles falls, fewer will be sold, and fewer workers will be employed in making them. If the government increases its spending on public works, this will not only employ more workers directly, but also increase the demand for automobiles, so the output of the economy grows by more than the government's extra spending, thus reducing the deficit.

In very simple terms, therefore, we have two opposite theories of the appropriate fiscal policy in a slump. Keynes says an announced reduction in public spending signals to businesspeople that their incomes will be reduced because fewer people will be buying the goods and services they produce. But Alesina says that an announced reduction in public spending signals to businesspeople that they can expect lower taxes tomorrow, and therefore will spend more today.

Readers must decide which theory they find more plausible. Personally, I much prefer the characterization contained in the recent book *Austerity: 12 Myths Exposed*: “Austerity is a tool of...financial interests - not a solution to the problems caused by them.”

## OPINION

By Richard N. Haass

# Looking Back at 100

NEW YORK - This is my 100th column for Project Syndicate. It comes nearly 20 years after my first. As is the case with most milestones, it offers a good opportunity to take stock, to look back on what I have written, and to see what it says about the world over these two decades and where we may be heading.

Three themes stand out. The first is how much the Middle East consumed the world's attention, including mine. Think about it: This is a region that is home to around 6% of the world's people, and, despite possessing vast amounts of oil, accounts for less than 5% of global economic output. Yet it manages to account for a large share of the world's headlines, conflicts, terrorists, and refugees.

Some blame the Middle East's many problems on the European colonial powers. But that era is too distant from our own to explain today's failures. After all, many former colonies elsewhere in the world are thriving.

That said, outsiders have made things worse over the past two decades, both by what they did (the US invasion of Iraq in 2003 comes to mind, as does NATO's intervention in Libya and Russia's in Syria) and by what they failed to do.

Here I would list US reluctance to act in Syria even after the government there defied warnings and used chemical weapons. While the intervention in Libya was misguided, once that decision was made, it was incumbent upon the United States and its European partners to mount an effort to stabilize the country following the ouster of Muammar al-Qaddafi.

Yet the lion's share of the responsibility for the Middle East's terrible record lies with the region's leaders, who have largely failed to provide economic opportunity or political rights at home and who have refused to compromise in the cause of peace. Instead, what we have seen are prolonged and costly conflicts in Syria and Yemen, stagnation in Egypt, and fading prospects for any lasting settlement between Israel and the Palestinians.

The second theme that emerges from the past two decades is Asia's emergence as the central arena of modern international relations. If Europe was the principal venue of much of twentieth-century world history, including two hot wars and one cold war, now it is Asia's turn. The region is where one finds the bulk of the world's population, the majority of its economic output, and increasingly its military might. It is where the major powers of this era face one another.

The good news is that for the past 20 years - in fact, since the end of the Cold War - Asia has remained stable, underpinned by America's steady hand and buoyed by rapid economic growth. The question now is whether stability will continue to be the rule, given China's rise, the near-certainty that North Korea will not just retain but possibly expand its nuclear and missile capabilities, and lingering disputes over the South and East China Seas, Taiwan, and numerous islands and borders.

The third theme that runs through many of the previous 99 columns is the demise of the world that we knew. The titles of several commentaries say it all: “Liberal World Order, R.I.P.,” “Cold War II,” “Europe in Disarray,” “The Era of Disorder.”

One reason for this downbeat assessment is the growing prominence of a China that remains illiberal at home, engages in myriad unfair practices that boost its trading position, and is mostly unwilling to assume global responsibilities commensurate with its strength. Another is President Vladimir Putin's Russia, which seeks to violate sovereignty - the most basic norm of what international order there is - with traditional and digital armies alike. Moreover, the gap between global challenges, such as climate change, and the willingness of the world to deal with them has widened. The thesis of my 2013 commentary, “What International Community?” still holds: the phrase stands for a concept that is more aspiration than reality.

One factor stands out amidst this deterioration: the refusal of the United States to continue to play its traditional role in the world. The last two decades have made clear that no post-Cold War US foreign policy consensus exists. What exists is wariness born of costly military interventions in Iraq and Afghanistan, and a populist surge fueled by the 2008 global financial crisis, growing inequality, and reduced upward mobility.

This is the context that gave rise to the election of President Donald Trump. Over the past two-plus years, Trump has added to global turbulence through his own unique mix of hostility to multilateral institutions and alliances; sustained use of tariffs and sanctions on behalf of goals that are so ambitious as to be unrealistic; increased military spending but decreased military action; a much-reduced emphasis on promoting democracy and human rights, coupled with a penchant for strongmen; and a faith in his own personal diplomacy but not in professional diplomats.

As suggested above, all this has contributed to the fading of the post-World War II, post-Cold War world. What will take its place is unclear; Trump is much more a disrupter than he is a builder. The next 20 years thus promise to be even more disorderly than the last 20. Sad to say, there will be more than enough material for at least a hundred more commentaries.

# Weah assures investors

President George Manneh Weah has assured Firestone Liberia and the Liberian business community of his government's protection and a healthy partnership amid threats of street demonstration on June 7.

He gave the assurance Tuesday 21 May when he met with a high-power delegation from Firestone Natural Rubber Company.

According to the Executive Mansion, President Weah says his administration is under obligation to protect the business community and create the enabling environment for people and organizations within the borders of Liberia to be safe and productive.

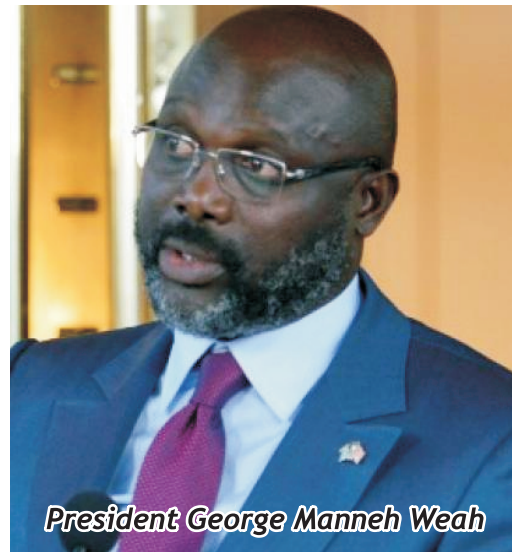
"Firestone has been our valued partner for so long," President Weah recalls.

"That's since 1926. Our focus now is to sustain a favorable business climate and create modalities whereby Firestone and other businesses remain safe and productive to operate in the best interest of our people and nation," he explains.

He assures the Firestone delegation of his Government's fruitful partnership and full readiness to provide every support necessary for the smooth operations of the company in Liberia.

Meanwhile, President Weah has praised the company for its invaluable contribution towards Liberia's growth and development over the years.

"My government is flexible to work with Firestone, and will continue to do so towards harnessing a win-win



President George Manneh Weah

relationship in which the common interest of our people and the smooth operation of the company is assured and protected," President Weah notes.

Firestone Natural Rubber Company's General Manager, Don Danden, who spoke during the meeting with President Weah said the company would continue its partnership with Government in an open manner.

The Company's delegation included its Executive Vice President and Senior Officer of Bridgestone Corporation, Christine Karbowski, Senior Vice President for Corporate Procurement, Rebecca Vest and General Manager of Firestone Liberia Inc., Don Darden.

President Weah and the Firestone delegation agreed to set up a working group that will ensure continued better relationship and review the current concession agreement between the Liberian government and Firestone Liberia.--**Press release**



## INVITATION FOR BIDS

Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA)  
Mentamba Road, Coopee's Beach Community  
Paynesville, Liberia

### Supply of Goods & Provision of Non-Consultancy Services

- Contract Identification No: IFB No. LTA/NCB/001/19/20 (Generator Spare Parts & Repairs)  
IFB No. LTA/NCB/002/19/20 (Stationery & Office Supplies)  
IFB No. LTA/NCB/003/19/20 (Security Guard Services)  
IFB No. LTA/NCB/004/19/20 (Vehicle Maintenance & Repairs)  
IFB No. LTA/NCB/005/19/20 (Office Furniture & Fixtures)  
IFB No. LTA/NCB/006/19/20 (Office Equipment)  
IFB No. LTA/SBA/NCB/001/19/20 (Vehicles Rental & Lease)  
IFB No. LTA/SBA/NCB/002/19/20 (Printing & Binding Services)

- The Government of Liberia through the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA) has apportioned funds from its budget towards the cost of procuring assorted goods and services in different categories as stated in Lots.
- The Liberia Telecommunications Authority now invites qualified firms to submit sealed bids for the supply/provision of the below mentioned items/services. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) Procedures as specified in the Amended and Restated Public Procurement and Concessions Act (PPC Act) of September 2010. The supply of these items as per LTA's needs, quantities and requirements are included in various Bid documents as per the packages below:

Ref: No	Package Description	Description of Lot	Quantity	Bid Security (USD)
IFB LTA/NCB/001/19/20	No. Generator Spare Parts & Repairs	Lot 1	Lubricants Assorted	500.00

Building # D-168, Congotown Back Road, 1000 Monrovia, 10 Liberia  
www.lta.gov.lr // info@lta.gov.lr

IFB No.	Package Description	Description of Lot	Quantity	Bid Security (USD)
IFB LTA/NCB/001/19/20	No. Generator Spare Parts & Repairs	Lot 2	Maintenance, Repairs Service & Spare Parts	Assorted 500.00
		Lot 3	Repairs	Assorted 300.00
IFB LTA/NCB/002/19/20	NO. Stationery & Supplies	Lot 1	Stationery	Assorted 300.00
		Lot 2	Ink/Cartridge	Assorted 300.00
IFB LTA/NCB/003/19/20	NO. Security Guard Services	N/A	Provision of Security Guard Services	Assorted 500.00
IFB LTA/NCB/004/19/20	NO. Vehicle Maintenance, Repairs & Services	Lot 1	Nissan Patrol Safari	2 300.00
		Lot 2	Ford Expedition King Ranch	2 300.00
IFB LTA/NCB/005/19/20	No. Office Furniture & Fixtures	Lot 1	Furniture	Assorted 300.00
IFB LTA/NCB/006/19/20	NO. Office Equipment	Lot 2	Fixtures	Assorted 300.00
IFB LTA/SBA/NCB/001/19/20	NO. Vehicle Rental Services	N/A	ICT Equipment	Assorted 300.00
IFB LTA/SBA/NCB/002/19/20	NO. Printing & Binding	N/A	Vehicle Rental Service	Assorted 200.00
			Printing & Binding Services	Assorted 300.00

- Complete sets of soft copy of bidding documents can be obtained free of charge at the below address. Bid security and all requirements must be submitted together with bid document, and must be per the amount stated in each lot above in Manager's Check or Bank Guarantee. Bids submitted electronically will not be accepted.

#### Qualification requirements include the following:

- Current Business Registration Certificate (Liberia Business Registry);
  - Current Tax Clearance Certificate (Liberia Revenue Authority);
  - Must provide two (2) references of previous or current clients over the last two (2) years;
  - Must provide proof of being registered with the Public Procurement & Concessions Commission (PPCC);
  - Company's profile availability of supply (ies)/preparedness to provide services upon the issuance of an approved Local Purchase Order (LPO) and within a minimum period of 10 days goods shall be delivered
  - Ability to pre-finance on an approved local purchase order after which payment will be made in two (2) weeks
  - All bids must be signed and sealed in an envelope before submission
- You may obtain the soft copy of the bidding documents and further information from the Procurement & Logistics Section, Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA), 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Room # 029, from Monday- Friday ( 9:00 A.M- 5:00 P.M) daily.
  - Submission must be clearly marked, signed and sealed in an envelope, including other requested information as follows: For Example: (IFB No: LTA/NCB/004/18/19) **CONFIDENTIAL BID- for the Provision Security Guard Services to the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA) for Fiscal Year 2018/2019** and addressed to:  
Procurement & Logistics Section  
Liberia Telecommunications Authority  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Room # 029  
Mentamba Road, Coopee's Beach  
ELWA Community, RIA Highway  
Paynesville, Liberia  
Mobile number: +231-886591857/777591857/886589047  
Web address: [www.lta.gov.lr](http://www.lta.gov.lr)
  - A pre-bid opening meeting will be held at the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA) P&LS Conference Room # 029 on Thursday, June 6, 2019 at 1:00 PM to answer questions relevant to the bidding process. Seven (7) days after which, all clarification requests would remain unanswered.
  - Bid must be submitted at the Procurement Section, Room # 029, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, on Friday, June 14, 2019 on or before 2:00 PM. Bid Opening will be done promptly after closing at 2:00 PM, in the P&LS Conference Room # 029 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, in the presence of bidders' representatives or those who choose to attend. Bid submitted electronically will not be accepted.

- Execution of these procurement packages are subject to the availability of funding during the Fiscal Year 2019-2020. Winning bidders shall be willing to accept payments either in Liberian or United States Dollars using the Central Bank of Liberia exchange rate.
- The Liberia Telecommunications Authority reserves the right to reject or accept any bid submitted including the annulment of the entire process through notifying bidders without incurring any liability thereof.

Signed:   
Prince G. Weah, Jr.  
Procurement & Logistics Manager

Approved:   
Kolubala T. Howard  
Director of Strategy and Acting Director of Administration

## SURVEY NOTICE

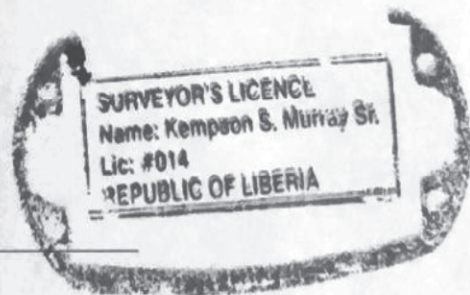
May 22, 2019

Having been granted permission by Hon. Jessie S. Payne the undersigned registered License Surveyor will conduct Survey of 1.67 of Land situated, lying and being in sinkor around 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Montserrado County on Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup> day of May AD 2019 at the precise hour of 9:00AM in favor of Hon. Jessie S. Payne of Monrovia.

Therefore, all those sharing common boundary (ies) with said parcel of land are asked to be present at the site of the Survey with their deed (s) diagram (s) technical representatives or any title document (s) to very their Claims.

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

1. Calvin Doe
2. Vicent Morgan
3. Community Chairman
4. A. B Dayon
5. Marshall Crayford



Signed:   
Kempson S. Murray Sr.  
Registered Land Surveyor  
LIC: 014  
Contact#: 0777750002/0886514399

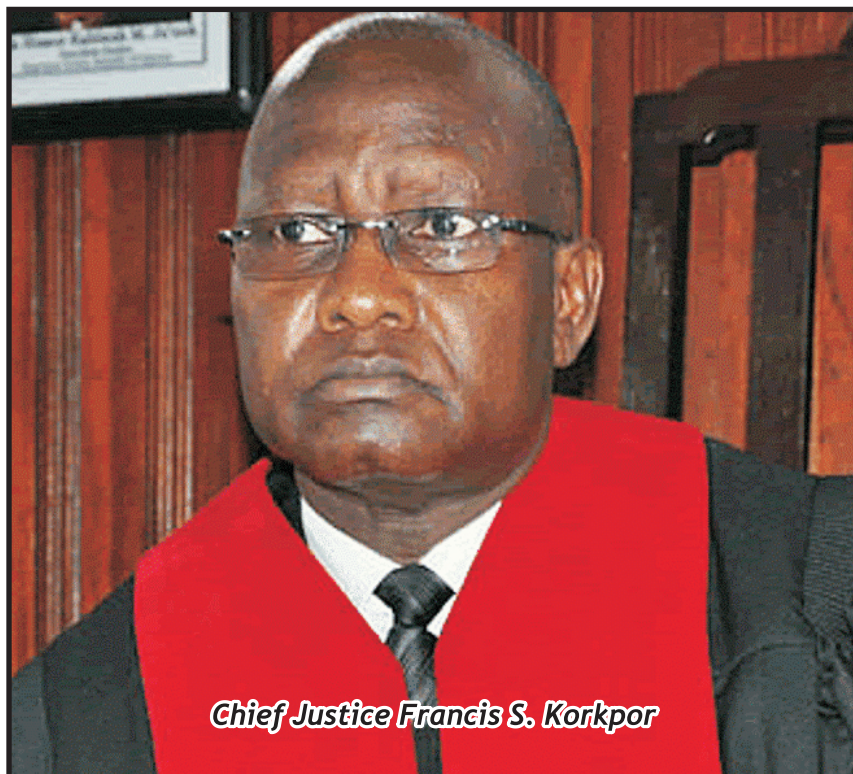
**MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**Supreme Court defends Chief Justice's action**

The Supreme Court of Liberia has come in strong defense of the action of Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor, Sr., to interrupt Liberia National Bar Association (LNBA) president Cllr. Tiawan Gongloe's speech which was urging the superior court to stand up in defense against illegal actions from the Executive and the Legislature.

In a long press release issued in Monrovia, the Supreme Court clarifies stories published in local outlets Daily Observer Newspaper and the New Democrat Newspaper on Tuesday, May 21, 2019.

According to the Supreme Court, the two local dailies insinuated that the action of the Chief Justice by not allowing the Bar president Cllr. Gongloe to continue with his remarks in the Court was an attempt to 'stifle free expression' and 'gag' the Counselor for speaking



Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor

publicly.

The drama between Chief Justice Korkpor and Cllr. Gongloe occurred Monday during the seating of newly commissioned Associate Justice Yussif D. Kaba on the

Supreme Court Bench.

But the Supreme Court insists in a release that the action of the Chief Justice was in line with the protocol of the Court.

The release indicates that it

is an established rule and protocol of the Supreme Court of Liberia that at the official opening of each Term of Court or at a formal judicial program held at the Court, those who speak in response to the Chief Justice's address or make remarks must confine themselves to what the Chief Justice has spoken on.

The release details that the opportunity given (usually to the Minister of Justice/Attorney General and Dean of the Supreme Court Bar and the President of the Liberian National Bar Association) is not intended to create a platform for the introduction of extraneous matters.

The release notes that where the protocol is not followed, the nonconforming speaker is ordered to discontinue his/her speech.

"This is exactly what happened when the President of the Bar veered from the matter at hand into his own personal agenda during the seating of Associate Justice Yussif D. Kaba," the Supreme Court clarifies.

"The Supreme Court therefore sees as being unfair the front-page banner headline of the Daily Observer Newspaper captioned, 'Chief Justice Korkpor Stifles Free Expression? -Interrupts LNBA President Gongloe's remarks in unprecedented fashion' and the front-page banner headline of the New Democrat Newspaper captioned, 'Gongloe Faces Public Speaking Ban,' the release continues.

The Court narrates that the papers insinuated that the action of the Chief Justice was to "stifle free expression", according to the Daily Observer, and "a threat to Ban the President of the LNBA from speaking publicly," according to the New Democrat Newspaper.

But the release suggests that the current Supreme Court Bench prides itself as being perhaps the most opened and tolerant Bench in the history of the Court and will never endeavor to hinder the fundamental rights of any person.

The release hints that the public will agree that there have been numerous false publications about the Court, and in particular about its administrative head, the Chief Justice, without any reaction of reprisal.

"This, by no means shows any sign of weakness, but the level of tolerance the Court has reached in observing the right of all to free speech," it says

further.

The release however carries a warning that the Chambers of the Court, being a sacred place cherished by all must be kept reserved and preserved.

The Court warns that it cannot and will not be reduced to an arena where lawyers who have lost a case will vent their anger.

"When a lawyer loses a case, he may not agree with the decision, but he is obliged to comply with and abide by the decision of the Supreme Court."

The Court recalls that Cllr. Tiawan Gongloe was one of the lawyers for four senators, who filed a lawsuit at the Supreme Court against 19 other Senators for amending Senate Rule #63, an act which the four Senators considered "unconstitutional".

Instead of making the Liberian Senate a party to the action, the Court observes that Cllr. Gongloe proceeded against individual Senators.

It explains that when Gongloe realized that he had made a grave mistake, instead of withdrawing and amending his pleading and filing an amended pleading as provided by law, he compounded the problem by filing "joinder".

"In other words, he determined that the individual Senators should remain as parties and that he would join the Liberian Senate to the action at the level of the Supreme Court," the Court explains.

But under Liberian law, the press release says joinder is not permissible at the Supreme Court. "Because of these and other irregularities and legal blunders, the action was dismissed by the Supreme Court," the release clarifies.

It notes that it is for these reasons that Counsellor Gongloe has embarked on his personal agenda to bring the Court to public disrepute which is against the ethics of the legal profession.

The Court recalls that when Counsellor Gongloe was called upon to respond to the Chief Justice's Opening Address during the opening of this March Term, on March 11, 2019, in his capacity as LNBA president as the Court's protocol demands, the Counsellor used the occasion to reargue his lost case.

He the Court says Cllr. Gongloe claimed that the Supreme Court failed to speak in his case; and that in the past when the Supreme Court failed to speak, 250,000 Liberians died.

"This was totally unwarranted, but the Counsellor continued his attack on the Court without interruption until the end of his speech," the release concludes.--Press release

**"I am President for all Liberians and won't discriminate"**

--President Weah

President George Manneh Weah has assured Liberians that he would do nothing to discriminate against anyone, noting that he would treat all citizens equally without regard to their political, tribal and religious backgrounds.

He spoke Monday, 20 May at the headquarters of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) during the presentation to partisans of the CDC, candidates for the pending Montserrado County

senatorial and District #15 by-elections.

According to the Executive Mansion press release issued Wednesday, 22 May, the president's statement comes amid high political tension in the country, occasioned by "inflammatory statements from the opposition."

"I am President for all Liberians and will remain so throughout my term," President Weah says.

"All Liberians, irrespective of their political opinions and tribal backgrounds, are my citizens and I will do my best to treat them equally."

President Weah avers that

every Liberian and every region of the country would be given equal opportunity and priority to benefit from his administration's economic and development initiatives.

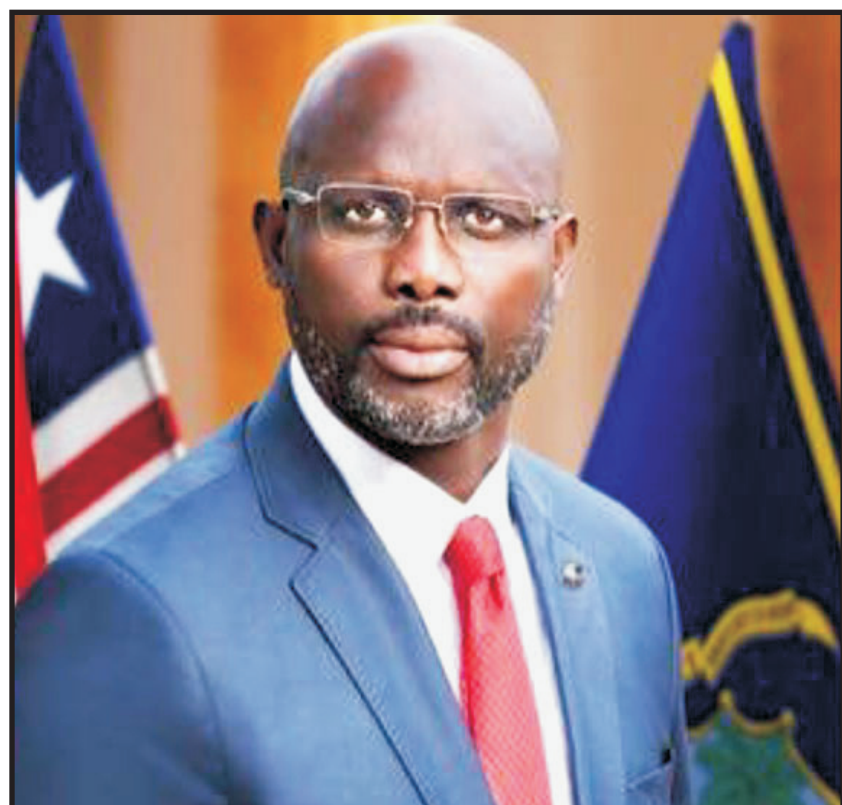
President Weah assures that his administration is committed to tackling the development challenges of Liberia and delivering the good for the benefit of every Liberian citizen.

"Today, as the President of the Republic Liberia, I am the President for all Liberians. I am obliged to ensure that my leadership, our administration, will guide the interest of every Liberian", he maintains.

President Weah suggests that Liberia's democracy is gradually improving from one stage to another, adding that it is incumbent upon him to protect the budding democratic culture of the country which, according to him, is the foundation for national development and economic empowerment for all on the basis of equal opportunities.

He praises partisans of the CDC for conducting transparent democratic primary exercises which led to the selection of Ms. Paulita Wie as the party's senatorial candidate and Abu Kamara as contestant for the District #15 representative by -election.--

Press release



MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Court rejects removal of defense lawyers

By Winston W. Parley

The Criminal Court “C” in Monrovia has rejected prosecutors’ request to remove from the defense team, two public defense lawyers-Attys. Richard Scott and Lucretia Thomas Anderson.

Both lawyers represent the interests of defendants Joseph Dennis and Richard Walker in the LRD\$16bn case.

The government’s request to eject the two lawyers was denied following debate Wednesday, 22 May at the Temple of Justice before co-defendant Milton A. Weeks’ third surety Rhonda vonBallmos could defend the property bond filed for Weeks’ release.

Five officials from the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) and Internal Audit Department indicted for their alleged roles in Liberia’s LRD\$16bn scandal are standing trial or an excess amount of LRD\$2,645,000,000, which investigators say the accused had no authority to print and infuse into the economy.

The defendants include former CBL Executive Governor Milton Weeks; former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf’s son and Deputy CBL Governor Charles

E. Sirleaf; CBL Director for Banking Dorbor Hagba; CBL Director for Operations Richard H. Walker and Joseph Dennis, Deputy Director for Internal Audit.

In the Liberian judicial system, the Public Defender’s program is setup to provide representation for all indigent persons (folks lacking finance) that are charged with crimes.

Through this program, Public Defenders under supervision by the Coordinator of the Judiciary Public Defense Program are tasked to provide effective representation to clients who

are frequently illiterate, uneducated, and financially unable to hire lawyers or pay legal fees, among others.

If the court is satisfied after appropriate inquiry that the accused is financially unable to retain legal counsel, the Criminal Procedure Law mandates that the court assigns the county Defense Counsel to represent the accused.

The Criminal Procedure Law Section 2.2 (1) partly provides mandates that the accused in all criminal prosecutions enjoys the right to legal representation at every stage

of the proceedings.

Voicing the State’s opposition against Attys. Scott and Anderson’s service on the defense’s legal team, Montserrado County Attorney Cllr. Edwin K. Martin says there is no indication that the defendants requested the Court for public defense lawyers because they are unable to hire a lawyer.

In defense’s resistance, Cllr. Abraham Sillah informs the Court that the statute that prosecutors are relying on does not take precedence over the Constitution [which under Article 21, mandates the Republic to make available legal aid services to ensure the protection of the rights of an accused where the accused is unable to hire such representation].

From the day the defendants were arrested and taken to the police station, Cllr. Sillah argues that Attys Scott and Anderson were there until other lawyers came in later, suggesting that to remove the two counsels would amount to denying defendant Walker and Dennis adequate legal representation. Judge Peter Gbeneweleh denied

prosecution’s request, saying it is not supported by law.

In a related development, co-defendant Milton Weeks’ third surety, Madam Rhonda vonBallmos has defended bond proffered to secure the indictee’s release from pretrial detention at the Monrovia Central Prison.

Giving testimony, Madam vonBallmos says the property she has submitted as surety is owned by she and her husband Mr. Dewitt vonBallmos, and is located in Congo Town, Monrovia Liberia.

She testifies that they pay taxes for the property to the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA), and further identifies the deed to the property, a receipt from the LRA for tax payment for the property and the authentication from the LRA that the family owns the property in question.

From the legal calculation provided by law to justify and provide sufficiency of bond value, the County Attorney Cllr. Martin says it [the bond value] seems to have been in the tune of USD\$1,673,735.44 plus LRD\$5,290,000,000. -Edited by Othello B. Garblah



## Senate probes illegal mining in Southeast

By Ethel A Tweh

The Liberian Senate has mandated two committees on Lands Mines and Energy and Security to meet with the Minister of Mines and Energy and the Liberia Immigration Service to investigate illegal mining in the Southeastern part of Liberia.

Sinoe County Sen. J. Milton Teahjay in a written

communication to the Senate complains that miners who have been issued class “C” license by the Mines and Energy Ministry are carrying on class “A” mining, instead.

Sen. Teahjay believes that miners involved in this act are defrauding the Liberian government millions of dollars that could be used to improve the livelihood of thousands of Liberian citizens.

According to him, Ghanaians are dominantly engaged in the illegal mining activities.

In his complaint, Sen. Teahjay asks plenary to summon the Ministry of Mines and Energy to show cause why miners that are issued class “C” licenses are performing class “A” mining without effectively monitoring mechanism in place at the Ministry.

For his part, Sinoe County Sen. Augustine Chea says he was recently in the county and there were complaints from the residents about the illegal mining ongoing there.

He says residents revealed that those involved are mainly foreigners.

Gbarpolu County Sen. Daniel Naatehn made a motion to accept the communication and send it to the appropriate committees to report to plenary next Thursday.

He says if the both committees are unable, plenary will invite the Ministry of Mines and Energy and the Liberia Immigration Service. -Edited by Winston W. Parley



Sen. J. Milton Teahjay

## Youth activist warns against violence

By Stone Siakor/Margibi



Facebook Intellectual Forum at German Camp Junction, Weala, Margibi County urges young people across Liberia to refrain from all forms of violence that have the proclivity of devastating their future.

Moses Holmes condemns actions by young people around the country, destroying valuable properties that they would use as future leaders thru violent protests.

He calls on his colleagues young people to use legal means in seeking remedies to their problems rather than violence.

Mr. Holmes, currently a Junior Student at the University of Liberia studying Civil Engineering specifically

points to recent violence in Weala, Margibi County, the Liberia Agricultural Company (LAC) in Grand Bassa County, and in Ganta, Nimba County, respectively last month, which he notes affected the local economy with trigger down effect on young people.

He also wants government to deploy police in the affected arrears to protect lives and properties, noting that lawlessness has increased since the April 1, 2019 violence.

He discloses that residents of the various communities are living in fear due to continuous intimation and armed robbery. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

# Français

## Les rangs des partisans de la marche du 7 juin se gonflent

À mesure que la date fatidique du 7 juin s'approche lentement mais sûrement, les organisateurs de la prochaine marche « géante » semblent être en train de réussir de convaincre de plus en plus de partisans. Le dernier qui a levé sa main n'est pas des moindres. Il s'agit du député Samuel Kogar, représentant du district 5 du comté de Nimba. L'honorable Kogar a fait part de son plein soutien à la fameuse marche éclatée du 7 juin qui continue de faire couler plus d'encre et de salive.

Le député a dit que les citoyens ont le droit de se rassembler et de manifester pacifiquement s'ils sentent que les choses ne vont pas dans le bon sens dans le pays, rappelant que la constitution donne aux citoyens le droit et le pouvoir de se rassembler et d'attirer l'attention de leurs dirigeants sur leurs conditions de vie.

Le député de Nimba a dit déplorer que, depuis

l'élection du président George Weah à la présidence, les conditions de vie des Libériens, tant dans les zones rurales que dans les zones urbaines, se soient dégradées au lieu de s'améliorer.

Il a donné sa position sur la manifestation du 7 juin la semaine dernière au cours

d'une émission radiodiffusée et relayée par plusieurs stations de radio communautaires dans le comté de Nimba.

La position du représentant Kogar sur la manifestation prévue va à l'encontre de celle de son mentor, le sénateur Yormie Johnson, qui a conseillé au peuple du comté de

Nimbade ne pas descendre dans la rue pour protester.

Selon le sénateur PYJ, le président George Weah a assumé la présidence il y a un an. Il va falloir qu'on lui donne suffisamment de temps pour développer le Libéria.

Le président George Manneh Weah, lui, accuse l'opposition et les critiques d'organiser cette manifestation pour détourner l'attention des populations de sorte qu'elles ne se rendent pas compte « des travaux colossaux en cours pour le développement des infrastructures de la nation ».

Selon un communiqué rendu public à Monrovia le lundi 20 mai, le président Weah s'est exprimé le vendredi 17 mai à New Kru Town lors des élections primaires organisées par le parti au pouvoir pour choisir leurs candidats aux prochaines élections législatives et sénatoriales partielles du comté de Montserrado.

Le président maintient que « la manifestation du 7 juin est un stratagème empreint d'hypocrisie, uniquement pour détourner l'attention des Libériens des nombreuses interventions positives de mon gouvernement visant à améliorer les conditions de vie et à développer le pays ».

« Oui, il y a des défis, mais ce que nous faisons ici est de raccommoder les fissures qui ont été faites par les autres », a déclaré le président.

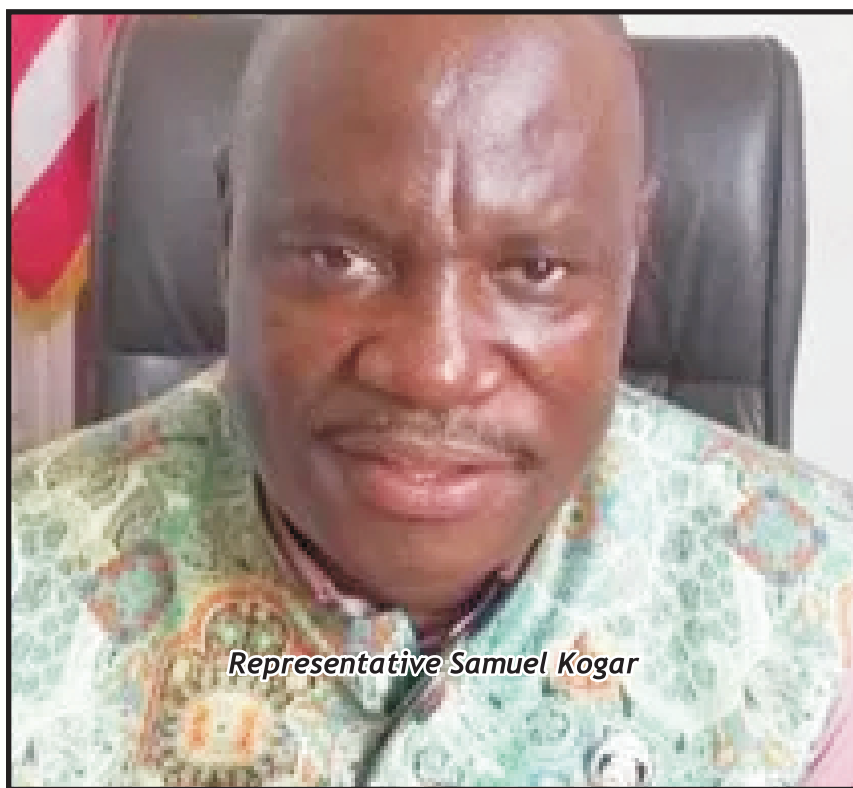
« Aujourd'hui, ils vous accusent pour l'économie qui était mauvaise sous leur direction », poursuit le président Weah, faisant apparemment référence à son prédécesseur, l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

« Mais laissez-moi vous dire que la seule raison pour laquelle un Libérien va descendre dans la rue, c'est simplement parce qu'il a été battu et qu'il ne veut pas que nous les dirigions », a-t-il déclaré.

Pendant que les libériens tremblent de peur à cause de la marche prévue le 7 juin, les Nations Unies se disent confiantes que tous les Libériens ont à cœur la paix et ne feront rien qui puissent provoquer une autre guerre, d'où l'importance de rester serein. Elles exhortent donc le gouvernement à autoriser la manifestation.

"Le 7 juin est une bonne chose", a déclaré le Coordonnateur résident des Nations Unies, Yacoub El Hillo, "car une telle manifestation montrera que le gouvernement du Libéria reconnaît à tout moment qu'il existe un droit inscrit dans la Constitution, celui de manifester pacifiquement. C'est pourquoi le 7 juin est effectivement pris en charge, et le 7 juin devrait être autorisé à suivre son cours. Le 7 juin devrait être accordé au peuple de ce pays pour qu'il présente une pétition à son gouvernement de manière pacifique, ordonnée et organisée, en étroite coordination avec les autorités compétentes du pays.

La corruption, le mauvais état de l'économie et la mauvaise gestion présumée des 25 millions de dollars décaissés pour, dit-on, éponger l'excès de liquidité de la monnaie nationale sont parmi les causes pour lesquelles l'opposition et les détracteurs du régime du président Weah veulent descendre dans la rue pour exprimer leur mécontentement.



Representative Samuel Kogar

## Guinée/ 3<sup>ème</sup> mandat: L'armée et la Communauté internationale appelées à la rescousse

Le Front National pour la Défense de la Constitution a réagi mardi à la sortie médiatique du RPG-Arc-en-ciel, parti au pouvoir, qui prône la tenue d'un référendum pour une nouvelle Constitution, synonyme de maintien au pouvoir d'Alpha Condé au-delà de son mandat constitutionnel.

Réunis en plénière, le FNDC a dans une déclaration, rappelé qu'il « ne cèdera pas

un pouce de répit à tous ceux qui voudront voler à notre Peuple sa dignité, par cynisme et par excès ».

Pour le Front, cette nouvelle Constitution dont on fait allusion, n'est rien d'autre qu'« un produit malsain, toxique, donc dangereux pour les populations guinéennes. »

C'est dans ce cadre que le FNDC appelle les Forces de Défense et de Sécurité, à se tenir du côté du Peuple, à l'image de leurs pairs du

Soudan, de l'Algérie et du Burkina Faso, ainsi que la Communauté internationale pour dissuader Alpha Condé, afin qu'il renonce à son dangereux projet de 3<sup>ème</sup> Mandat ou de présidence à vie, Lisez la déclaration...

Déclaration N° 009/FNDC/2019

Devant l'échec cuisant de la tentative de manipulation et d'instrumentalisation des populations guinéennes, dans les préfectures de la Basse Guinée et à Kouroussa en Haute Guinée, par certains cadres opportunistes et démagogues, en vue du dangereux projet de "Présidence à Vie", que le Président Alpha CONDE veut s'offrir au mépris de la volonté du vaillant Peuple de Guinée, le RPG Arc-En-Ciel sort enfin du bois, ce samedi 18 mai 2019.

En déclarant officiellement son implication dans la forfaiture politique que de vils "stratèges" peinent à présenter comme un referendum, qui déguise mal le Coup d'Etat en préparation, le RPG vient de reconnaître, à la face du monde son incapacité à trouver en son sein des cadres

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d'envergure face au défi d'une alternance apaisée.

Mais aussi il vient de se renier devant l'histoire, au regard de l'adoption de la Constitution de mai 2010, par ses propres représentants, au sein du Conseil National de Transition (CNT).

Ce développement qui ne surprend guère, apparaît comme un évident signe de panique, devant la détermination des démocrates réunis au sein du FRONT NATIONAL pour la DEFENSE de la CONSTITUTION (FNDC) pour empêcher, par

toutes les voies légales et pacifiques, toutes tentatives de remise en cause des acquis démocratiques Guinée.

Il est aussi la preuve que, devant l'inefficacité de la répression policière et judiciaire contre les défenseurs de la Constitution, et devant l'échec annoncé du rêve d'une "Présidence à Vie", M. Alpha CONDE veut désormais passer à la seconde phase de son plan diabolique ; celle de la préparation de "l'affrontement" auquel il appelait "ses partisans", le 24 mars 2019.



# Français

## Éditorial

### Des études universitaires gratuites, une politique sans mesures d'accompagnement

**D**e toute évidence, la gratuité des cours dont bénéficient actuellement les étudiants du premier cycle des Universités étatiques du Libéria n'a fait l'objet d'aucune étude de faisabilité. Depuis que le président a fait l'annonce en octobre 2018 dans l'auditorium du campus de l'université Liberia à Capitol Hill, le gouvernement n'a toujours pas tenu sa promesse, laissant les responsables des universités publiques étouffer sur le plan financier pour faire fonctionner ces établissements.

Il y a près de deux semestres depuis que l'annonce a été faite à l'Université du Libéria. Le gouvernement n'a pas payé le moindre centime pour compenser les frais universitaires des dizaines de milliers d'étudiants du premier cycle inscrits notamment à l'Université du Libéria et dans d'autres institutions publiques du pays. L'Université du Libéria est actuellement en grave déficit, incapable de financer ses opérations.

Toutes les tentatives du pouvoir législatif d'obtenir des autorités des ministères des Finances et de l'Éducation des détails ou des explications sur le processus de financement des études universitaires se sont avérées vaines, rien n'a été dit ni fait.

En fait, les sénateurs ont exprimé leur déception et leur frustration la semaine dernière devant cette nouvelle politique qui, selon eux, a été mise en place à la hâte par le président sans prendre des dispositions au préalable et mettre en place des mesures d'accompagnement. Pire, l'administration de l'Université du Libéria et celles de toutes les autres universités publiques ne semblent pas avoir été consultées ni prévenues. La présidente de l'Université du Libéria, Dr Ophelia Weeks, était hors du pays lorsque le président Weah a fait l'annonce.

La semaine dernière, le comité sénatorial sur l'éducation et l'administration publique, présidé par le sénateur du comté de River Cess, Dallas Gueh, a rendu compte à l'assemblée plénière, notant qu'aucune consultation n'avait été menée avant l'annonce de la gratuité des études universitaires du premier cycle et aucune mesure d'accompagnement n'a été prise pour 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 respectivement fait valoir que les bénéficiaires du programme devraient être tenus à accepter d'abord certaines conditions dont le versement d'un quota en espèces ou sous forme de services après l'obtention de leur diplôme universitaire.

Au cours du débat qui a eu lieu au sénat la semaine dernière, certains sénateurs se sont dit que le président Weah apparemment été mal conseillé en ce qui concerne la déclaration de la gratuité des études universitaires du premier cycle, d'autant plus que cette décision a été prise sans tenir compte de la nécessité de mettre en place des mesures d'accompagnement.

L'assemblée plénière du sénat a, à la fin du débat, 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, Samuel Tweah, afin de donner des détails sur le programme, y compris les sources de financement.

En effet, le responsable des finances devrait expliquer le plan ambitieux qui coûtera des millions de dollars à l'Etat en cette période de crise économique caractérisée par une inflation galopante, des prix vertigineux et une dépréciation incontrôlable du dollar libérien.

À moins qu'un plan réaliste et réalisable pour le financement du projet ait été identifié, nous pensons que le gouvernement devrait avoir suffisamment de courage pour modifier le programme ou le suspendre jusqu'à ce que l'économie soit stabilisée, car l'Université du Libéria et les autres universités sont dans le « rouge ».

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Michel Barnier

### En défense de l'Europe

**B**RUXELLES - La géopolitique redevient un jeu d'échec. Après l'intermède qui a suivi les événements de l'année 1989, durant lequel l'histoire a semblé pencher en faveur d'un ordre international libéral et pacifique, nous assistons aujourd'hui à une compétition de plus en plus marquée entre les puissances, à leur poursuite de l'hégémonie et à leur extension quasi impériale.

La Russie défie impudemment le droit international et affirme son influence régionale. La Chine est engagée dans une compétition stratégique globale et tente de créer les contours d'un nouveau modèle international. Les États-Unis ont choisi de défendre leurs intérêts par des actions et des pressions unilatérales.

Confrontée à ce brusque réveil géopolitique, l'Europe doit prendre son avenir en main. Si nous ne nous battons pas pour affirmer et défendre nos intérêts et nos valeurs, l'Union européenne ainsi que ses États membres deviendront des proies supplémentaires dans le nouvel ordre mondial - pour ne pas dire le nouveau désordre mondial. Il est temps que les Européens, collectivement, construisent leur souveraineté, dans tous les domaines où ils veulent être acteurs plutôt que spectateurs : la politique étrangère et la défense, l'économie et le commerce, les technologies numériques et la préservation de l'environnement.

Sous l'impulsion de Donald Tusk, président du Conseil européen, et de Jean-Claude Juncker, président de la Commission européenne, l'UE a réalisé des progrès notables à cet égard. Nous avons clarifié nos instruments de défense commerciale, en perspective des conflits qui s'annoncent, et rendu notre économie moins vulnérable aux rachats étrangers de nos actifs stratégiques. En outre, nous avons investi dans la protection de nos réseaux et de nos infrastructures vitales contre les cyberattaques.

Le plus surprenant est peut-être que nous ayons fait de si grands pas dans la mutualisation de nos efforts de défense. Autrefois taboue, la défense est devenue pour la Commission une priorité politique. Les 13 milliards d'euros (14,6 milliards de dollars) du Fonds européen de la défense, par exemple, ouvrent la voie à une programmation conjointe et au développement commun d'équipements.

Mais l'Europe peut - et doit - faire mieux dans ce domaine. Il n'est plus question qu'elle délègue sa sécurité. Si l'augmentation des dépenses nous rendra plus forts, elle n'est pas, à elle seule, suffisante. C'est d'un projet - d'une boussole politique - dont l'Europe a besoin, et nos concitoyens l'attendent également.

La Stratégie globale de l'UE, menée par Federica Mogherini, haute représentante de l'Union pour les affaires étrangères et la politique de sécurité et vice-présidente de la Commission européenne, définit depuis 2016 un nouveau niveau d'ambition collective pour l'action extérieure de l'Europe. Mais en raison tant de la compétition que se livrent aujourd'hui les puissances mondiales que des menaces transfrontalières répétées, de Riga à Nicosie, cette stratégie doit être actualisée et traduite dans la politique étrangère et dans la programmation de défense.

Le moment est donc venu d'un livre blanc, d'une révision de notre stratégie de défense, c'est-à-dire d'une évaluation conjointe, premièrement, des principales menaces auxquelles l'Europe devra faire face d'ici 2030, deuxièmement, des orientations stratégiques qui dicteront les priorités communes de l'UE et de ses États membres, enfin de la traduction de ces dernières dans des structures institutionnelles et des équipements partagés.

Tout en réaffirmant le rôle essentiel de l'OTAN en matière de défense collective, ce livre blanc doit se pencher sur le développement des capacités de l'Europe et sur notre état de préparation à des actions extérieures communes. Nous avons besoin de capacités unifiées pour faire face aux nouveaux défis asymétriques du terrorisme, de la cybercriminalité, des campagnes de désinformation, ainsi que des menaces

chimiques, biologiques, radiologiques et nucléaires. La cybersécurité, en particulier, constitue un domaine où nos capacités civiles et militaires doivent être élargies pour se hisser à la hauteur des enjeux à venir. En outre, cette révision devrait fournir des orientations à l'industrie européenne de défense, élément clé de notre sécurité.

Pour soutenir ces efforts et offrir un niveau renouvelé d'ambition, nous devons aussi construire notre Union de politique étrangère et de défense. Les institutions de l'UE et les États membres forment une seule et même équipe. Le but n'est pas de rogner la souveraineté des États membres mais bien de nous rendre tous - et chacun - plus forts.

Une politique étrangère et de défense commune bénéficie de la diversité des services de renseignement, des forces armées, des équipements et des expériences au combat, ainsi que des différentes orientations régionales - vers l'Afrique, le Moyen-Orient, l'Ouest des Balkans et le flanc oriental de l'Europe -, legs de l'histoire et de la géographie.

Au sein de ce cadre, les États membres qui le souhaitent et en ont les capacités devraient aussi agir en ambassadeurs ou en pays moteurs dans des zones particulières. Cela conférerait aux structures et aux initiatives régionales cohérence et flexibilité et permettrait aux États membres de mettre à profit leur influence tant au service de leurs intérêts nationaux que des intérêts européens.

En parallèle, la défense devrait être soigneusement institutionnalisée au niveau européen : un Conseil de défense, pour offrir une plateforme de coordination aux ministres de la Défense ; un quartier général des opérations, pour organiser et conduire la politique de sécurité et de défense commune de l'UE ; une chaîne de commandement efficace et réactive ; une véritable académie de défense européenne, enfin.

Ces étapes pratiques contribueront à renforcer la culture stratégique européenne commune et à faire de la défense européenne une réalité opérationnelle. Elles doteront aussi l'UE de véritables atouts pour s'engager aux côtés de partenaires stratégiques - au premier rang desquels le Royaume-Uni, qui demeurera, après avoir quitté le bloc, un allié indispensable et un partenaire puissant.

Depuis trop longtemps pourtant, des questions intérieures comme le Brexit monopolisent l'agenda des dirigeants européens, aux dépens de sujets sécuritaires urgents. La stabilité en Afrique, le processus de paix en Syrie, la crise en Libye, l'Ouest des Balkans, le voisinage oriental et l'Arctique méritent que nous y accordions plus d'attention, sans parler de notre capacité à nous engager aux côtés de partenaires stratégiques.

Les questions de sécurité commune devraient figurer tous les trois ou six mois à l'ordre du jour du Conseil européen. C'est par des débats réguliers et structurés que nos dirigeants pourront répondre aux évolutions stratégiques et définir une orientation commune à l'action, en utilisant toute la panoplie de la politique étrangère européenne.

L'UE doit en même temps faire un usage plus cohérent de ses différents outils de politique étrangère : diplomatie, commerce, aide au développement et défense. Pour relever les défis d'un monde où l'Afrique et l'Asie joueront un rôle de plus en plus important, l'Europe doit quitter ses retranchements pour disposer ses instruments extérieurs. Ainsi au mois de mars, Tusk a-t-il lancé le débat parmi les dirigeants européens sur la relation entre l'UE et la Chine. Ce devrait être pour les années à venir une priorité.

Mais la clé du succès en politique étrangère est d'avoir les moyens de ses ambitions. L'Europe continue d'exercer un soft power indéniable, mais demeure pour ce qui concerne son hard power quantité négligeable. Le retour de la politique des puissances signifie que ce déséquilibre n'est plus, désormais, tenable. L'Europe a besoin de marcher sur deux jambes - et nos concitoyens attendent et espèrent une Union qui protège, qui ait plus de moyens et qui soit souveraine. Nous ne pourrions y parvenir que si les États membres et les institutions de l'UE joignent leurs forces.

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**40% Liberians suffers mental disorder**

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Cultivation for Users Hope, a local group at a daylong engagement with the Liberian media through the Press Union of Liberia discloses that about 40 percent Liberians are afflicted with mental disorder.

It quotes current World Bank statistics as indicating about 10 percent of the world's population lives with mental illness, many of which is caused by depression.

According to the Carter Center, 40 percent of the 4.5 million Liberians have symptoms of major depression, while about 44 percent appears to have post-traumatic stress disorders.

It is also estimated that 50 to -70 percent of women and girls in Liberia were sexually assaulted during the civil war and about 11 percent has contemplated suicide. Due to the dearth of mental health services in the country, only a handful of persons with mental illness received treatment, says the report.

The media engagement, which took place in Monrovia,

saw mental health practitioners, officials of the local group, and members of the media discuss how the media could help in reducing this alarming percentage.

The report also indicates that only a handful of persons with mental illness here receive treatment.

The situation is so alarming that it's not limited to urban areas, as many in rural Liberia

are said to be faced with similar conditions that continue to tear families apart. Though there has been no established data, reports from rural Liberia indicates that some men are angrily killing family members, including wives and innocent people over very small issues that could have been easily negotiated and settled by immediate interventions of

elders or community leaders.

There is a tendency in Africa at large and Liberia is no exception, to ignore and brand mentally ill people as alcoholics and drug-users; neglected and left to survive in the streets with their children. These mentally ill people and their family always face stigma in various communities hence, a need for the Liberian government to act and acknowledge the situation with policies to tackle and impact this growing threat to the society.

Cultivation for Users Hope

works in the interest of persons living with mental illnesses at all levels through advocacy, capacity building, empowerment, awareness and stigma reduction. It also provides community engagement and outreach by working with communities and families to raise awareness about mental illnesses; fighting abuses and violence that persons living with mental illnesses face, while promoting sustainable livelihood development. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*



**County superintendents at security reform seminar**

Superintendents from Liberia's 15 Counties are meeting in the port city of Buchanan in Grand Bassa County for phase two of Security Sector Reform Leadership Seminar Series.

According to a press release, the seminar brings together the Superintendents who are also Chairpersons of the county Security Council established in each county with a focus of sustaining the gains with the security architecture of Liberia.

County Security Council, a replica of the National Security Council which is headed by the President, is among requirements of the National Security and Intelligent Act of 2011.

During the four-day seminar which is expected to end on 24 May, the participants would have an understanding of key 'Rule of Law' principles and ethical leadership skills.

The release says the participants will have understanding of the Liberia peacebuilding architecture, early warning, early response mechanism and the concept of County Peace Committee, among others.

The superintendents will also brainstorm on challenges facing the security sector in their respective counties and suggest recommendations for possible steps aimed at mitigating the challenges.

Further, the press release from the Ministry of Internal Affairs states that the seminar is being conducted by National Security Council Secretariat and the Swedish Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA) in collaboration with the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, the Minister of

Internal Affairs Mr. Varney A. Sirleaf challenged County Superintendents to take charge of County security.

According to him, security is everyone's business and a priority of Government.

Minister Sirleaf says he requires a high degree of leadership from County Superintendents in collaboration with security institutions and citizens of communities and counties.

The Internal Affairs Minister encourages the participants to pay attention to the details during training, noting that Superintendents must be proactive and network with all security agencies operating in their counties.

Speaking earlier, Elisabeth Hårleman, Head of Development Cooperation at the Swedish Embassy near Monrovia says the training exercise is part of technical support from Sweden to Liberia's Security Sector Reform (SSR)

She says Folke Bernadotte Academy is one of two development programs being run in Liberia as part of bilateral cooperation with Liberia.

The FBA is the Swedish government agency dedicated to improving the quality and effectiveness of international conflict and crisis managements, with a particular focus on peace operations.

For his part, the National Security Advisor Mr. Jefferson Karmoh says the training exercise is necessary to strengthen a deeper understanding of the County Superintendents on the SSR. *-- Press release*

**Ganta marketers decry high prices, exchange rate**

By Thomas Domah/Nimba

More than 200 aggrieved marketers at the Ganta General Market are disappointed over the uncontrollable increase of basic commodity prices in the county, particularly in stores, which has affected the local market.

The head of the aggrieved marketers, Madam Tawah Saah laments that prices of goods are increasing daily, making life unbearable for ordinary citizens.

According to her, in the past, various goods, including rubber buckets, rice, soap, oil and cartoons of fish, among others were sold at low prices under the administration of former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

She recalls that a bag of 25kg rice previously sole for 1, 200 Liberian Dollars, has escalated to 3,700 Liberian Dollars, while a cartoon of fish previously sold for 9,000 Liberian Dollars now costs 2000, Liberian Dollars, among

others.

Two other aggrieved marketers, Nohn Sayegbuoh and Moses Marfee say in the past, business at the Ganta General Market was profitable, but in the wake of the current economic hardship characterized by rising prices and exchange rate, they earn less than a thousand Liberian dollars perday.

"My brother, this business we are selling is from there we send our children to school and feed our homes; some of us our men are not

employed; we are the ones feeding the home", they explain.

The marketers further disclose that due the uncontrollable exchange rate, prices increase daily, affecting purchasing power of consumers and their businesses, as sales fall drastically.

The aggrieved marketers call on government to devise means to combat the high exchange rate and corresponding price increase, affecting businesses across the country.

One United States Dollar is now sold for 187 Liberian Dollars in Monrovia above the 150LRD officially announced by the Central Bank of Liberia.

*-Editing by Jonathan Browne*



# Patray hangs to dry

By Winston W. Parley

Liberia's chief prosecutor, Justice Minister Frank Musa Dean says the burden of proof is on the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) to explain variances and discrepancies cited in a report by the General Auditing Commission (GAC) on the use of a US\$25m intended to mop-up excess Liberian Dollars here.

Central Bank Executive Governor Nathaniel Patray is the co-chair to Finance Minister Samuel Tweah on the Economic Management Team that spearheaded the controversial mop-up exercise intended to stabilize the exchange rate here. The entire mop-up transaction was handled by CBL's officials.

Responding to the GAC's factual findings on the mop-up exercise Wednesday, 22 May, Minister Dean indicates that multiple sections of the GAC report reference discrepancies and variances in the accounting records of the mop-up exercise.



"Again, these variances and discrepancies place the burden of proof on the CBL to explain these variances and discrepancies or to establish that they are not factual," Dean says.

Consistent with findings, Minister Dean says the GAC's report provides evidence that LRD\$2.6bn representing the

value of US\$17m was actually brought to the Central Bank.

"There is therefore no issue as to the Liberian Dollars Two Point Six Billion (LRD2.6b), representing the value of the United States Dollars Seventeen Million (USD17m), being brought to the vault of the CBL," he notes.

He says he can safely

conclude that no money is missing in the US\$25m mop-up exercise.

According to Minister Dean, he has made specific recommendations to President George Manneh Weah in view of the unfolding, and the president "will shortly address the nation."

The US\$25m mop-up and other concerns about the poor performance of the economy, allegations of corruption and other issues are concerns held by some Liberians for which they want to be a part of a planned June 7 protest.

Suggestions have been coming from some quarters for President Weah to dismiss and submit Mr. Patray and Mr. Tweah to investigation.

But the Justice Minister finds that the burden is on the Central Bank to explain the variances cited by the GAC.

"The description of the discrepancies, variances and delays in posting financial transactions, contained in the GAC's Report, point to systematic weaknesses at the CBL," Minister Dean reveals.

He explains that the GAC report, like the Kroll and the Presidential Investigative Team's (PIT) Reports, reveals entrenched, systemic flaws at the CBL over the years.

In summarizing the GAC report, Minister Dean says the amount of US\$25m was authorized to be infused into the economy to stabilize the exchange rate, through monetary interventions by the Central Bank of Liberia.

Out of the US\$25m authorized, Minister Dean says "only" US\$17m was used.

Out of the US\$17m used, Minister Dean explains that the GAC report indicated that US\$10m was exchanged at a rate of LRD\$155 to US\$1. He says US\$5m was exchanged at the rate of LRD\$152 to US\$1.

Applying the rates mentioned above, Minister Dean indicates that US\$15m was exchanged for LRD\$2,302,710,940.

"This amount was deposited with the Central Bank, as per the accounting records of the CBL," he explains.

Out of the US\$17m, Minister Dean detailed that the remaining US\$2m was sold directly to Total Incorporated at an exchange rate of LRD\$156.5709 to US\$1, realizing the value of LRD\$313, 141800.00. -*Edited by Othello B. Garblah*

## FLY alarms

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

The leadership of the Federation of Liberian Youth or FLY, a national youth body in the country alarms that the government through the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning plans to remove it from the 2019/2020 national budget.

"Our attention has been drawn to a calculated plan by the Liberian government through its Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) to remove FLY from the 2019/2020 national budget. FLY sees this decision by the government as a deliberate attempt of silencing statutory national youth bodies in the country and undermining international

protocols like the African Youth Charter to which this Government is a signatory", the Federation claims in a news conference in Monrovia.

Instead, it calls on the Liberian government to single out FLY as a Direct Budget Receiving Entity beginning this 2019/2020 national budget.

FLY President Amos Williams says leaving FLY and other statutory youth groups at the mercy of the Ministry of Youth & Sports is intended to micro-manage and hamper their independence.

"Some of you may recall that recently the MFDP had a policy brief in which it disclosed plans of allocating a lump-sum amount of money to a particular line ministry to determine and allocate it as they see necessary," Mr.

Williams adds.

He notes that in any modern system of governance where a particular category of the population is in large number, the governing structure creates the necessary systems that focus more on the wellbeing of such population category like the young people.

He argues that being the largest portion of the Liberian population, the youths have always lagged behind in adequate budgetary support, something which has impeded their progress and resulted to them being used as elements of violence.

The FLY boss calls on the government of President George Manneh Weah to make true its pledge for youth development.

"It is time that the President reflects on the massive turnout of our population that supported him during his years of political struggles before becoming President."

He emphasizes that it is time the President reciprocates such high degree of support he continues to enjoy from the youth.

FLY acknowledges the current economic situation and budgetary constraints faced by the country, but adds that young people issues in Liberia should receive national priority.

Williams recalls that President Weah submitted a National Youth Act to the Legislature for passage, which



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the Ministry of Youth & Sports and partners are currently reviewing thru the National Youth Policy (2019-2023).

He says these are very clear indications that the government is committed to supporting youth development and empowerment at all levels.

At the same time, FLY believes that these policy statements and documents can

only come to fruition when the needed budgetary support is provided by national government.

He points out that without financial support, FLY as a national youth umbrella organization will not meaningfully play its role in implementing the Pro-Poor Agenda - Pillar One. -*Editing by Jonathan Browne*

## Fifa drops plans to expand Qatar 2022 to 48 teams



Plans to expand the 2022 World Cup to 48 teams have been abandoned by Fifa.

Fifa president Gianni Infantino said last year the expansion from 32 teams could be brought forward from 2026 to the 2022 tournament in Qatar.

The change would have required Qatar to share hosting duties with other countries in the region.

World football's governing body said after a "thorough and comprehensive consultation process" the

change "could not be made now".

Fifa also said it explored the possibility of Qatar hosting a 48-team tournament on its own but has decided not to pursue those plans as there was not enough time "for a detailed assessment of the potential logistical impact".

In November, Uefa president Aleksander Ceferin said adding 16 teams to Qatar 2022 could create "many problems" and described the idea as "quite unrealistic".

Those close to the Qatar 2022 organisers say this is a

mutual decision that realigns them and Fifa, and that they are now concentrating on delivering the best possible 32-team World Cup.

But it will also have come as a major relief to the hosts, who no longer have to worry about sharing football's showpiece event.

Perhaps with the Nobel Peace Prize in mind, Fifa president Gianni Infantino had pushed for an expansion against Qatar's wishes, hoping it may help heal diplomatic tensions in the region by staging some games in other countries, but he has now had to admit defeat.

With Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain all maintaining a blockade of neighbouring Qatar, such an audacious move was never going to be straightforward.

The crisis left only Kuwait and Oman as potential co-hosts, but a Fifa study concluded that neither would meet all logistical requirements.

## Dortmund sign Hazard for £30m

Borussia Dortmund have signed Belgium international Thorgan Hazard from fellow Bundesliga side Borussia Monchengladbach.

The 26-year-old midfielder - younger brother of Chelsea's Eden - has signed a five-year deal for a reported £30m.

Germany midfielder Julian Brandt has also signed for Dortmund, from Bayer Leverkusen, on a five-year deal.

Lucien Favre's side finished as runners-up in Bundesliga, two points behind champions Bayern Munich.

Hazard scored 10 goals and registered 12 assists as Monchengladbach finished fifth in the league.

"Now was exactly the right time to take the next step in my career," he said.

A former Chelsea youth player, Hazard spent five

years at Monchengladbach. He has won 21 caps for Belgium and was part of the squad that finished third at last year's World Cup.

His form this season had seen him linked with a move to Liverpool and Arsenal.

Dortmund sporting director Michael Zorc said: "He has consistently demonstrated his class over the course of the past few years."

Brandt, 23, made 43 appearances for Leverkusen last season, scoring 10 goals.

"I am a person who sometimes decides things from the gut and for whom a good feeling is important," Brandt told the club website. "In the case of Borussia Dortmund, I have a very good feeling."

"One of the main reasons for my change is that BVB narrowly missed the title last season, so there is room for improvement."



## Mane sends Premier League title warning to Man City

Forward Sadio Mane has warned Man City that Liverpool will 'try again' for the Premier League next season and that the experience of the title race will be of benefit to the side.

City and Liverpool slugged it out in the most competitive and high quality title race in league history, with the Reds finishing just a point behind the champions after amassing the best ever points total, 97, for a team

finishing in second place,.

Which would have won the league any other season aside from the last two, which were both claimed by City.

The Blues went onto become the mens first team in English football history to win a domestic treble but fell short in the Champions League after being knocked out at the hands of Tottenham Hotspur in agonising circumstances.

Liverpool, on the other hand, advanced to their second successive final after a

miraculous comeback against Barcelona and will face Tottenham in Madrid.

Speaking from Liverpool's training camp in Marbella, Mane congratulated City but said that their victory is now in the past.

"We were a bit unlucky because we wanted to win the league - this was our target - but in football, we try and try again," the Senegalese told Liverpool's official website.

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