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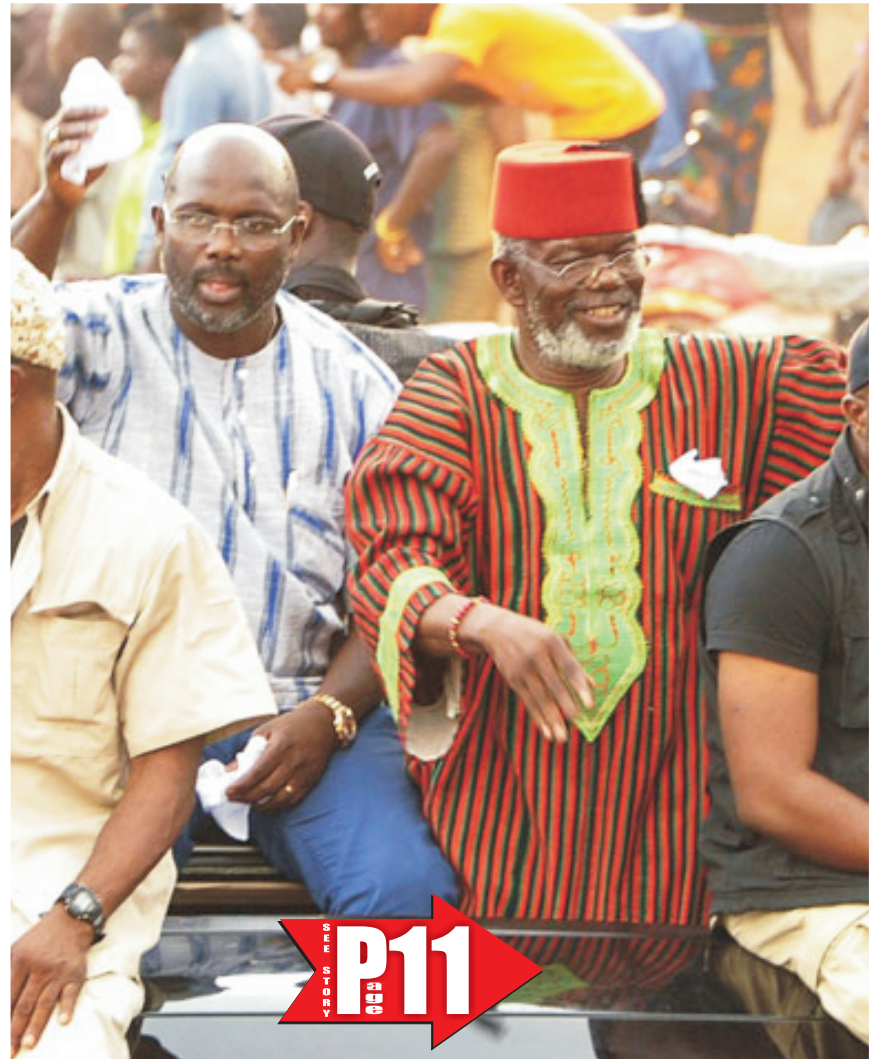
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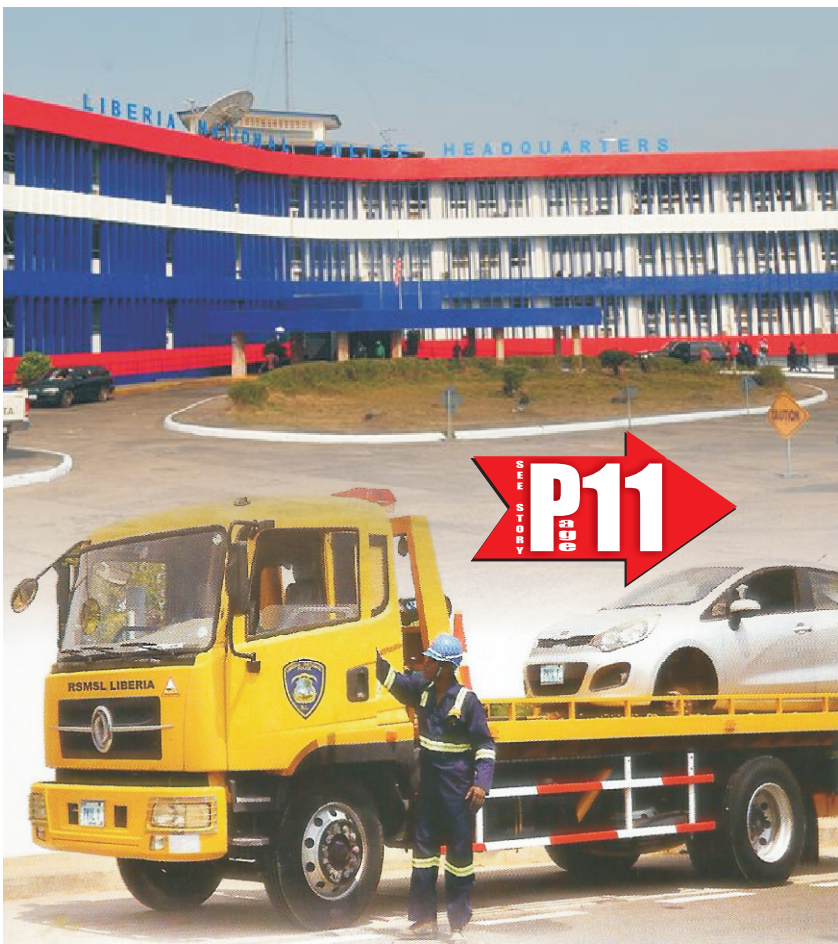
# Nimba turns on PYJ

**-As things get tougher**



Flashback: Pres. Weah and PYJ in a 2017 campaign

**P11**



**P11**

KEEPING OUR ROADS SAFE

One of the tow trucks expected in the country shortly

# MOT launches Road Accident Prevention Program





# Continental News

## Rwandan rebel leader pleads guilty to terrorism

**A** rebel leader accused of orchestrating deadly attacks in Rwanda's border regions pleaded guilty Thursday to terrorism and other charges, and admitted to working with foreign governments against Kigali.

The admission of conspiracy by Callixte Nsabimana, the spokesman for the National Liberation Front (FLN), risks further escalating tensions between Rwanda's President Paul Kagame and his immediate neighbours, whom he has accused of spying.

Nsabimana was arrested last month for his involvement with FLN, an insurgent movement blamed for attacks inside Rwanda from a forested area near Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Nsabimana plead guilty to 16 charges including terrorism and murder, and offered an unconditional apology for his crimes. "I apologise for all things I did," he told the court.

"I want to declare that my work with FLN is over, and anything else they do from now on is their business, not mine. I would like to apologise to the president, those that we injured and the families of those who died. I apologise to all Rwandans."

His lawyer requested bail, with a hearing scheduled for

Tuesday. The prosecution opposed bail, declaring Nsabimana a flight risk.

In December last year, Nsabimana claimed responsibility for setting fire to passenger buses in Nyungwe Forest -- a region popular among tourists coming to see endangered mountain gorillas -- which led to the death of two

people and many injuries.

Those attacks prompted many Western governments including France, Germany, Canada, and Australia to advise their nationals against travel to the area. A number of rebel groups opposed to Kagame -

who has ruled for decades and pursued his political opponents at home and abroad -- have proliferated just over Rwanda's borders in remote forest regions of DR Congo and Burundi.

In his guilty plea, Nsabimana admitted to collaborating with Burundi's intelligence services and Uganda's military.

"We asked them for military

and diplomatic support against Rwanda, and they were willing to help us," he said.

Kagame has accused his neighbours of meddling in Rwanda's affairs and sponsoring armed movements against his government in Kigali.

In February, he ordered the border with Uganda shut, and ties with Burundi have long been sour.

The FLN is the armed wing of the Rwandan Movement for Democratic Change,

a political opposition group founded by Paul Rusesabagina, the hotelier whose actions during the 1994 genocide were depicted in the Hollywood blockbuster Hotel Rwanda. AFP



spokesman for the National Liberation Front (FLN), was escorted by police officers into the court in Kigali

## Ugandan capital Kampala bans street children donations

**U**ganda's capital Kampala has passed a law to ban giving money or food to children living on the streets.

Kampala's Lord Mayor, Erias Lukwago, said the law aimed to curb the commercial and sexual exploitation of children.

According to government estimates, as many as 15,000

children live on the streets in Kampala, aged from seven up to the age of 17.

Offenders face up to six months in prison or a fine of \$11 (£9). BBC Uganda correspondent Dear Jeanne said many children were trafficked from villages and forced by their handlers to live in small rooms within the city's slums.

To combat this, the new law will ban the rental of apartments to support sex work, begging or petty trade by children. "We are ready to be imprisoned"

One street beggar, Annie Katuregye, aged 60, said she used children to accompany her in order to gain enough sympathy from passers-by to give money. "As long as we see children coming, we'll force our way on the streets. We are ready to be imprisoned," she said. Mr Lukwago said the law was targeted at parents and agents who were "cashing in" on children. Parents of children found begging or selling on the streets will also be penalised. "It's now a lucrative business for some individuals who procure these kids from various parts of the country and bring them on to the streets of Kampala," he said. "It's a business. We want to bring that to an end."

The law is currently restricted to the city of Kampala rather than the rest of the country. BBC



Street beggars say children attract more sympathy from passers-by, earning them more money

## Uhuru advises Kenyans to brace for painful, unforgiving change

**P**resident Uhuru Kenyatta has advised Kenyans to be prepared for change assuring them his government will not slam the brakes on the transformation agenda.

The head of state cautioned change can sometimes be painful and unforgiving but it would be necessary to leave the things of the past in the past. Addressing the public on Monday, May 20, the president said Kenya will continue moving forward and that change will have to happen to build a

election cycle because of violence.

"In any democracy, administrations will change, and that should not impact businesses negatively... We need to bring to an end cycles of violence," the president said. Uhuru's call for change comes about a week after Opposition leader Raila Odinga promised Kenyans to expect some radical changes in the near future.

Speaking at the homecoming party of Nyatike



cohesive society. "Change is sometimes painful, change is sometimes unforgiving, change sometimes makes mistake, but change has to come, and we are committed to ensure that Kenya changes. We are focused on trying to ensure we build a cohesive society. That is not a political agenda, it is actually a socio-economic agenda," Uhuru said. He posited without cohesion there would be no predictability or stability, and there would be no people to invest beyond a five-year

MP Tom Odege on May 11, the ODM party leader warned of radical changes ahead of the next General Election. That change, the former prime minister said, would be achieved through a referendum.

"Kenyans have been divided, there is so much hate, there is so much fear that the country cannot grow. At the end of this journey that we started with Uhuru, there is going to be new Kenya. AP



# 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'.

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# COMMENTARY

By Mohamed A. El-Erian

## How Inflation Could Return

*After years of low inflation, investors and policymakers have settled into a cyclical mindset that assumes advanced economies are simply suffering from insufficient aggregate demand. But they are ignoring structural factors at their peril.*

NEW YORK - Debates about inflation in advanced economies have changed remarkably over the past decades. Setting aside (mis)measurement issues, concerns about debilitatingly high inflation and the excessive power of bond markets are long gone, and the worry now is that excessively low inflation may hamper growth.

Moreover, while persistently subdued - and, on nearly \$11 trillion of global bonds, negative - interest rates may be causing resource misallocations and undercutting long-term financial security for households, elevated asset prices have heightened the risk of future financial instability. Also, investors have become highly (and happily) dependent on central banks, when they should be prudently more fearful of them.

In search of new ways to produce higher inflation, the major central banks have tended to favor a cyclical mindset, making frequent references to insufficient aggregate demand. But what if that is the wrong lens through which to view current conditions, and we are actually in the middle of a multi-stage process in which strong disinflationary supply-side forces eventually give way to the return of higher inflation? In that case, monetary policymakers and market participants would need to consider quite a different opportunity-risk paradigm than the one currently being pursued.

To be sure, after coming close to central banks' 2% target in 2018, core inflation rates in Europe and the United States have since been declining. The conventional measure of market expectations for inflation - the break-even rate on five-year US Treasuries - remains stubbornly below target, even though the six-month moving average pace of job creation is almost 50% above the historical level needed to absorb new labor-market entrants so deep in the economic cycle. Though the US unemployment rate (3.6%) is at its lowest level in around five decades, the labor-force participation rate (62.8%) also remains relatively low.

Owing to the persistence of low inflation, monetary policies have remained ultra-loose for an unusually long time, raising concerns that the US or Europe may succumb to "Japanification" as consumers postpone purchases and companies reduce investment outlays. So far, that risk has led to protractedly low or negative (in the case of the European Central Bank) policy rates and bloated central-bank balance sheets, despite the potentially deleterious effects of such policies on the integrity of the financial system.

In fact, some economic observers favor the ECB not just maintaining negative interest rates, but also restarting asset purchases under its quantitative-easing (QE) program. Likewise, there are those who want the US Federal Reserve to implement an "insurance cut," despite indicators suggesting that this will be another year of solid economic growth and job creation. Meanwhile, central banks have begun to look beyond their existing toolkits (traditional and unconventional) for new ways to spur economy-wide price increases, such as by raising the inflation target, either directly or by pursuing an average and allowing for deviations over time.

But today's surprisingly low inflation also appears to be linked to larger structural forces, which means that it's not rooted only in insufficient aggregate demand. Technological innovations - particularly those related to artificial intelligence, big data, and

mobility - have ushered in a more generalized breakdown of traditional economic relationships and an erosion of pricing power.

Taken together, I call these structural forces the Amazon/Google/Uber effect. While the Amazon model pushes down prices by allowing consumers to bypass more expensive intermediaries, Google undercuts companies' pricing power by reducing search costs, and Uber brings existing assets into the marketplace, further eroding established firms' pricing power.

The Amazon/Google/Uber effect has turbocharged a disinflationary process that began with the acceleration of globalization, bringing far more low-cost production online and reducing the power of organized labor in advanced economies (as has the gig economy more recently). But while these trends will most continue for now, they are likely to confront countervailing inflationary influences that have yet to reach critical mass: the slack in the labor market is diminishing every month, and increased industrial concentration is giving some companies, especially in the technology sector, far greater pricing power.

Now, consider those trends in the context of today's changing political landscape. Fueled by understandable anger over inequality (of income, wealth, and opportunity), more politicians are embracing populism, with promises of more active fiscal management and measures to curb the power of capital in favor of labor. At the same time, there is growing political pressure on central banks to bypass the asset channel (that is, QE bond purchases) and inject liquidity directly into the economy.

Economic anxieties are also driving anti-globalization politics. The weaponization of economic-policy tools such as tariffs and other trade measures is risking a fragmentation of global economic and financial relationships, favoring higher prices, and compelling a greater degree of more costly self-insurance by companies and consumers. At the same time, as expectations of continued low inflation become more entrenched, an upward price shock could expose vulnerabilities and increase the risk of policy mistakes and market accidents.

Considering how these competing forces are likely to play out over time, policymakers and investors should not rule out a return of inflation over time. Looking ahead, we will likely continue experiencing an initial stage in which the Amazon/Google/Uber effect remains dominant. But that may well be followed by a second stage in which tight labor markets, populist nationalism, and industry concentration begin to offset the one-time structural effects of new technologies being widely adopted. And in a third stage, the possible onset of higher inflation may catch policymakers and investors by surprise, producing excessive reactions that make a bad situation worse.

As with most paradigm shifts, there can be little certainty regarding the timing of this scenario. But, either way, policymakers in advanced economies must recognize that their inflation outlook is subject to a wider range of dynamic possibilities than they have considered so far. Focusing too much on the cyclical, rather than the structural, could pose serious risks to future economic wellbeing and financial stability. The longer we wait to broaden the prevailing mindset, the more likely we are to advance to the next stages of an inflationary process in which the impact of an exciting one-and-done technological event gives way to some old and more familiar tendencies.





## Lord, why are we so quick to forget?

*Dear Father:*

*You know life has a way of teaching us lessons, which is why it leaves in its tracks histories. Histories are all about life's lessons and yet only a fool will dismiss the importance of its richness.*

*Hmmm, my son what happened, you never told me you had a degree in philosophy.*

*Hahaha, Father, I don't have but one thing I know about life is that its histories are replete with lessons both good and bad. And come to think of it Father, whatever a man does or wishes to do somebody has done it before.*

*History, you see Father, has never failed any village, it is people who failed themselves and their unborn generations. Like the good old Book would say, "they have eyes but can't see. Ears but can't hear. And let me add: brains, but they don't use it.*

*Now this brings me to another point to every action there is a motive. Nobody in his or her right frame of mind will tell me that they have no motive for doing what they do. And let me add that every motive comes with an interest-and that is all about politics.*

*Politics is all about an individual's interest. There is not one person who called himself or herself an advocate who does not have an interest and a motive-if you see one I want to meet him.*

*But what many of us in this village don't ask about is the motive behind every individual's action. Nobody take an action for nothing, behind that action is a hidden motive driven by interest.*

*You see Father, some of the people at the Traditional Council were elevated to stardoms by people who saw them as saviors. Today, these chiefs and others like them who rode on the villagers sentiments to be where they are today have completely forgotten them.*

*Again, we have begun to hail another messiah, whose record is lying flat before us, few months after installing one. Can you imagine this Father?*

*This is why I often wonder if we as villagers of this highly forested village, know our priorities or really know what we want. Do we really know why we follow certain individuals or why they take up certain fight? I know somebody would tell me to ignore the messenger and take the message, but what is the rationale behind the message? There is no message without a purpose and a target audience. Yes Father, every message has a purpose, a motive and a target audience, with a particular goal in mind.*

*Hmmm, my son these are soul searching questions-only if your village people could take a step backward to think.*

*Now, another history is being relive, but will the villagers be smart enough to catch themselves in the process so we don't complete a circle and punch the air in vain.*

*My man of God from Charlie Land always used to say this-"anything you want to become somebody has become it before." Meaning there is nothing new under the earth, at least according to the Good Old Book.*

*If you want to be a police man, ask the retire police office how he ended up on the street, or the old pen pusher who walk by line daily, not to mention an old nurse. There is something they will tell you about what you are about to become or is wishing to become.*

*Now, the question- why are we quick to forget? Father, only people who knows their history will not continually repeat what led them to where they are in the first place. Now, it's good to follow, but know who you are following, their motives and interest.*

*My point, don't be a blind following, know the motives and interests before you join anything, or you might be leading yourself in to a pit that you didn't plan to get into-and trust me nobody will have pity on you to pull you out.*

## OPINION

By Alaa Murabit  
& Luca Bücken

### The Myth of Climate Wars?

**N**EW YORK - In the years leading up to Syria's civil war, the country endured three consecutive record-breaking droughts. By forcing internal displacement, the droughts arguably contributed to the social tensions that erupted in popular protests in 2011. But that does not mean that the Syrian conflict is a "climate war."

As extreme weather events proliferate, it's becoming increasingly easy to find a link between climate change and violent confrontations. In Sudan, the ethnic cleansing carried out by former President Omar al-Bashir has been tied to the Sahara Desert's southward expansion, which fueled social unrest by exacerbating food insecurity. Territorial disputes in the South China Sea have also been connected to food-security concerns, rooted in competition over access to fishing areas. Some now warn of a "brewing water war" between Egypt and Ethiopia, triggered by the latter's construction of a dam on the Nile River.

But the "climate war" narrative is deeply flawed. From Syria to Sudan, today's conflicts are the result of multiple complicated and interrelated factors, from ethno-religious tensions to protracted political repression. While the effects of climate change can exacerbate social and political instability, climate change did not cause these wars. This nuance is important, not least for the sake of accountability: climate change must not be used to duck responsibility for resolving or averting violent confrontations.

Still, military and climate experts argue, climate change is a "threat multiplier," and thus remains an important national security issue. Climate advocates and academics, however, have long avoided or rejected discussions of "climate security" - not to diminish the risks that climate change poses, but because they fear that framing climate change as a security issue will undermine efforts to mitigate those risks, by enabling the incremental securitization of climate action.

Securitization is often a political tactic, in which leaders construct a security threat to justify deploying extraordinary, even illegal measures, that infringe on people's rights. If the fight against climate change is securitized, it could, for example, be used to rationalize new restrictions on the movement of people, enabled by and reinforcing anti-migrant sentiment.

Framing climate as a security issue can also challenge already-strained international cooperation on climate governance, while driving investment away from necessary interventions - such as the shift to a low-carbon economy - toward advancing military preparedness. The accompanying apocalyptic discourse, moreover, could well lead to public disengagement, further weakening democratic accountability.

Yet, even as some United Nations member states express concern about linking climate change more closely to security, most countries are moving in precisely that direction. In 2013, the American Security Project reported that 70% of countries view climate change as a threat to their security, and at least 70 national militaries already have clear plans in place to address this threat.

The UN Security Council is also becoming more active in the climate security field. After recognizing the role of climate change in the Lake Chad conflict (Resolution 2349), the Council held its first debates on the relationship between climate change and security, with the participation of a large and diverse group of member states.

Given the impact of climate change on issues like migration and health, decoupling discussions of climate action from national security considerations may never have been feasible. On the other hand, linking climate change to security can positively contribute to mobilizing climate action. The key to avoiding the pitfalls of securitization is to move beyond paradigms - which overemphasize military-focused "hard security" narratives - that continue to shape security policy and public discourse. One way to achieve that is to take a more gender-inclusive approach to conflict prevention and resolution.

Research shows that women are more likely to pursue a collaborative approach to peacemaking, with actors organizing across ethnic, cultural, and sectarian divides. Such an approach "increases the prospects of long-term stability and reduces the likelihood of state failure, conflict onset, and poverty." When women participate in peace negotiations, the resulting agreements are 35% more likely to last at least 15 years.

Sustainable peace is possible only by recognizing the necessity of local women's leadership, who have relevant expertise and yet are currently excluded from national and multilateral frameworks. After all, if policy decisions are to meet the needs of the affected communities, members of those communities must have a seat at the table.

For example, in Indonesia, Farwiza Farhan has acquired unique insights from years of facilitating community-inclusive forest conversation that respects local stakeholders. In Somalia, Ilwad Elman has proved her ability to navigate intersectional peace-building efforts through her organization, Elman Peace.

Of course, there is also an imperative to give more women the tools they need to join in this process. The interconnections identified in the UN Sustainable Development Goals provide a functional roadmap for delivering the needed equity. In particular, improving reproductive health (SDG 3) and education (SDG 4) of girls and women is one of the most cost-effective ways both to mitigate climate change (SDG 13) and to empower them as community leaders (SDG 5).

Rather than resisting the securitization of climate, advocates and policymakers should be advancing what the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute calls "the climatization of security." This is best done by using security to increase the salience of climate action, highlighting the shortcomings of current security frameworks, and promoting gender inclusiveness and local leadership as holistic and long-term solutions for fostering local, regional, and international peace.



## FEATURE

## FEATURE

**Justice Korkpor: an Epitome of Judicial Misery in Liberia!**

By: S. Ephraim T. Nyumah

When the judiciary which is the bastion of democracy crumbles and dances at the tone of dictator; the entire Nation is doomed - When the proctor of the law bares freedom of speech and expression, the hope of the peasants is flushed to the toilet and the court room then become a theater of drama where the voices of integrity are painful in the ears of judicial crooks - this is exactly the case of Chief Justice Francis Saye Korkpor.

The nation is rotten. From the Executive to the Judiciary there is an outflow of systemic mess - from president to the Speaker; from the Speaker to the Chief Justice we see nothing but the outburst of the rotten system. The High Priest of the Supreme Court is now wearing a political pumper and passing out stools of intolerance and a mass inconsumable product of Justice. Indeed the nation is entrapped.

Comrades, I don't need to tell you much about the dramatic scene that was created by the Chief Justice at the Supreme Court few days ago. The Chief Justice shockingly muscled the President of Liberia National Bar Association (LNBA), Cllr. TiawonGonlow after the later fearlessly criticized the entire bench of the High Court for lacking the moral courage to stand up to the Executive and the Legislative branches of government. Cllr. Gonglow has repeatedly stated that the removal of KabnahJan'neh was unconstitutional and he again reechoed it when he mounted the podium to give a statement on behalf of the Bar at Justice Kaba's seating on the Supreme Court Bench. In his speech which was immaturely interrupted by Chief Justice Francis Korkpor, the President of the Bar reiterated that the removal of Ja'neh was illegal and called on the superior court to stand up against illegal action from the Executive or the Legislature. This angered Justice Korkpor and banged his gavel mandating Cllr. Gonglow to immediately take his seat. This action is a mind-boggling and a national judicial calamity that needs to be seriously considered as an attack on freedom of expression.

In case the Chief is comfortable in the bed of the Executive and the Legislature to an extent that he has swallowed simple elementary legal principle, this must serve as a reminder to him that restricting people's right to free expression is a violation of Article 15 of the 1986 Constitution of the Republic of Liberia - He also needs to recollect that the rights to freedom of opinion and expression has been protected in all of the relevant international human rights treaties including Article 19 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Those rights cannot be negotiated especially in the highest sacred hall of justice in the land; this must claim the attentions of patriots especially advocates of social justice and freedom.

Chief Justice has violated the fundamental right of Cllr. Gonglow; a confirmation of our argument that the entire Justice System of the land is rotten to its core. Judges including the Chief Justice are serving at the will and pleasure of the Executive. They police are extremely corrupt, the Immigration officers are slave to Indians and Lebanese traders, the Drug Enforcement Officers are partners of Drug-lord, for the Judges - they dispense justice NOT on



the basic of justice but based on the strength of your pocket, the higher bidder is always the winner - like the judges, the Justices of the bench are pocketed puppet of the Executive and the Legislature. Indeed the nation is crumbling from all angles!

Comrades, to the beneficiaries of the spoiled system, the action of the Chief Justice is nothing to warrant citizen's action but to us, it is a judicial disaster of the first order. For the Chief arbiter of justice in the motherland to openly present himself as a dictator, we considered this as an aggressive attack not only on Cllr. TiawonGonglow but the over 4.5 million people of the state. The action is disgraceful to our nation; the Chief Justice who should be the main protector of the right to speak freely is now a dictator and is barring freedom of speech and expression - indeed Liberia is at the cross road and drifting into an abyss of political tragedy. In this generation of ours, it will take not the silence of the spineless opportunist and bootlickers to save the state but the collective resilience of young patriots. Undeniably, the nation is rotten - the Chief Justice has just pulled out judicial garbage clamping down free speech which is an embodiment of true justice.

The action of the Chief Justice against the President of the Liberia National Bar Association is nothing but a reckless display of highest intolerance in judicial history; it is a paradox of justice, and a spiteful outburst of a rotten Judicial System managed by group of political puppets who lack the independence and the high moral ground to dispense justice with objectivism. Now we know that gavel in the hands of a spineless bigot is threat to the existence of the defenseless mass of our people. Yes, Cllr. Korkpor is a political Chief Justice who works at the will and pleasure of the Executive and the Legislature in gross disregard to the separation of power, a doctrine of constitutional law under which the three branches of government are kept separate to maintain checks and balances. By action, the Chief Justice has flushed Article 3 of the 1986 Constitution of the Republic of Liberia to the lavatory - this provision of our organic law which speaks of three separate coordinate branches of government in respect to checks and balances is now in the septic tank.

Perhaps, the Chief justice has forgotten that the courts are not sacrosanct. Citizens discussions of courts can't be questioned neither can't it be a punishable offense when the issues are not pending before the court. Judicial decisions can be scrutinized by the public including the Bar - that is a friend of the court. For terming as illegal the removal of one of the Justices of the Supreme Court Bench - Cllr. Gonglow has done no wrong and must not be stripped off his right to

freedom of expression. As President Weah butchers our democracy, the Chief Justice has therefore become a brazen emblem of dictatorship and trumpeter of bad governance. He is now the key element in the Judiciary promoting Weah's authoritarianism, autocracy fascism. Indeed, this is an epitome of judicial misery.

Comrades, in the judicial system where judges are stooges of major political actors, justice will be served at the will of major political actors. No doubt, the public is now suspicious of the working of the highest court, the Supreme Court. Constitutionally clothed with the power as the final arbiter of justice and the only interpreter of the Constitution, the court has lost its true independence under the stewardship of Cllr. Korkpor.

Justice Korkpor's display of intolerance to freedom of expression and his unorthodox opinion clearly undermine his already questionable independent nature as the Chief Priest of Justice of the motherland. He cannot in anyway be seen as a neutral arbiter of unadulterated justice. This action signals that dark days are ahead and the freedom we fought for as a nation is not guaranteed. Considering what the nation witnessed at the unconstitutional unseating of Justice Ja'neh, it is now palpable that a change in the leadership and make-up of the Supreme Court current bench is a wholesome composition of consummate opportunist and wealth seekers.

The free speech that we enjoy today did not come at the benevolence of any one individual. It was fought for - men lost their lives in defense of this worthy cause yesterday, let no man abuse it now especially those who have the gavel of judicial authority. Justice Korkpor owes Cllr. Gonglow and the Liberian people an apology. By his displayed of intolerance and bigotry, he has offended the Liberia national bar Association as well as the entire citizenry of the Republic who by his action, he abused their acumen. The right to freedom of expression is not a tradable commodity for capital exchange - every Liberian has this right and must be respected.

You have indeed brought disgrace to the nation - you must apologize to the Liberian people.

With resilience, we are under obligation to this not out of malice but conviction. The people, and the people - nobody else!

**About the Author**

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# MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Lawmaker threatens court action against House

By Bridgett Milton

Nimba County District #8 Representative and Independent Legislative Caucus Chairman Larry Younquoi has threatened court action against the House of Representatives.

According to Rep. Younquoi, Speaker Bhofal Chambers' decision to reshuffle committees of the House of Representatives after one quarter of the year runs contrary to Rule 54 of the House of Representatives.

Rule 54 of the House of Representatives, among other things, states that all committee chairpersons and members shall serve for three years, but only the chairperson and co-chairperson are subject to removal by two-third majority vote of the members of the House for a cause.

Should the chairperson of any committee for any cause cease to serve, the Rule says it shall be the duty of the Speaker to appoint a new

chairperson in consultation with the leadership of the House.

Recently, Speaker Chambers made a reshuffle on several committees of the House of Representatives, something which has sparked huge debate among members

of the House.

It prompted Reps. Nagbe Sloh and Yekeh Kolubah to announce their resignations from all committees they were part of.

Rep. Younquoi, in the wake of the Speaker's decision requested plenary in a

communication to prevail on the Speaker to rescind his decision because of its illegality.

He says he currently serves as Chairman of the Committee on Governance and Government Reform, adding that he is also a member of the Judiciary Committee and Board of Trustees of the University of Liberia.

But Younquoi says he is informed that he has been replaced by Rep. Edward Karfiah of Bong County District #5.

The Nimba County lawmaker laments that the

creation of the Rule of the of the House of Representatives is precipitated by Article 38 of the 1986 Constitution of Liberia which states that each House shall adopt its own rules of procedures, enforce order, and with the concurrence of two-thirds of the entire membership may expel a member for a cause.

In a motion, Montserrado County Rep. Acarous Mose Gray moved that the communication be sent to the committee on Rules, Orders and Administration to report in one week.--Edited by Winston W. Parley



Rep. Larry R. Younquoi

## Officials unpaid for 8 months

-- Internal Affairs and Finance Ministry face Senate interrogation

By Ethel A Tweh

The plenary of the Liberian Senate on Thursday, 23 May mandated its committee on Internal Affairs to interrogate Internal Affairs Minister Varney Sirleaf over allegations that appointed local officials in Grand Bassa and Lofa Counties have not received salaries for nearly eight months.

A communication presented to the Plenary by Grand Bassa County Sen. Jonathan Kaipay indicates that the affected local government officials were appointed by President

George Manneh Weah and confirmed by the Liberian Senate.

According to Sen. Kaipay, the local officials mainly of Grand Bassa and Lofa Counties complained that for nearly eight months they have not taken pay since they assumed offices.

According to Kaipay, the local officials have indicated that they have been informed by the Ministers of Internal Affairs and Finance that they were not captured in the 2018/2019 budget.

On the basis of not allegedly being captured in the budget, Sen. Kaipay says

the local officials complain that they could not receive their take home pay until a new budget is passed.

"I wish to refer to the standard of equal work equal pay as [recommended] in the Constitution of the Republic. By this recognition, I express aversion to the fact that there are yet to be processed relevant system so as to receive their legitimate salaries and benefits," Sen. Kaipay tells the Senate through a communication.

Sen. Kaipay says the Ministers of Internal Affairs and Finance need to tell the Senate what has happened to the names of the affected officials in respect to placing them on government payroll since they have received their presidential appointment letters.

He suggests that the Senate should move with some urgency to bring relief to the affected civil servants.

Following the reading of the communication by Deputy Senate Secretary Genevieve Massaquoi, Lofa County Sen. George Tengbeh told plenary that the situation is also embarrassing local officials in Lofa since they were appointed nearly a year ago.

"Like Sen. Kaipay rightly said, this issue is not only affecting Grand Bassa County, it's also affecting Lofa County," Sen. Tengbeh explains.

## RHN trains 60 adolescent girls

Right Holders Network (RHN) in collaboration with Youth Coalition for Education Liberia (YOCEL) has conducted a one - day training session on Child's Protection and Advocacy.

According to a press release, the training session brought together 60 participants from within RHN network, aimed at educating Right Holders Network beneficiaries on the importance of advocacy in child protection.

It was held in West Resource Center, West Point Township.

Ballah F. Saywala, RHN Chairman says the training will enhance the knowledge of members of the Right Holders Movement on advocacy, lobbying, the Children's Law of Liberia and the legal frameworks of child's protection.

According to him, the training is part of the Making Children's Voices Count project implemented by YOCEL through the Right Holders Network with support from The Fund for Global Human Rights.

The project aims to build the capacity of grassroots advocates to engage into advocacy activities at the level of their various schools and

communities.

Mr. Saywala narrates further that Right Holders Network is expected to train over 500 youth and children between the ages of 14 to 24 across Montserrado County who are members of Right Holders Movement in the next 6 months.

However, during the opening ceremony, Mr. Saywala encouraged the participants to actively engage into advocacy as it plays major role in the transformation of Liberia's youthful population, adding that it will also improve the role of young people in decision making in Liberia.

He points out that the training was one of many community action initiative to be undertaken by the Right Holders Network under the Making Children's Voices Count project.

"This section is important because it is a gateway to an effective community engagement. Lessons learned from today's session will guide you into community entry, advocacy procedures and best practices as well as the legal frameworks of child protection," he says. --Press release



According to him, Lofa County's Superintendent recently complained to his (Tengbeh's) office about the same situation with names of newly appointed officials who are yet to get salaries since their appointments by President George Weah.

"The budget year has ended, so far to me it goes beyond just finding out what happened. In my mind, I believe that the pay

has been running. We should know who has been taking the pay because those who were replaced are not receiving the salaries. Then what happened with the pay that has been running?" Tengbeh wonders.

Meanwhile plenary has mandated its committee on Internal Affairs to deliberate on the matter and make a report.- Edited by Winston W. Parley



# MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Gov't validates National Youth Policy

The Government of Liberia (GoL) through the Ministry of Youth and Sports commits to working with the young people of Liberia in ensuring that youth development is achieved.

The Minister of Youth and Sports D. Zeogar Wilson, vows to support every endeavor of youth aimed at promoting development as contained in the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD).

He made the commitment here Thursday, May 23, 2019 at the validation of the National Youth Policy (NYP).

The Policy is in accordance with the African Youth Charter and geared to supporting long-term development of the young people of Liberia.

"Government will work with the young people by playing its part of what the young people have put together," Min. Wilson states.

However, Minister Wilson wants all youth to play their



Stakeholders at the validation of the National Youth Policy

role to ensure that what is contained in the document is implemented.

"We must freely participate in the implementation of this document by holding our leaders accountable. This is a call that we must all achieve together," he urges.

Min. Wilson points out that the validation of the youth policy document is a clear manifestation of President George Manneh Weah's commitment to the development of Liberian youth as contained in his inaugural address and captured in the PAPD.

"In order to promote peace and enhance social cohesion and set the foundation of this country on the path of strong and inclusive development, it is important that we give adequate focus to the affairs of the youth of this country, and so as it is the interest of our President," the Minister notes.

Deputy Minister for Youth Development Mr. Isaac Doe, recalls that the validation of the policy began few months back with a regional consultation spearheaded by leading youth organizations, including the Federation of Liberian Youth (FLY), Liberia National Students Union (LINSU), and the Mano River Youth Parliament, among others.

"The consultation divided Liberia into four regions with FLY, LINSU, YMCA, YWCA and others leading the regional consultation. We listened to

what the young people said and found common ground, so that a policy document is derived," Minister Doe indicates.

"So, this policy encompasses what the young people told us and what the government and partners agreed upon to be enshrined into the document."

Former Deputy Minister for Youth Development and Consultant on the formulation of the policy document, Mr. Sam E. Hare, urges government and partners to ensure that the programs and actions of the policy benefit the most vulnerable youth in society.

"This policy should leave no youth behind in its implementation. It must have the pro-poor lenses so that no youth is left behind," he underscores, among other things. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

## LACE announces 75% completion of housing project in Popo-beach community

By Lewis S. Teh

Liberia Agency for Community Empowerment (LACE) Executive Director QuiwuPepciYeke has disclosed a 75 - percent completion of construction works on about 50 housing units for residents of the Popo-beach Community on Bushrod Island.

"As as speak to you those houses are to be completed in less than 21 days, and this puts us on top of our schedule, and we are certain that within 21 days the president will be dedicating most of those projects at

Popo - beach," Mr. Yeke said Thursday, 23 May at a press briefing at the Ministry of Information on Capitol Hill.

The project which is being implemented by LACE was announced by President George Manneh Weah as government's intervention to provide shelter for victims of a fire disaster that destroyed homes the community.

Upon their full completion, Mr. Yeke indicates that the housing units will be turned over to the people of Montserrado County Electoral District #16.

According to Yeke, LACE is a governmental institution that

is embarking on many governmental and donor funded projects across the country.

He says one of such projects is the Popo-beach project which comes as a result of President Weah's mandate to rescue the people of New Kru Town.

According to Mr. Yeke, LACE's projects include Legislative Support project and the President Special Project (PSC) along with additional projects that are implemented for the World Bank.

Yeke says LACE is implementing a project in Sass Town, Grand Kru County that is worth US\$4.2 Million Dollars.

He notes that LACE began a project in February this year to build 282 homes for the people of Grand Kru County, adding that the project is expected to be completed before the Independence Day celebration, July 26.

Additionally, Mr. Yeke reveals that construction for about 1,500 additional homes at the cost of US\$5m will soon begin in Grand Gedeh, Sinoe, Maryland, and Rive Gee counties.

In Montserrado County, Mr. Yeke says LACE is about 20% into the Omega Market project that is worth US\$3.8m.-- Edited by Winston W. Parley



## Police Superintendent calls for collaboration

By Stone Siakor/Margibi

The Superintendent of the Professional Standard Division of the Liberia National Police in Kakata, Margibi County stresses Police-civilians collaboration in promoting peace and unity in the county.

Superintendent Patrick M.

the Charge of Quarters, seeking payment for stationery or arresting fees.

Supt. Kpumeh also cautions motorcyclists and drivers to observe all traffic regulations and act accordingly, while urging them to report any



Superintendent Patrick M. Kpumeh

Kpumeh says his job in Margibi is to investigate Police actions against civilians, adjudicate cases among Police officers and private securities.

Speaking Wednesday, 23 May when he appeared Radio Kakata sister program, "Local Government and You" he admonishes residents not to adhere to any officers requesting case registration at

harassment or intimidation from Police officers for immediate remedies.

At the same time he reminds Police personnel to always reflect on the Code of Ethics of the Liberia National Police in handling civilian matters and to refrain from extortion, harassment and intimidation of peaceful citizens. -Editing by Jonathan Browne



# Français

## La Cour suprême justifie l'action du juge en chef et dénonce une tentative de dénigrement

La Cour suprême du Libéria a justifié l'action de son chef, le juge en chef Francis S. Korkpor, qui avait interrompu brusquement le président de l'Association du Barreau National du Libéria (LNBA), Me TiawanGongloe, alors qu'il prononçait un discours lors d'une cérémonie organisée pour souhaiter la bienvenue au nouveau juge associé de la cour suprême.

Dans son discours, Me TiawanGongloe avait tenté d'exhorter la plus haute juridiction du pays à se défendre face aux abus des pouvoirs exécutif et législatif. Mais cela n'a pas plus au président de la cour suprême qui interrompit brusquement l'orateur à la surprise générale de tout l'auditoire.

Dans un long communiqué de presse publié mercredi à Monrovia, la Cour suprême a tenté de répondre à deux journaux locaux qui, dans

leurs éditions du mardi 21 mai 2019, avaient publié chacun un article relatif à l'incident qui s'était produit à la cour suprême.

Selon la Cour suprême, les deux quotidiens locaux sous-entendent que l'action du juge en chef constituait une

tentative visant à « étouffer la liberté d'expression » et à « bâillonner » la voix des sans voix pour son opinion.

La Cour suprême a tenu à préciser que l'action du juge en chef était conforme au protocole de la Cour.

Au communiqué d'indiquer

que la règle et le protocole établis par la Cour suprême du Libéria prévoient que, lors de l'ouverture officielle de chaque mandat ou d'un programme judiciaire officiel devant la Cour, les personnes qui s'expriment en réponse au discours du Président doit limiter leur discours à ce que le juge en chef a dit.

Il a précisé que « l'opportunité donnée (généralement au ministre de la Justice / procureur général et doyen du barreau de la Cour suprême et au président de l'Association du barreau national du Libéria) n'est pas destinée à créer une plateforme pour l'introduction des questions superflues ».

Le communiqué ajoute que, lorsque le locuteur ne se conforme pas à la règle, il

peut être interrompu à tout moment. « C'est exactement ce qui s'est passé lorsque le président du barreau a abandonné l'ordre du jour pour introduire son ordre du jour personnel », a précisé la Cour suprême.

La Cour suprême juge donc injuste les titres à la Une des journaux Daily Observer Newspaper et New Démocrate.

A noter que le journal Daily Observer Newspaper avait écrit à sa Une : « Le juge en chef Korkpor porte atteinte à la liberté d'expression ? - Interrompt les propos du président de la LNBA, d'une manière sans précédent ». Quant au New Démocrate, il titre : « Gongloe fait face à une interdiction de parler en public ».



## Le gouvernement ivoirien invité à accentuer la répression contre les auteurs d'informations fausses

Dans une déclaration rendue publique, mercredi, à Bouaké (Centre-Nord), la Plateforme de la société civile pour la paix et la démocratie (PSCPD) a invité le gouvernement ivoirien à faire face à l'exacerbation des conflits intercommunautaires de plus en plus récurrents dans le pays en accentuant la répression contre les

auteurs d'informations fausses sur les réseaux sociaux. Selon le coordonnateur général de cette plateforme, Soumaïla Doumbia, auteur de la déclaration, il est « inacceptable qu'en ce 21<sup>e</sup> siècle, des internautes utilisent des termes pour caractériser les groupes de communautés alors que la Côte d'Ivoire dans toute sa

diversité a besoin d'unité, de réconciliation et de cohésion sociale ».

C'est pourquoi, poursuit M. Doumbia, « la PSCPD exhorte le gouvernement à accentuer la répression des diffuseurs de fausses informations sur les réseaux sociaux » afin de minimiser les dégâts humains et matériels lors de conflits entre différentes communautés.



Articles traduits

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Pour la PSCPD, les crises successives qu'a connues la Côte d'Ivoire ont impacté fortement la cohésion sociale dans toutes les régions du pays, dont notamment à Bouna (extrême Nord-Ouest) en avril 2016, à Kanakono (extrême Nord) en décembre 2017 ainsi que dans l'Ouest ivoirien à Zouan-hounien, Bangolo, Facobly, Duékoué, Bin Houin et Sipilou en 2018 et 2019.

« La région de Gbêké (Bouaké, Centre-Nord) quant à elle, est en proie à des conflits intercommunautaires et fonciers », a fait remarquer M. Doumbia, notant plusieurs conflits Malinké-Baoulé enregistrés à Djebonoua, Botro, Sakassou et Marabadiassa.

Revenant sur les dernières violences en date dans la région, la PSCPD fait une analyse des événements du 15 au 17 mai dernier à Béoumi, relevant à ce sujet

que l'historique des « crispations » entre les différentes communautés dans cette ville se sont toujours « reposées sur des questions économiques ».

Il s'agit entre autres de conflits éleveurs-agriculteurs, de conflits entre pêcheurs Baoulé et Bozo du Mali et plus récemment de conflits entre transporteurs Malinké et les nouveaux venus dans ce secteur, c'est-à-dire la communauté autochtone Baoulé.

Face à ce triste constat, conclut Soumaïla Doumbia, la PSCPD lance un appel pressant à tous les acteurs de la vie politique et sociale en vue « de ramener la paix dans les cœurs et esprits des Ivoiriens » à l'approche de la présidentielle de 2020, en bannissant de leur langage « les déviations, la manipulation politique et le matraquage psychologique dont sont victimes les populations ces derniers temps ».



# Français

## Éditorial

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

De 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 a 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 Mohamed A. El-Erian

### Comment l'inflation pourrait faire son retour

NEW YORK - Les débats concernant l'inflation dans les économies avancées ont beaucoup évolué au cours des dernières décennies. Toute question de mesure (ou d'erreur de mesure) mise à part, l'inquiétude de voir revenir le handicap d'une inflation forte au gré du pouvoir excessif des marchés obligataires a depuis longtemps disparu et cède aujourd'hui le pas à la crainte qu'une inflation excessivement faible ne ralentisse la croissance.

En outre, tandis que des taux d'intérêt qui s'obstinent à demeurer anémiques - voire négatifs, sur presque 11 000 milliards de dollars d'obligations multimarchés - pourraient entraîner des allocations inopportunes des ressources et saper la sécurité financière à long terme des ménages, les prix élevés des actifs augmentent les risques d'instabilité financière à terme. Les investisseurs sont aussi devenus extrêmement dépendants des banques centrales (ce qui ne semble pas les attrister), alors même qu'ils devraient faire preuve à leur égard d'une plus grande circonspection.

En quête de nouvelles formules pour produire de l'inflation, les principales banques centrales ont adopté l'idée d'un cycle, arguant fréquemment d'une insuffisance de la demande globale. Mais n'observons-nous pas à travers des verres déformants ce qui se passe actuellement et ne serions-nous pas parvenus à mi-parcours d'un processus en plusieurs étapes, où de fortes poussées déflationnistes du côté de l'offre céderaient ensuite le pas à un regain d'inflation ? Si tel était le cas, les responsables monétaires et les acteurs du marché devraient changer radicalement leurs paradigmes d'évaluation des chances et des risques.

Certes, après s'être rapprochée, en 2018, de la cible des 2 % fixés par les banques centrales, l'inflation sous-jacente en Europe et aux États-Unis n'a cessé, depuis, de baisser. L'étalon habituel des attentes du marché - le point mort sur les obligations à cinq ans du Trésor américain - s'obstine à demeurer sous la cible, alors même que le taux de progression moyen de créations d'emplois sur six mois est presque le double du niveau historique nécessaire à ce degré d'intégration dans le cycle économique des nouveaux entrants sur le marché du travail. Si le taux de chômage aux États-Unis (3,6 %) est à son plus bas niveau depuis une cinquantaine d'années, le taux d'activité (62,8 %) demeure lui aussi relativement bas.

En raison de la persistance d'une inflation basse, les politiques monétaires sont restées très souples pendant une durée inhabituellement longue, laissant craindre que les États-Unis ou l'Europe ne succombent à une « japonisation », c'est-à-dire que les consommateurs n'y diffèrent leurs achats et que les entreprises n'y réduisent leurs dépenses d'investissement. C'est à ce risque qu'on doit, jusqu'à présent, la prorogation des politiques de taux d'intérêt bas ou négatifs (pour ce qui concerne la Banque centrale européenne) et le gonflement des bilans des banques centrales, en dépit des effets délétères de telles politiques sur la solidité du système financier.

À vrai dire, certains observateurs sont favorables non seulement au maintien par la BCE de ses taux d'intérêts négatifs, mais aussi à la reprise des programmes d'assouplissement quantitatif (quantitative easing - QE), c'est-à-dire de rachats d'actifs. De même, il y a ceux qui voudraient que la Réserve fédérale procède à une « baisse de précaution », alors que les indices permettent pourtant de penser qu'une croissance économique solide et d'importantes créations d'emplois seront encore, cette année, au rendez-vous. Parallèlement, les banques centrales ont commencé à chercher d'autres instruments, en dehors de la boîte à outils (traditionnels ou non conventionnels) dont elles disposent actuellement, afin d'enclencher une nouvelle dynamique des prix à l'échelle de l'ensemble de l'économie ; parmi ceux-ci, elles n'excluraient pas de relever la cible d'inflation, que ce soit directement, ou bien en déterminant une moyenne vis-à-vis de laquelle des écarts, au cours du temps, seraient permis.

Mais l'inflation étonnamment faible que nous

connaissons aujourd'hui semble aussi liée à des forces structurelles plus amples, ce qui signifie qu'elle n'est pas réductible à la conséquence d'une demande globale insuffisante. L'innovation technologique - notamment dans les domaines de l'intelligence artificielle, des données de masse et de la mobilité - a généralisé l'effondrement des relations économiques traditionnelles et considérablement émué la capacité des entreprises à fixer leurs prix.

En les considérant toutes ensemble, je nommerai ces forces structurelles l'effet Amazon / Google / Uber. Si le modèle d'Amazon pousse les prix à la baisse en permettant aux consommateurs de court-circuiter des intermédiaires plus chers, Google sape le pouvoir qu'avaient les entreprises de fixer leurs prix en réduisant les coûts de recherche d'un bien et Uber, en créant un marché avec les biens existants, achève de réduire la latitude d'un secteur d'activité pour établir ses prix.

L'effet Amazon / Google / Uber a dynamisé un processus déflationniste entamé avec l'accélération de la mondialisation, en imposant des coûts de production beaucoup moins élevés grâce à la mise en ligne et en affaiblissant le mouvement syndical dans les économies avancées (comme on a pu le voir récemment avec des modèles fondés sur l'emploi précaire et gérés par des plateformes). Mais si ces tendances se maintiennent majoritairement pour le moment, il est fort probable qu'elles rencontrent des courants inflationnistes contraires, qui n'ont pas encore atteint leur masse critique : le sous-emploi diminue tous les mois sur le marché du travail et une concentration industrielle accrue donne à certaines entreprises, notamment dans le secteur technologique, un beaucoup plus grand pouvoir de fixation des prix.

Considérons maintenant ces tendances dans le contexte changeant du paysage politique. Profitant d'une colère compréhensible face aux inégalités qui touchent aussi bien les revenus que la santé et l'opportunité d'accéder à l'éducation, de plus en plus de politiques adoptent le populisme, en promettant une gestion budgétaire plus favorable et des mesures pour faire fléchir en faveur du travail les forces du capital. Parallèlement, les banques centrales sont soumises à des pressions politiques de plus en plus fortes pour court-circuiter le canal du rachat d'actifs (en l'occurrence d'obligations par l'assouplissement quantitatif) et injecter directement des liquidités dans l'économie.

Les angoisses économiques nourrissent aussi les politiques hostiles à la mondialisation. L'utilisation belliqueuse de certains outils de la politique économique comme les droits de douane et autres mesures de réglementation des échanges fait courir à l'économie mondiale et aux relations financières un risque de fragmentation, qui contribuerait à relever les prix, et pousserait entreprises et consommateurs à prendre des initiatives coûteuses pour assurer eux-mêmes leur sécurité. Or le choc d'une hausse des prix toucherait d'autant plus durement les secteurs fragiles, accroissant le risque d'erreurs politiques et d'accidents de marché, que les prévisions d'inflation faible se maintiennent.

À considérer la façon dont ces forces antagonistes sont censées jouer au cours du temps, les responsables politiques et les investisseurs ne devraient pas exclure, dans un délai plus ou moins proche, un retour de l'inflation. Si nous tentons de nous projeter dans l'avenir, il est probable que l'étape initiale, durant laquelle l'effet Amazon / Google / Uber demeurera dominant, se prolongera encore un moment. Mais elle pourrait fort bien être suivie d'une deuxième étape, au cours de laquelle des marchés du travail tendus, le nationalisme populiste et la concentration industrielle commenceraient à contrebalancer les premiers effets structurels des nouvelles technologies et de leur diffusion planétaire. Dans une troisième étape, la poussée possible d'une inflation plus élevée pourrait prendre les responsables politiques et les investisseurs par surprise, et conduire à des réactions excessives qui empireraient encore la situation.

Comme dans tous les changements de paradigme, l'échéance de réalisation de ce scénario est très



# ARTICLE ARTICLES

## JUSTICE AT LAST!

### THE NANCY DOE STORY

By Dagbayonoh Kiah Nyanfore II

The recent decision of the ECOWAS Court in the case of "Nancy Doe VS. The Republic of Liberia" is a victory for justice and human rights. It says loudly that justice can be obtained in Africa; that the poor and the powerless can get justice in the court of law in the continent, and that justice is really blind. It does not see the faces of people but hears the voices of truth. The Court rules that the Republic of Liberia violated the human rights of Nancy Doe in her quest for her late husband's money, which was put in the custody of the Liberia government. Nancy Doe, photo above, is the wife of Liberian late President Samuel K. Doe, who was brutally killed in the country civil war. The Court awarded her \$18M.

The case started during the administration of former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf when in 2011 Madam Doe complained to the Liberian court that the government failed to give her \$4,947,830 legally owned by her late husband, President Doe. While president, he was a silent businessman with interests in several businesses, including a diamond and gold enterprise in Liberia. According to sources, the mineral company earned over \$2M annually in net revenue. He deposited his money in the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) in Liberia. BCCI collapsed during the civil war. The National Bank of Liberia liquidated BCCI deposits and became the bank agent. The National Bank later became the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL). The Liberian bank or Government made no claim of the money when it received it. Also, the government used part of the money to compensate one of its officials. But it would not allow Mrs. Doe access to the fund. In 2015, the Liberian Supreme Court ruled in her favor and awarded her \$5,209,382 in addition to 6% interest plus "accrued interest starting from the date the debt was due to the time of the award". The Sirleaf government, however, failed to comply, dragging its feet while Mrs. Doe and her family suffered. After many unsuccessful efforts, in 2016, Mrs. Doe took the matter to the ECOWAS Court. As stated, the court agreed with her complaint of human rights violation.

Sirleaf's term as president expired in January 2018 and her successor, Soccer Star George Weah, took over the government after the 2017 Election. When President Weah came to power last year, many observers thought that he would settle the matter nationally. But he did not. Why both presidents did not settle? Will the government comply with the ECOWAS ruling? Let us start with the second question.

#### WILL LIBERIA COMPLY?

The Economic Community of West African States, known as ECOWAS, established the ECOWAS Court to adjudicate human rights matters brought by states, individuals, or entities within the community. Member states are signatories to the court mandates. The court ruling is binding and is final. Although not all nations obey an international order, international law and diplomacy require that nations comply with rules and orders mandated by the community which they are members of. Further and conceptually, in international relations, all nations are equal whether big or small. They do not want to be viewed lawless, non-compliant with established protocols, norms, agreements, and mandates. Nations do not want to be isolated either. Playing by the rules is good for their respective national interests. Because of these and other reasons, they tend to comply with a decision by the community. The George Weah administration is relatively new. It needs the respect, support, and cooperation of other member states. If the Weah government fails to implement an international court ruling regarding the human rights of its own citizen, foreign nations could be hesitant to do business or relate with the regime. A result could be a harder economic condition, thus leading to a crisis.

Moreover, according to ECOWAS judges who visited Liberia following the ruling, a member state that refuses to implement the court decision could be

denied of judgeship position to the court and the possible denial of future assistance from ECOWAS in the event of a crisis. The judges made reference to the Liberian civil war and the role ECOWAS played. Hence, should Liberia fail to comply with the ruling, she could lose a future opportunity and assistance from the community. The judges' visit was strategic. It appeared that the purpose was to inform the Liberian public of the importance of the court and that its verdict should be taken seriously. The judges held meetings with members of the Supreme Court, Liberian judges, students, civic organizations, the press, and other government officials.

What does the ruling mean to the struggle for justice and rights? As indicated earlier, the decision is a victory for justice. The poor in the city, village, and hamlet whose rights have been violated against can have the hope to fight on, to carry on and not to give up. Justice comes to those who are determined to the end. It means that even if your country fails to give you justice, an international court can give you justice. Madam Nancy Doe, an "uneducated" widow, who was born poor in a village in Liberia, fought the injustice of the Sirleaf government and won. She won not only in the highest court of Liberia but also in the ECOWAS Court, an international court. That speaks volume. That means that a government or administration cannot violate your human rights and go free. Whether you are poor or rich, famous or not, you can take the government to an international court for justice.



The ECOWAS Court did not see Madam Doe as the wife of an ex-president, but as a human being whose right was infringed upon by the very government that was constitutionally mandated to protect that right. The regime also disobeyed the decision of the arbiter of justice in Liberia, thereby deepening the violation and further denying and depriving the victim and her family the right to property, happiness, and a better life. Perhaps, it was the magnitude of the violation that made the court to award her over 300% more than the original claim. Certainly, that amount would make her one of the wealthy persons in Liberia, but the essence of the verdict is what really matters: she fought and has justice at last. In a talk after the court decision, she stated that she can die now or tomorrow, and she will go with a big happy smile. On the other hand, some family members do not see her victory as justice, at last, arguing that she has not received a dime from the past judgments in Liberia. They also indicated that she has not received justice for the Vomoma Househotel building owned by her husband and for the house in which Senator Varney Sherman, former chairman of Sirleaf Unity Party, resides and has not paid rent for years.

Madam Doe's story started many years ago. Besides the problems she encountered after her husband's death, she endured personal difficulties as a girl. Her biological father, of a Kru speaking ethnic group, abandoned her as a child. She reached out to him as a girl for love and support but was rejected. Thus, in addition to the institutional denial of educational opportunity in the Liberian rural sector, she could not also go to school

in rural Grand Gedeh as a child because of the lack of support and the old traditional belief in the village that only the boys should go to school. She went through the daily struggle as a country girl and woman in the village. But she overcame this situation to become the mother of her country. As the first lady, the father came to her begging for forgiveness and claiming as her real father. She refused the claim. As the mother of the nation, education was important to her. Through private adult education, she learned to read and write just for self-benefit. Despite classroom education, she is wise and does not seem to react to situation immediately. A case in point was in September, 1990, on the day Doe died. As cited in a previous article, Mr. Willie Givens, Liberian Ambassador to Great Britain, called her in England to extend condolences but also requested her to return the embassy car which was assigned to her, because Doe was dead and she was no longer the first lady. She thanked him for the sympathy but told the ambassador that she would call back. She did and asked, "Ambassador Givens, who appointed you as ambassador?"

"President Doe", he answered.

Mrs. Doe responded, "But Mr. Givens if Doe appointed you and he is now dead, you are no longer ambassador and you have no presidential authority to request for the vehicle."

"Givens was stunned to hear such intelligent response from a lady considered uneducated. He hung up the phone". Here she knew that an ambassador is the personal representative of the president or head of state who appointed the ambassador.

Mrs. Doe as the first lady visited many countries and represented Liberia well. She was concerned about the plight of market women. Today, the Nancy Doe Market in Sinkor, Monrovia bears her name. Personally, with expected money coming, her kinsmen, friends, and others who have forgotten about her and her children would come out of the woodwork for help. That is a factor when you are rich among the poor.

Back to education; her husband Samuel Doe also did not forget about his education. As head of state, he returned to school and earned a Bachelor's degree from the University of Liberia. Some classmates remarked that he was one of the best students and actively participated in class discussion. Perhaps President Doe's personal interest in education contributed to his government success in Liberian literacy. "UN data indicated that in the 9 years of his administration, Liberian literacy rate quadrupled more than the rate under Tubman and Tolbert combined. Tubman was president for 27 years and Tolbert 9 years".

After June, 1980, the Doe revolutionary government freed all its political prisoners and incorporated some into the civilian administration and implemented infrastructural development in the country. 'The Doe government was an inclusive and well balanced administration', said Sociologist Dr. Konia Kolllehlon. Some credited it for giving birth to multi-party democracy in Liberia. But others said it "grew increasingly corrupt and [it became] repressive, banning political opposition and shutting down newspapers".

#### WHY DID NOT PRESIDENT SIRLEAF AND WEAH SETTLE THE CASE?

Why Mrs. Doe was denied justice, and why was the case not settled in Liberia before the ECOWAS verdict? This brings us to the first question. Before we answer it, let us look at the history of the country. A review of Liberia's past would give us the fundamental reason. Liberia, as a country, was founded by the American Colonization Society, which sent Black ex-slaves from America to Africa particularly Liberia in 1822. The former slaves ruled Liberia and oppressed native Liberians since the dependence of the country in 1847. The Congos, recaptured African slaves from the Niger-Congo Delta, another settler group, joined the Americo-Liberians in the rule of the country. The settlers considered the native majority inferior, uncivilized, and uneducated and therefore should have no rights. The aborigines were denied the citizenship of the country until 1912 and were granted the right to vote in 1946. But the 1980 revolution led by Samuel K. Doe overthrew the settler regime and instituted a new government and eventually, Doe became the first native-born president.

TO BE CON'T



# Nimba turns on PYJ

By Thomas Domah/Nimba

Nimba County all-season politician, ex-rebel leader and preacher, Senator Prince Yormie Johnson, appears to be losing grip of his people, some of whom accuse him of misleading them into voting for the George Weah-led Coalition for Democratic Change, which they lament is not doing anything for the county.

Nimbiains in the county are voicing their frustrations daily on various community radio stations, lamenting that they were misled during the 2017 elections in giving their votes to the CDC Standard Bearer, George Manneh Weah, now President of Liberia.

According to them, the Weah administration has relegated the people of Nimba despite earlier promises to have given them a good pie of the national cake after his ascendancy, noting that the county only enjoys one ministerial post in the entire government,



instead of five or more.

They recall that unlike the Weah-led government, under the regime of former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Nimba benefited several high positions in the public sector.

They urge the current administration to do more in improving standard of life in the county by rolling out

development.

Two vocal females in the county, Madam Pauline Dahn and Madam Yini explained that Senator PJY influenced them in electing the Coalition-led government, but hardship has increased among them.

Appearing live on one of the community radio stations in Nimba recently, PYJ who

rallied his kinsmen behind him and his Movement for Democracy and Reconstruction (MDR) party in supporting the

candidacy of George Weah and the CDC during the 2017 runoff presidential poll, argued that he has given pieces of advice to President Weah on the prevailing economic situation in Liberia.

But he claims the President Weah seems not to be listening to his advice or provided him attention.

Early this week, over 200 aggrieved marketers in Ganta, Nimba County expressed disappointment over 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 TawahSaah laments that prices of goods are increasing daily, making life unbearable for ordinary citizens. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

## MOT launches Road Accident Prevention Program

The Ministry of Transport launches a National Road Accident Prevention Program in Liberia, a government social intervention program introduced by the Ministry to prevent road accidents and save lives across the country.

According to a press release, the Ministry of Transport believes that

Liberia's roads.

The phenomenon accounts for very high number of crashes here, as a result of moving vehicles running into disabled, broken down, accident and abandoned vehicles in the streets, usually leading to deaths and severe injuries of innocent citizens.

The release says under the

vehicles will be instantly towed to a safe place and first aid medication given accident victims whilst being taken to hospital.

Some of the numerous benefits of the Program to both vehicle owners and the general public include but not limited to, ensuring free flow of traffic across Liberia by the instant removal to safe places of disabled, broken down, accident and abandoned



human capital is the most important and precious resource of Liberia thus, the need to save lives.

One of the emerging road safety factors that accounts for the challenging road safety situation in Liberia is the incidence of disabled, broken down, accident and abandoned vehicles on

program, there will be towing and ambulance services. Beginning July, 2019, when the fleet of equipment including heavy and light duty tow trucks, well equipped ambulances and high-powered Police motor bikes are expected to be in the country, all disabled, broken down, accident and abandoned

vehicles, very shift ambulance services and proper first aid medical care for accident victims while being transported to hospital.

Other benefits include creation of mass employment opportunities for Liberians nationwide, among others. **- Press Release**

## Police demand stronger

Starts from back page

partners to continue to work with the police in fighting against rape, sexual based violence and other crimes.

He warns students and young people against rape, noting that it is a non-bailable crime of statutory rape to be in a love affair with a person who is 17 years old or younger.

He also alarms against too much violence in Liberia, referencing instances of motorcyclists setting vehicles ablaze when there is an accident involving a car and a motorcycle instead of seeking proper redress.

According to Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Varney A. Sheriff, the community policing program is being supported by the Sweden counterparts based on request from the LNP to help enhance the institution's work.

In response to the police's

request, ACP Sheriff says Sweden is helping financially and also enhancing the LNP's works in handling rape matters; general crimes investigation; forensic area; sexual gender - based violence; role of the police and prosecutors in processing cases for prosecution and public awareness.

The police authorities commanding Zone 10 have lauded a cordial relationship with other national security agencies including the Liberia Drugs Enforcement Agency (LDEA).

Students, community leaders and the police's partners including the task force from the motorcycle union and community watch forum leaders have applauded the partnership with the police, urging that it continues.

## FIFA confirms 32

Starts from back page

million in TV rights, \$150 million in marketing rights and \$90 million from ticket sales.

The news comes after Europe's top football clubs said in March they would boycott an expanded 24-team Club World Cup -- also backed by Infantino -- which is planned to take place in June and July 2021, replacing the Confederations Cup tournament.

An announcement of the final decision had not been expected until next month's FIFA Congress to be held in Paris ahead of the women's World Cup that takes place in France between June 7 and July 7.

FIFA said it had examined the possibility of Qatar hosting a 48-team tournament on its

own, but a study "concluded that due to the advanced stage of preparations and the need for a detailed assessment of the potential logistical impact on the host country, more time would be required and a decision could not be taken before the deadline of June".

FIFA has dropped the plan to expand the 2022 tournament despite recommending in March that the number of teams should be raised to 48 for that tournament, ahead of the 2026 World Cup in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Expanding the competition for the 2022 tournament was always a complicated proposition.



## Police demand stronger drugs law

By Winston W. Parley

The Liberia National Police (LNP) is urging lawmakers to legislate non-bailable and stronger laws against drugs trafficking and abuse here, warning of a risk of growing drugs addiction and criminality if government fails to take charge now.

Outgoing Deputy Police Inspector General for Operations Col. Robert Budy told a community policing forum Thursday, 23 May in Clara Town that drugs traffickers are using Liberia "as a transit point" for their drug trade due to the country's weak laws on drugs offenses.

"So Liberia is being used as a transit point; and when it gets here, our citizens use it and they get affected and at the end of the day they're on the street begging for something to eat. They... [are] in the cemetery," he says.



In some countries around the world Col. Budy observes that drug traffickers are executed "because drugs kill people."

But in Liberia, he also observes that if a drugs trafficker is caught with

container of drugs, the trafficker is by law entitled to bond to secure his or her release.

Col. Budy who is nominated to head the Liberia Immigration Service (LIS), warns further that in the next

five to ten years "some of us might not be able to walk on Broad Street if the Government of Liberia does not take charge right now."

He indicates that there might be more zogoes in the years to come if "we are not

careful."

Zogoe is an unofficial nomenclature identifying disadvantaged youths here or wayward folks in the Liberian society.

Hundreds of young Liberians in this category take in drugs, steal from people and sleep in the streets and in cemeteries as well.

Col. Budy explains that a lot of these drugs - affected victims come from good families, but they don't think like the rest of the people here "because they have been addicted or used to using drugs" so "their brains have been affected."

According to him, these guys sleep with the dead in the cemetery, but they don't realize that.

Additionally Col. Budy told students, young people, community leaders and motorcycle union task force



## FIFA confirms 32 World Cup teams

FIFA shelved a proposed expansion of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar to 48 teams on Wednesday, dealing a blow to the world football body's president Gianni Infantino.

The 2022 tournament in the Gulf state will now be played with 32 nations taking part.

FIFA said it had abandoned the expansion plans "following a thorough and comprehensive consultation process" which led to the conclusion that "under the current

circumstances such a proposal could not be made now".

"(The tournament) will therefore remain as originally planned with 32 teams and no proposal will be submitted at the next FIFA Congress on 5 June," FIFA said in a statement.

The expansion was a pet project of Infantino, who pushed the idea despite the likely need for Qatar's neighbours to put aside a two-year blockade and help to host an expanded tournament.

"The involvement of these countries in the organisation

of the tournament jointly with Qatar implies the lifting of this blockade, in particular the lifting of restrictions on the movement of people and goods," said a feasibility study submitted to March's FIFA Congress in Miami.

The study, seen by AFP, also claimed that a Qatar World Cup with 48 teams would generate "between \$300-\$400 million (265-354 million euros) of additional income".

Specifically FIFA was counting on an additional \$120



FIFA President Gianni Infantino pressed hard for a 48-team 2022 World Cup



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