



The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT
<https://thenewdawnliberia.com>

WWW

Advertize Here!

Subscribe to our website
get the best of balance and accurate news, delivered daily

The New Dawn

French Version Inside

TRULY INDEPENDENT

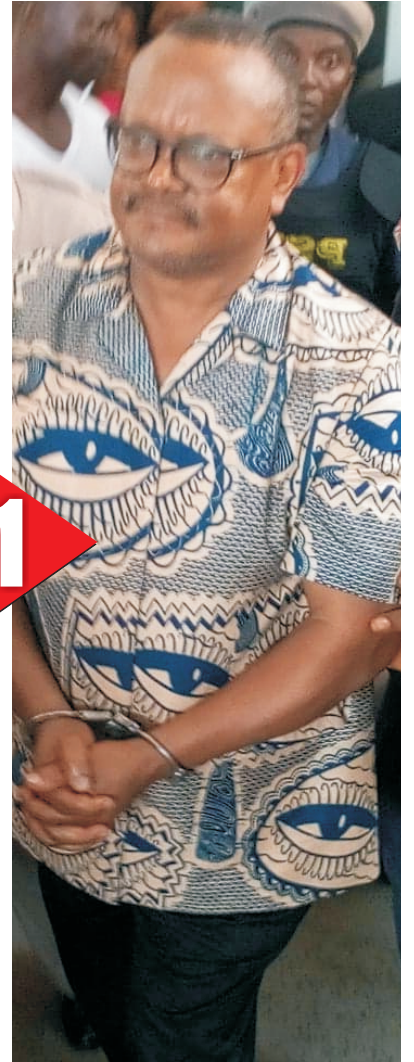
Advertize Here For Low Rate

VOL.9 NO. 085

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 2019

PRICE LD\$40.00

Gov't, CBL officials lock horns



Former Deputy CBL Governor Charles E. Sirleaf

Former Governor Milton Weeks

P11



CSO sues Gov, protesters

P11



Continental News

Boat ban after deadly DR Congo accident

Wooden passenger boats that are more than five years old are to be banned from a lake in the Democratic Republic of Congo where hundreds of people are feared to have drowned at the weekend.

Some 45 people are known to have died when an overcrowded boat sank on Lake Mai-Ndombe. About 200 remain missing.

The partial ban on older wooden vessels was announced by a provincial governor. DR Congo sees frequent boat accidents on its waterways, which are a popular means of transport across the country.

The country, which is about the size of mainland western Europe, has a poor road network, and large areas are inaccessible except by air or boat. Many of the passenger ferries on its lakes and rivers are poorly maintained and overloaded.

The latest accident took

place on Saturday evening in Mai-Ndombe province in western DR Congo, involving a type of flat-bottomed wooden vessel known as a balieniére or whaler. On Monday, provincial governor Antoine Masamba announced on the Talk Congo

radio station that all such boats that were more than five years old would be banned from the lake. It is not clear when the ban will come into force, nor how many vessels will be affected. According to the governor, the boat had

been carrying some 400 passengers, of whom 45 were confirmed dead and 200 were still unaccounted for. The vessel was not meant to carry more than 80 people. Its official manifest indicates that it had about 130 passengers.

According to the BBC's Gaius Kowane in Kinshasa, the actual number of people travelling aboard the boat was much higher because it had taken on additional passengers along its route. The vessel, bound for Boliangwa, sank almost 30km (18 miles) from the town of Inongo, its point of departure

and the capital of Mai-Ndombe Province. The mayor of Inongo, Simon Mboo Wemba, said the captain of the vessel had been arrested. He said most of the passengers on board were teachers, going to collect their salaries. Last month, at least 167 people died in two boat accidents on Lake Kivu. This prompted Felix Tshisekedi, who became president in January, to make it mandatory for passengers to wear life jackets. But it is not clear if those on the boat that sank on Saturday were wearing any. BBC



Survivors gathered on the shore of Lake Mai-Ndombe after the disaster

London teens sent to Africa to escape knife crime

Hundreds of British teenagers are being sent by their parents to East Africa to avoid knife crime in the UK, representatives of the Somali community say. Why are they taking this drastic choice?

Some names have been changed to protect the identity of the interviewees.

"In those few years I was doing my A-levels it was tough. Just seeing people being dropped every other day, being stabbed," Yusuf tells the

Victoria Derbyshire programme from his new home in Kenya. "London's not the place to be for a teenager."

Yusuf was born and raised in London but moved to Nairobi after a close friend in his neighbourhood was stabbed to death.

It is a decision an increasing number of parents are taking, for their children's safety.

Of the 100 people stabbed to death in the UK so far this year, 8% were of Somali heritage,

according to the Rise Projects which works with young British Somalis in north London. Jamal Hassan mentors young men in London, many from Somali families.

He explains parents "want to protect that child by all means necessary".

"If it means that child doesn't finish school, college, university or he will not have a good job by the time you come for them the future is not really important.

"What's important is that child's life." One mother who had sent her child to Africa told him she could now sleep at night, because she knew any police sirens she heard were not for her son.

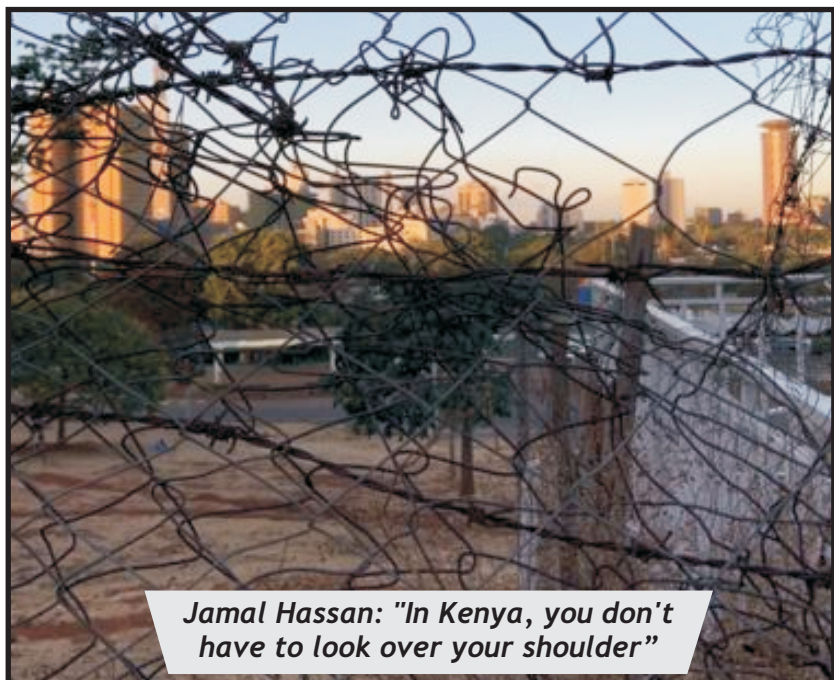
Jamal went to Kenya as a teenager, when he says problems for him in London "were at their peak".

He says there are parallels with the present day.

"One of the things I'll never forget, is the fact that when you walk in the streets in Kenya you don't have to look over your shoulder.

"Here I could travel in and out of the city, go and visit whoever I wanted, and it was good. I felt a sense of freedom.

"But for these kids [in London that can be] life and death." BBC



Jamal Hassan: "In Kenya, you don't have to look over your shoulder"

Nine subsistence miners die in Zimbabwe blasts

At least nine miners died in Zimbabwe following blasts in a shaft north of the capital Harare where they were illegally digging for gold, police said Tuesday.

"We confirm eight people died on Sunday night at Jumbo Mine in Mazowe while another person died later after another explosive went off while they were underground," police

Metallon Corporation, confirmed the incident and said none of the victims were company employees.

"Illegal panners invaded the mine and took part in illegal explosive blasting," the company said in a statement.

"Tragically, nine panners lost their lives." In February, at least 24 illegal miners died



spokesman Paul Nyathi told AFP.

"Their bodies were retrieved and investigations are being undertaken to establish how they got into the mine which was guarded at the entrance.

"One person sustained fractures and was admitted to hospital and we are told there could be more."

The owners of the mine,

and eight were rescued after water flooded two disused shafts in the mining town of Kadoma.

Accidents involving illegal or informal miners are common in Zimbabwe where many use makeshift equipment to earn a living.

The country has valuable platinum, diamond, gold, coal and copper deposits. AFP

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT
https://thenewdawnliberia.com

EDITORIAL

TVET graduates want action, not promises

SEVERAL THOUSAND GRADUATES of government Technical, Vocational Education Training or TVET program across the country are disillusioned by joblessness and repeated promises by the current administration and previous administration to absorb them in the job market after their studies.

THE MONROVIA VOCATIONAL Training Center (M.V.T.C.) and several other technical and vocational institutions in the country graduate thousands of youth from time to time in various disciplines, including Carpentry, Electricity, Plumbing, Construction and Computer Literacy, among others without creating job opportunities for them.

THE MINISTRY OF Youth and Sports gathered thousands of graduates recently at the Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Complex in Paynesville outside Monrovia and made another round of promises to provide them employment that would enable them to cater to their families.

“WE WANT TO see how best we can link you with some of these government’s projects that are ongoing across the country. We want to do everything in our power to ensure that we find a job for you so that you can in return, feed your family,” asserts Youth and Sports Minister D. Zeogar Wilson.

PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER, Mobutu Vlah Nyepan, says the initiative is the best way forward for the young people of Liberia and a way for inclusive participation, pledging the Ministry of Public Works’ commitment to include graduates of TVET program in ongoing government projects across the country.

“YOUR TRAINING IS not in vain; your qualification is not in vain because we have a lot to do in this country. We have 12,000 kilometers of roads and out of that only 800 kilometers are paved, so we have a lot to do and you will be considered fully in our programs. My message is, don’t despair; don’t be deterred”, he assures the graduates, many of them youths in their 20s and 30s.

BUT THE GRADUATES say these promises are familiar choruses they had heard before. This time around, they want tangible steps that would take them to the job market, having played their part by acquiring technical skills and vocational education.

“WE HAVE BEEN listening to these kinds of promises from the past government and we continue to hear [them] even more, since the inception of this government, but nothing much has been done about our wellbeing. Sir, how then should we trust this one?” A female TVET graduate, Miatta Sambola, asks.

MANY OTHER GRADUATES joined her in voicing their frustrations and disappointment about lack of job opportunities to demonstrate the knowledge and skills acquired. They want the government to bridge this gap now than later.

WE ALSO JOIN the graduates in urging the government to go beyond mere promises and promises, by taking concrete steps in absorbing them in the job market thru cadet programs that could see them climb the ladder of success to become the professionals they want to be.

The
New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

COMMENTARY

By Hans-Werner Sinn

Germany’s Dangerously Flawed Energy Policies

Germany has made a noble effort to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions and replace conventional energy sources with wind and solar power. But now it is time to face reality: the country cannot possibly play a role in combating climate change until it first reverses its decision to phase out nuclear power.

MUNICH - French President Emmanuel Macron thinks an overhaul of Germany’s economic model is overdue. As far as energy is concerned, he is probably right.

While France produces over 70% of its electricity in nuclear power plants and is trying to convert to electric vehicles (EV) running on nuclear energy, Germany relies on wind farms and other forms of green energy, and plans to phase out nuclear power by 2022, and coal power by 2038. Yet the attempt to turn the wheels of German industry with wind faces growing political resistance, as the country is already littered with so many wind turbines - some of them nearly 250 meters (820 feet) high - that even its most beautiful vistas are coming to resemble industrial landscapes.

Farmers and forest owners, of course, have welcomed the opportunity to convert their land to industrial sites. Usually, only landowners on the outskirts of big cities enjoy such windfalls, but with legislation facilitating the erection of wind turbines in rural areas, German farmers and forest owners have struck gold.

Nonetheless, the expansion of wind turbines is stalling, owing to a growing chorus of citizens who object to the destruction of the natural environment. Protest movements against what is seen as environmental vandalism are sprouting like mushrooms. Even the German Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU) is beginning to reconsider its position on wind turbines, owing to the loss of insects, birds, and bats on a massive scale. And while solar energy and biogas plants still represent potential alternatives to wind, they are also facing limits, given that Germany is not a sun-kissed country, and the table-or-tank problem - whether to use land to grow food or fuel - represents a serious ethical dilemma.

The main problem is the volatility of wind and solar energy. Sometimes there is too little electricity, and sometimes there is too much. If the wind isn’t blowing and the sun isn’t shining, conventional power plants must shore up the electricity supply. Hence, no matter how many wind- and solar-powered plants Germany builds, it still cannot dismantle its conventional plants.

Moreover, when wind and solar generate too much electricity, they regularly drive the price of electricity below zero. These distortions will grow dramatically if the market share of wind and solar power, currently at 25%, increases beyond 30%, because production spikes will then begin to overshoot electricity demand.

Worse, as the market share of directly usable wind and solar power approaches 100%, so, too, does the proportion of surplus energy. Even if Germany and its neighbors were to create a perfect electricity network stretching from the Alps to Norway, with as many pumped-storage

plants as geologically possible being built in the participating countries, the market share of wind and solar power could not surpass 50% without ever-larger portions of the excess current peaks being dumped or degenerated by a change in the entropy level (conversion into heat or gas).

Confronted with this problem, many people point to electric vehicles as a solution. There can be little doubt that EVs are the future, given the European Union’s massive regulatory interventions in the automobile market (at France’s urging) to make it so. But, far from alleviating Germany’s energy problems, EVs will make them even worse.

Drawing an ever-greater proportion of their energy from green sources, German households already pay the highest electricity prices in Europe, ahead of Denmark, which also relies heavily on wind power. If the German transportation sector is forced to become electric, the resulting increase in power demand will lead to further price increases, inflicting sustained damage on the country’s industrial base.¹

If Germany wants to keep energy prices constant, it must temper its green ambitions. But without further reducing its carbon dioxide emissions, it will miss its binding EU targets for reducing greenhouse-gas emissions and have to pay fines to the EU.

There are only two ways out of this quandary. The first is to convert existing coal-fired power plants into gas plants, which produce only half as much CO₂. That, at least, would allow Germany to reduce its annual CO₂ emissions from 900 million to 770 million tons. This option would require new gas pipelines similar to Nord Stream 2, a joint German-Russian project that already faces stiff resistance from the European Commission and particularly France. Indeed, just a week after signing a new Franco-German friendship treaty in January, Macron suddenly stopped supporting German Chancellor Angela Merkel’s effort to block the EU asserting control over the pipeline, even though it crosses no other member state’s territory and would not normally be subject to EU regulation.

Germany’s second energy option is to buy foreign nuclear power or start building new nuclear power plants on its own territory. Germany would tacitly accept the former, but for the latter to happen, it would have to undergo a politically painful process of returning to reality and retiring the generation of politicians who have insisted on a nuclear phase-out. In 2009, Sweden, the first European country to abandon nuclear power after the Three Mile Island accident in 1979, reversed its decision. Germany may have to do the same at some stage. While it has already lost most of its own nuclear expertise, the country wouldn’t have to look far for new nuclear-power plants: they’re available for purchase from France.

O-PED

By Shashi Tharoor

India's Cult of Modi

NEW DELHI - In 2014, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi came to power at the helm of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) after articulating a vision of a revived India, a manufacturing giant with high-tech capabilities which could meet the rising aspirations of a growing young population. Modi promised voters that his administration would be an era of "achhe din" (good times), marked by "minimum government, maximum governance," inclusive development ("sab ka saath sab ka vikas"), high employment, and rising economic growth and prosperity. Voters believed him in droves.

But in India's just-completed election, Modi repeated none of this. He knew full well that the hollowness of his own promises (and his abject failure to fulfill any of them) would come back to haunt him if he did.

So, instead, Modi ran a very different sort of campaign. India, he claimed, was beset by enemies within and without. Only he - a muscular nationalist with a 56-inch chest - and his stout band of watchful Chowkidars could keep the country safe from terrorists, infiltrators, "anti-nationals," and "termites" seeking to hollow out the sturdy structure of the majoritarian Hindu Rashtra, a Hindu nation, that he was building. It worked. Modi's "khaki" campaign gave him an even bigger electoral victory than in 2014: 303 of the 543 seats in the lower house, and another 50 in the hands of his allies.

The 2019 Indian election will be a case study in how to upend the conventional assumption of electoral politics that an incumbent is judged on his record of performance against his own promises. Modi failed spectacularly against the very yardsticks he had set himself, cheerfully moved the goalposts, and scored big goals in a totally different game from the one he said five years ago he would play. And yet the voters rewarded him. Why?

The only plausible explanation starts with the construction of the most extraordinary personality cult in modern Indian history. The cult of Modi is now buttressed by larger-than-life imagery, hundreds of thousands of social-media warriors, an intimidated "mainstream" media, ubiquitous cameramen, and a slick publicity machinery that was switched on 24/7, all lubricated by 5,600 crore rupees (\$750 million) of taxpayer funds relentlessly promoting his every move. This was indeed a "Prime Minister with a difference," but not in quite the way the slogan implied, for this was India's first prime minister who cast a shadow far larger than his substance.

Of course, this exercise was aided and abetted by a formidable party organization: millions of members recruited through "missed calls" (when recipients call back, they reach a BJP recruiter); effective polling booth committees active well before elections, including hundreds of thousands of "panna pramukhs" (BJP workers, each in charge of cultivating voters on a single page of the electoral register); foot soldiers of the Hindu-supremacist RSS, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh or National Volunteer Corps, delegated from every shakha (cell) in a state to interact with sensitive constituencies; campaign squads persistently visiting voters' homes with leaflets and arguments; and a command structure that relayed instructions down the hierarchy with swift and unchallengeable authority.

And so, relentlessly bombarded by propaganda and by the effective messaging of a well-honed party machine, 37.4% of India's voters decided that Modi was indeed the embodiment of their nation, and that it was almost their duty to vote for him - not necessarily for the feckless, opportunistic, and often faceless candidates presented listed on ballots next to the lotus symbol of the BJP, but for Modi himself. The presidentialization of India's parliamentary system is complete.

Does this mean that issues no longer matter, performance is irrelevant, and Indian voters are beguiled purely by personality? It certainly seems that way in those states that turned toward the BJP. Tellingly, better-educated voters in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Punjab (where Hindus are not in a crushing majority) were not so easily taken in by stirring rhetoric and majoritarian militarism. And it must be noted that 37% of the popular vote gave Modi 56% of the seats in India's first-past-the-post system. Still, a win is a win by the rules. And this is a big win.

It is nonetheless extraordinary that the BJP was able to persuade people to vote their prejudices rather than their economic interests. After all, why would a young man who voted for Modi in 2014, expecting to get a job that he needs, vote for him again in 2019 when he is still unemployed? He does so, apparently, because he is consumed by fear and sees in Modi his protector. The object of that fear is often defined as a Muslim - and additionally as a malign Pakistani general or a terrorist despatched by him - who must be confronted by a strongman ruler.

The worry for many Indian liberals is that our long-cherished idea of our country as a benign, inclusive state - thriving in its astonishing diversity of religions, ethnicities, languages, and castes - is collapsing. In its place is emerging an India that is less pluralistic, less accepting of difference, less inclusive, and less tolerant than the one we had long celebrated. The ideal of unity has given way to one of uniformity; patriotism has been redefined as chauvinism; independent institutions are yielding to a dominant government; democracy is being reshaped into one-man rule.

This is what Modi cheerfully dubs "New India." It is a vision that has left many fearful Indians yearning for the old one.

Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA)
20th Street Sinkor, Monrovia, Liberia

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING - NCB
Invitation for Marine Sensitivity Survey
IFB NO.LiMA/NCB/010/18/19



7 May 2019

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

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

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

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

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

Signed: _____
PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE

GET ACCESS TO THE

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

www.thenewdawnliberia.com



LOCAL NEWS CONTENT

WWW

Advertize Here!

Subscribe to our website

get the best of balance and accurate news, delivered daily

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Rwanda and Liberia: How Patriotism, Focused Leadership and “Culture of It's Our Time” Shaping Progress and Retrogression.

By James S. Shilue

In Liberia various leaders have publically declared that they will eliminate corruption but soon start to provide reasons why the menace cannot be eliminated. Kagame who is seen as a visionary, the face of a new, self-confident, economically vibrant African narrative that buries the passivity and victimhood of the past, embarked on an anti-graft crusade against economic and financial crimes. Since the country ended the genocide decades ago, the GDP per head has risen to almost \$650, and just under 45% of the population is now below the poverty line, down from 60% in 2000. The economy has achieved average annual growth of 8.2% for the past 10 years.

In fact, in the decade since he was elected, Kagame has transformed Rwanda's fortunes with such single-minded determination and focus that commentators have dubbed him the 'CEO of Rwanda'. According to the 2019 World Bank Doing Business index, Rwanda is the 29th easiest place to do business in the world - the only low-income country (LIC) in the top 30. Investors are saying everything in Liberia is about red tip. What can our leaders do to minimise such culture and make the investment climate attractive? I have searched tirelessly to read the number of new businesses that have come to Liberia since 2018 but cannot find any data. For Rwanda, in 2018 the Rwanda Development Board (RDB) registered over US\$2 billion-worth of investments.

As Rwanda makes progress in fighting the menace, in Liberia, corruption has taken different characterisation from 'public enemy number 1', 'Big Boy 1', 'Big Boy 2', 'Gbagba', 'Jaadeh', 'what is inside for me', to 'vampires' even socking the blood of those industries that contributed to the relative growth that we have experienced in the nation's GDP before the Ebola epidemic dismantled the entire economy. One commentator said

corruption is at “an industrial level in Liberia”. If corruption was at an industrial level during President Sirleaf administration, we will have to find an appropriate qualifier for the current Pro Poor administration, which has yet to demonstrate real commitment to fighting the menace. President Weah and his officials have been accused of not only dismantling anti-graft institutions but for amassing wealth in unprecedented manner in the history of the country. Sadly, the Pro Poor agenda rather than empowering ‘the people’ by strengthening their capacity to thrive, there are growing disenchantments among ordinary Liberians for the high cost of living and lack of solutions by the president.

Hunted by the ugly legacies of the genocide and determined to not allow his country slip back into war, President Kagame declared that he will not tolerate voices that promote a return to the ethnic divisionism that precipitated the genocide. Today, in post war Rwanda, there is a policy against ethnic divisionism - meaning referring to people based on their ethnicity. No Hutu or Tutsi but just Rwandan. In the Liberian context, after almost two decades of senseless bloody war in which tribal and ethnic background was a key determinant of amnesty or instant death, today when a Liberian applies for a passport at the Foreign Ministry, he or she will have to fill in form and answer questions about his/her tribe and ethnicity. What have Liberians learned from the senseless civil wars? Why it is Rwanda leadership is so sensitive and takes decision based on experiences of the pass but Liberian leadership does not? Whenever I visit Rwanda I am honestly mesmerized

by the level of transformation and orderliness. The capital Kigali is dubbed as the cleanest city in Africa. The country is now called the ICT Hub of Africa because technology is booming. The country made headline as the first country to pilot blood deliveries by drone. In February 2016, Rwanda Government hired a California-based robotics firm to build the drone in a bid to improve accessibility to blood and emergency medical supplies to remote parts of the country. The experiment is saving lives whereas in Liberia our people living in rural Liberia are virtually cut off from the Capital during the raining seasons. People are

dying due to the lack of vision and commitment on the part of our leaders to transform the lives of Liberians.

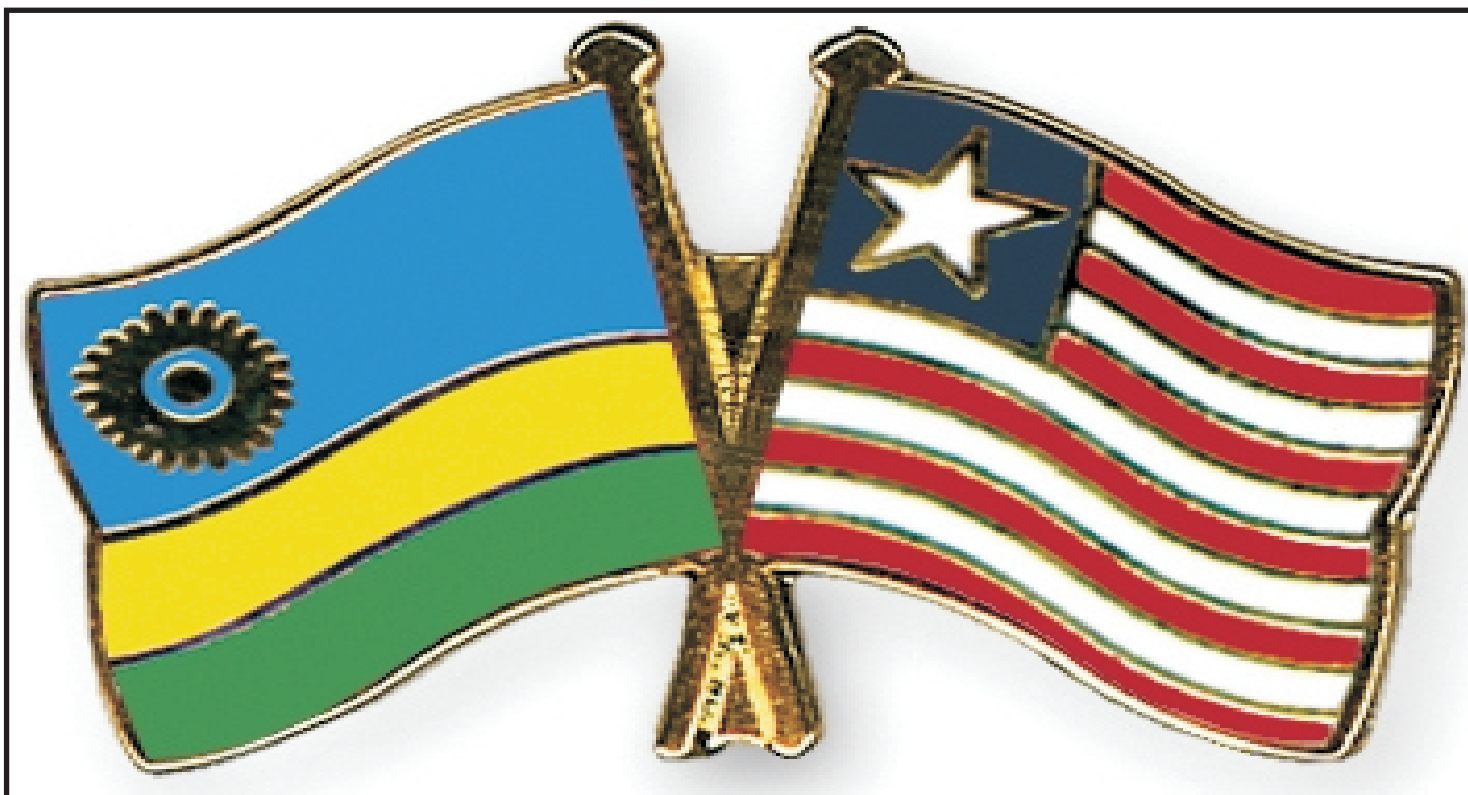
On one of my visits to Rwanda, I saw military men and women cleaning the streets. I thought it was only done once in a while but my Rwandan colleague told me that their President said he will not be appropriating monthly salaries for soldiers to sit in barracks without doing anything. So, the soldiers form part of forces to clean the cities and ensure that the country remains healthy. Kigali is now considered one of the cleanest cities in Africa, if not the cleanest. Drive by Duala in Monrovia and see avalanche of dirt just within the market where foods are bought for eating.

women, children and families in general. The Rwandan government is one of very few in the world where female members of parliament outnumber men. It has introduced a health programme, where for \$2 a year everyone is insured. It has ploughed millions of dollars into school and university places, pushing literacy from 48% in 1995 to just over 71%. In 2005, Liberia had its first post war election of 30 senators, only five were women, constituting 16.7 percent. In the lower house, eight women out of a total of 64 representatives were elected, making up 12.5 percent. Altogether, a total of 13 women were in the Liberian National Legislature of 94

legislators, this is only 13.8 percent - which is 16.5 percentage points short of the United Nations target for women parliamentary seats - and 5.6 points lower than the 2010 global average of women parliamentarians. Today, the number has even reduced drastically. At the end of both the presidential and legislative elections, only nine women were elected to fill the 73 seats in the Lower House of the Legislature. The most Liberia can boast of today is the election of Jewel Howard Taylor as vice president, having previously served for 12 years as a senator.

I am aware that Rwanda has its own challenges and President Kagame is not an angel, in fact some refer to him as an 'autocrat', 'dictator' or 'strong leader' who undermines press freedom and free speech and recently there are efforts to pass a law to prosecute anybody who insults the president. Rwanda is not the best democracy in the world and this article in no way subscribes to such notion. In Liberia, we enjoy free speech and President Weah is said to be the most insulted president. There is no journalist in prison. However, Rwanda is succeeding in its overall developmental agenda, despite these anti-democratic vices under the so called 'dictator'. Weighing these drawbacks against the achievements, I feel the country is doing far better than Africa's oldest

republic. President Kagame stopped the genocide in his country and has since undertaken concrete efforts to unite his people. Rwanda is not just creating a business-friendly environment but also diversifying the economy from being almost entirely dependent on agriculture to developing services and a growing manufacturing sector. Following more than 18 years after the Liberian war, we are still waiting for hand-out and most recently our leadership received the worst humiliation from external donors asking our government to immediately refund money taken from their accounts. How have we reached this low? What is Rwanda doing better than us? Indeed, a confluence of factors at a critical juncture and we can see some of the missing links in the lack of people centred leadership, lack of patriotism, the mind-set and the culture of “it is our time and among my mother children, I love myself the best”. Liberia is bleeding and slipping into ‘conflict trip’ and President Weah needs to listen to the voices of reasoning - one of which is coming from a stalwart of his party admitting that “government does not possess all of the required expertise...and Liberia being our common denominator, it is advisable that the president invites people irrespective of their political views to add up to what we have”, said Dr. Lester Tenny. Liberia is at a cross road and one political party does not have the solution and nobody will solve our problems but only ourselves. We need to immediately go beyond partisan and start with a ‘participatory diagnosis’, which is the first way of identifying and understanding the problem. Mr President, please reach out and change the approach to save our country.



There is an embarrassing story that I heard about a Liberian official who visited Kigali for climate change conference. According to the story, the government functionary while in transit at Nairobi's Airport bought some items at the airport duty free shops. His goods were packed in the usual 'Duty free' plastic bag. Upon arrival at Kigali airport, the immigration officer asked him to hand over his bag and the Liberian official who was in Kigali for an environmental conference never read about Rwanda, hence found it strange that the Rwandan officer requested his bags. Thinking it was one of the usual act of corruption, he reluctantly handed over his bags to the officer. Within a twinkle of eye, his goods were unpacked and placed in a paper bag and returned to him with a smiling statement from the officer 'sir we do not allow plastic here'. How possible was it that somebody of such status would visit another country without reading about his host country? What does this say about Liberia? Do Liberian government officials only participate in conferences for the allowances? How are conference participants selected in the different ministries and state institutions? Again, it is about leadership, value system and patriotism, which unfortunately have not been well inculcated in Liberia.

There is now a growing call globally for women's representation in decision making processes, especially in parliament. Women's participation in decision-making is highly beneficial and has a positive impact on people's lives. Essentially, this is not about men against women, but there is evidence that when you have more women in public decision-making, you get policies that benefit

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

GoL reassures scholarship students

The Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Education says it remains committed to supporting Liberian students who are benefiting from bilateral scholarships across the continent and promises to work with partners and stakeholder to ensuring their well-being is paramount as they go through their academic sojourn.

Amid the current financial challenges within government, the Ministry of Education has worked closely with the Ministry of Finance & Development Planning as a result of the emphasis on caring for Liberian students abroad. The efforts have resulted in the completion of processing and disbursement of some funds to scholarship beneficiaries (Liberian students) across the continent. The initial disbursement caters for some arrears of allowances as well as funds to cover tickets and luggage fees for returning students. Additionally, local scholarships fees were also processed and disbursed to cover arrears to Colleges and

Universities across Liberia.

The Ministry said it acknowledges the need for consistent and timely financial support to the foreign scholarship beneficiaries and confirms that all efforts and modalities are been considered to ensure that Liberian students living and studying abroad can suitably obtain their education without lack of necessities. As

indicated in the Government's Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD); pillar one (Power to the people), and in line with message from President George Manneh Weah, "the government's responsibility is to lead the effort to build a capable state that is united in purpose and filled with hope and prosperity". It remains a priority through the Ministry of

Education to build a vibrant and competent workforce that will FastTrack the growth and development of the nation.

The Ministry, however, calls on all foreign scholarship beneficiaries to remain patient and cooperative through this period as all is done to continuously support the learning process of the Liberian

students, as well as take charge of the two million plus children that are within schools across academic levels, thereby ensuring that students and schools administrators alike avoid involvement in activities which have a propensity to undermine the efforts and gains of the education sector.



Officer alarms bad leadership at Gbarnga Regional Security Hub

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

A security officer assigned at the Gbarnga Regional Justice and Security Hub Harris Togbah has described the leadership of Hub Manager TogbahGowee as frustrating.

According to the regional Officer Togbah, since the death of former Hub Manager Hezekiah Siakor in early 2017, the institution continues to allegedly lack good management.

He complains that this is serving as major impediment for assigned officers.

According to Officer Togbah, officers assigned at the Hub

MannehWeah's government. "We are really suffering here, to even have single light from our Boss is difficult," he says.

He then appealed to Bong County authorities and the central government to quickly intervene in the situation.

In response, Mr. TogbahGowee says he has been tirelessly working to ensure the welfare of officers at the hub.

He states that there will always be challenges, but those challenges are being

Riverside residents panic over explosions

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Residents of West Point Township, Vai Town and Slipway communities are calling for the intervention of the Ministry of Justice in arresting individuals exploding dynamite to kill fish near the Gabriel Tucker Bridge and the Waterside Bridge over the Mesurado River in central Monrovia.

Speaking to this paper, the residents note that the use of chemical explosives into the river by unscrupulous

fishermen is not only creating panic among them, but has a propensity to cause serious damage of the two bridges.

Mrs. Siatta Harmon, Messrs. Jefferson Lawson, and Moses P. C. Harris warn that if the government did not take concrete action to deter the activity, most of the water species, including fishes would be extinct.

They note that during the process of blasting, the bridges mentioned would shake as the dynamite explodes in the water, sending

huge sound across the communities named.

According to them, what is so astonishing about the situation is the fact that there are no police depots near those sites where the detonation occurs, and nothing is being done by the nation security apparatus to apprehend those involved, as it poses dangers to not only marine life, but human beings and infrastructure.

The residents recall that previous government banned unauthorized use of explosives in Liberia's territorial waters by fishermen to avoid contamination and to safeguard bridges from being damaged.

The concerned residents also seek government's attention to illegal trucking of sand from the river by unidentified individuals from Slipway, Vai Town and West Point, respectively for commercial purposes despite a ban by the Environmental Protection Agency or EPA.

They explain that those involved in the practice usually used small canoes to transport sand into the communities without any arrest.

They recall that at least two persons had died from the use of dynamite in the river to kill fish.



lack rain boot, raincoat and flashlights.

Harris Togbah stresses that following the death of Mr. Siakor, there has been drastic reduction of other benefits which is seriously discouraging officers to stay on duty.

According to him, officers assigned at the area were entitled to US\$100.00, but it has been reduced to LRD\$15,000.00.

Togbah claims that Manager Gowee's ascendancy as head of the hub is a total setback and burden on security personals under President George

worked on gradually.

"The government of President Weah is committed to providing the necessary materials for our officers that's why we as heads have always engaged national government to address some of these concerns," Mr. Gowee stresses.

He denies allegation of reduction of officers' salaries the hub. He however pledges his commitment to serving the central region's security hub in the interest of the Liberian people.--Edited by Winston W. Parley



MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Sen. Paye wants Crusaders for Peace in national budget

By Ethel A. Tweh

Senator Francis S. Paye of River Cess County writes plenary of the Liberian Senate, asking for inclusion of the Crusaders for Peace in the 2019/2020 National Budget to enhance its financial capacity to operate.

He notes that the local entertainment and promotional group has promoted Liberian culture both locally and internationally.

The Liberia Crusaders for Peace is established and owned by Liberian Cultural Ambassador, Julie Endee.

The Senator argues that the group's activities are laudable, so, it requires compliment from national government in line with Chapter II, Article 9 of the Constitution of Liberia, which mandates: "The Republic shall encourage the promotion of bilateral and regional cooperation

between and among Liberia and other nations and the formation and maintenance of regional organizations aimed at the cultural, social, political and economy development of the peoples of Africa and other nations of the world."

He says this is exactly what the Liberia Crusaders for Peace propagates through music and other activities, adding that since the formation of the organization in 1994, and its subsequent registration in 2001 under the laws of Liberia, it has strived

to promote the Liberian culture.

He notes that as national leaders, part of their responsibility is to encourage and promote the Liberalization Policy.

"In doing that, we see it necessary for a worthy cause that the Liberian Legislature allocates in the national budget amount not less than US\$10,000 for the Liberia Crusaders for Peace. We believe that this will remedy some financial constraints of the organization", says Sen. Paye.

He says the work of the Liberia Crusaders for Peace warrants support from the State and its citizens, stressing that their timely and possible consideration in this direction will go a long way in promoting the Liberian culture.

Senator Henry Yallah of Bong County agrees the Crusader for Peace is promoting the Liberian culture, as he makes a motion, accepting Senator Paye's communication and forwarding it to the appropriate committees. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



LICOSESS graduates 31 instructors in Bong

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

The Liberian Cooperative Standard Education School System (LICOSESS) has graduated and certificated 31 educators from its "B" and "C" Certificate programs in Gbarnga, Bong County.

LICOSESS was established by a group of Liberian professional teachers and administrators in November 1994.

The institution was founded with the main purpose of buttressing the efforts of the Ministry of Education to support the school system with qualified and well - prepared teachers and administrators to teach at both primary and secondary schools in Liberia.

Addressing newsmen at the end of the graduation exercise, LICOSESS Gbarnga Site Coordinator, James Yarkpawolo said the Graduates went through all of the lessons prescribed by the Ministry of Education and made a successful pass.

"They did all of the courses for the "B" and "C" certificates and as such, we need no to waste their time but to certificate them as trained Teachers in Liberia," he adds.

Mr. Yarkpawolo reveals that the institution's board is currently going through a process that will enable it to offer bachelors degrees, firstly at its Monrovia campus.

"As soon the Ministry gives us permit to offer BSc Degrees, we will waste no time but to start doing the same at all of our local branches," he says.

He reaffirms the institution's commitment to preparing veteran instructors who will immensely contribute to Liberia's educational sector.

Also speaking to this paper, two of the graduates Helena Kollie and Thomas Dixon expressed gratitude to the Institution.

"For me I have over the past created passion for the teaching field so I must do all I can to prepare myself as a qualified Instructor," Helena says.

According to the 21 - year - old instructor, she will serve the Liberian education sector with due diligence. *--Edited by Winston W. Parley*

2 trade unionists seek clarity on protest

By Emmanuel Mondaye

As the 07 June protest draws near, two members of the Liberia Labour Congress (LLC) and the Dock Workers Union of Liberia are demanding clarity from their leaders whether or not their organizations, which represent a large number of working people in Liberia, would participate in the pending protest.

Both trade union organizations control hundreds of workers and play an advocacy role on issues that affect their interest by seeking solutions that impact

their lives.

Two members of the organizations James Williams and Patrick Koffa say they and their colleagues are yet to know whether their respective organization would participate in the protest, as noting has been said by their respective leadership.

According to them, Liberia is at the crossroads where issues affecting the people are being talked about with no concern shown by the two institutions controlling large portion of the labor market of the country.

They recall that in the past, their leaderships were pro-

active on matter of national concern, wondering why up to now, no official from both unions has come out with any position statement on the June 7 protest, which among other things, seeks to champion the struggle for a stable economy where the plight of working people and ordinary citizens are protected.

They further recall that on 1 May, the Liberia Labour Congress issued a statement in Monrovia, highlighting constrains faced by workers in the country, including current state of the Liberian economy, not limited to government granting Civil Servants right to be certificated as National Trade Union; government identifying key development priorities; government tackling the high level of unemployment and entrenchment of workers across all sectors as well as hike in prices of basic commodities as a result of escalation of the United States dollars against the Liberian dollar.

Messers Williams and Koffa continue that since the celebration of World Labor Day in Liberia, no official statement whatsoever has been issued by their organizations to indicate whether or not, workers in the country will join protesters scheduled to assemble 07 June in demand of reforms, thereby leaving them to hang in the balance.



WWW Advertise Here!
Subscribe to our website
 get the best of balance and accurate news, delivered daily

They emphasize that what is presently obtaining in the country affects every Liberian, so there is a need for the two institutions to clearly say if their memberships would be part of the protest.

According to them, failure to take a clear position on matters of state, posterity will definitely judge them.

When this writer contacted offices of both trade unions over the weekend, coupled with phone calls, there was no response on the matter.

The 07 June protest is being organized by the group, Council of Patriots, supported by opposition political parties here. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Français

La situation s'aggrave à l'hôpital Phebe

La situation à l'hôpital de Phebe, le seul hôpital de référence du comté de Bong, est devenue pire, a appris le journal NewDawn. En plus de la pénurie de carburant, l'hôpital est confronté à de nombreux défis, dont notamment le manque de gants.

Notre correspondant a indiqué que les patients qui se rendent à l'hôpital de Phebe pour se faire traiter sont obligés d'acheter d'abord eux-mêmes des gants avant que des médecins ne les touchent. Les femmes enceintes qui n'ont pas les moyens financiers pour acheter des gants et d'autres matériels essentiels sont souvent abandonnés par les médecins.

Le gouvernement a récemment mis à la disposition de l'hôpital 18 millions de dollars libériens,



mais l'hôpital doit toujours 300 000 dollars américains à ses fournisseurs, qui auraient refusé de lui fournir du matériel médical tant que leurs dettes ne sont pas réglées.

Ce quotidien a appris que les difficultés de l'hôpital de

Phébéont commencé au mois de mars. Depuis lors, l'hôpital a toujours eu toutes les difficultés du monde pour donner ne serait-ce du paracétamol à ses patients.

Mme Alice K. Nuahyea, une habitante du district de Jorquelleh qui a récemment

emmené sa fille à l'hôpital, a raconté à ce journal qu'elle a perdu sa fille il y a environ une semaine en raison du manque d'argent pour acheter les médicaments nécessaires prescrits par les médecins.

« Quand j'ai emmené ma fille à Phebe, je ne me souviens plus vraiment du nom du docteur, mais il m'a donné quatre papiers différents pour me rendre à la pharmacie. Mais comme je n'avais pas d'argent, je les ai oubliés et je pense que c'est

la raison pour laquelle j'ai perdu ma seule enfant », a-t-elle dit.

Selon Alice, le médecin, dont elle a oublié le nom, n'a pas précisé de quoi souffrait sa fille, mais l'a orientée vers une pharmacie pour acheter des médicaments pour le traitement de sa fille.

Elle appelle le gouvernement, notamment le ministère de la Santé, à agir dès maintenant pour sauver les milliers de malades qui se rendent dans cet hôpital pour se faire traiter en l'équipant de médicaments.

À Jarkai, dans le haut comté de Bong, une autre femme enceinte âgée de 36 ans est décédée samedi, après s'être rendue dans la brousse pour chercher du bois et le vendre afin de pouvoir acheter des gants et d'autres matériels médicaux.

« Elle est sortie de l'hôpital et est retournée dans la brousse pour trouver de l'argent. Elle a donc décidé de revenir à l'hôpital lundi. Elle a eu mal vendredi soir et a accouché, mais samedi, elle est décédée des suites d'une hémorragie », a déclaré Nancy Kohoe, une habitante de la ville.

Mme Kohoe appelle également le gouvernement à prendre des dispositions pour aider l'hôpital.

« Restez à l'écart de la manifestation du 07 juin », prévient le parti au pouvoir

À une semaine de la manifestation du 07 juin organisée par la société civile et les partis politiques de l'opposition, la coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC, parti au pouvoir), appelle ses partisans à rester hors de la rue.

La CDC a affirmé qu'elle veut que ses partisans se reposent pour le grand lancement de sa campagne politique le 08 juin, en prévision des élections législatives et sénatoriales de juillet 2022 dans le comté de Montserrado.

Des opposants au président

libérien George Weah, réunis au sein d'un "Conseil des Patriotes", ont maintenu leur appel à manifester le 7 juin malgré un appel au dialogue lancé par le chef de l'Etat au cours d'une rencontre qui s'est achevée sur une impasse.

Les organisateurs entendent réclamer à cette occasion que le président Weah "démissionne ou trouve une solution aux souffrances de la population", alors que le pays fait face à d'importantes difficultés économiques.

Lors d'une conférence de presse à Monrovia, le président national de la CDC, Mulbah Morlu, a déclaré qu'avant le lancement de la campagne, le parti au pouvoir organisera du porte-à-porte dans les communautés afin de garantir une victoire massive du parti aux deux élections partielles.

Selon lui, du 29 mai au 03 juin, la CDC et les partis politiques alliés organiseront des meetings géants à Paynesville, West Point et dans les 17 circonscriptions de Montserrado. Il y aura ensuite une marche avec les



Articles traduits

Par Valéry G. Guhéna

E-mail: valeryghn10@yahoo.com

Tel: 076 589 44 0881483394

candidats du parti dans les principales rues de Monrovia le 04 Juin.

La Coalition au pouvoir a récemment choisi Mme Pualita Wie comme candidate à l'élection sénatoriale et Abu Bana Kamara pour la législative de la circonscription électorale n° 15 du comté de Montserrado.

Madame Wiesera aux prises avec Abraham Darius

Dillon qui est le candidat unique de quatre partis politiques de l'opposition à la sénatoriale partielle. M. Kimmie Weeks et Mme Miata Fahnbulleh seront également dans la course en tant que candidats indépendants.

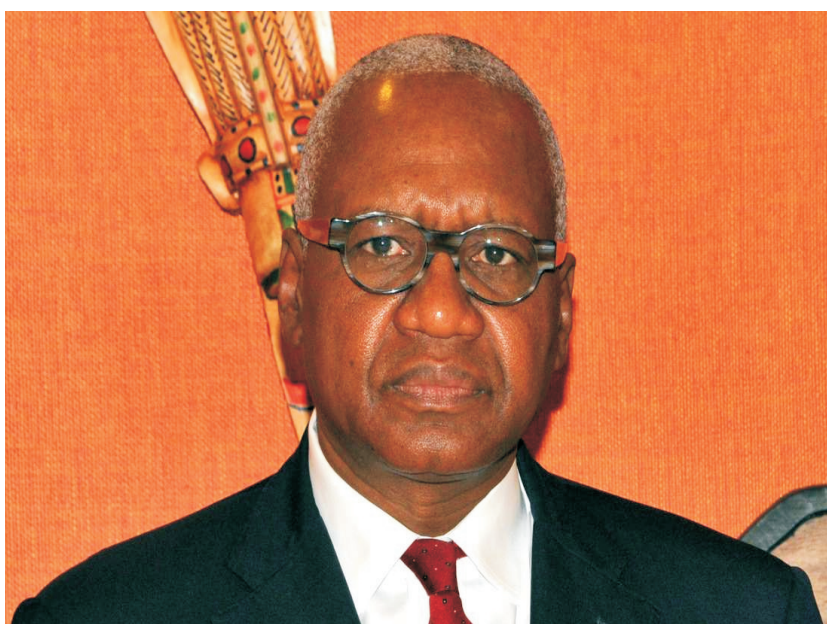
En ce qui concerne la législative, M. Kamara affrontera Mme Telia Urey, candidate de quatre partis politiques de l'opposition.

Français

Guinée : opposé à « toute modification de la Constitution », le ministre de la justice démissionne

Le ministre guinéen de la justice, Cheick Sako, a présenté sa démission au président Alpha Condé au moment où le pays connaît un vif débat sur l'opportunité d'une nouvelle Constitution, a-t-on appris de sources concordantes, lundi 27 mai. Ancien opposant historique et premier président démocratiquement élu de cette ex-colonie française, M. Condé, dont le deuxième mandat s'achève en 2020, a souvent contesté la pertinence de la limitation du nombre de mandats sur le continent - deux maximum en Guinée. Dans une lettre au chef de l'Etat consultée par l'AFP, M. Sako affirme présenter sa démission faute de réponse de M. Condé à sa demande, lors d'un entretien le 4 avril, de le remplacer dans les

pouvoirs publics ». « Projet maléfique » M. Condé, 81 ans, n'a jusqu'à présent pas annoncé de modification de la Constitution afin de pouvoir se représenter en 2020, mais plusieurs de ses déclarations récentes ont été interprétées en ce sens. Et le 18 mai, la direction de son parti lui a demandé, « avant la fin de son second mandat, de doter le pays d'une loi fondamentale votée par référendum par le peuple souverain ». Le Front national pour la défense de la Constitution (FNDC), créé en avril pour s'opposer à un troisième mandat, s'est félicité dans un communiqué de la « décision salutaire du ministre » de la justice. Cette démission confirme les soupçons visant M. Condé de « vouloir modifier



fonctions qu'il exerce depuis près de cinq ans et demi. « Par ailleurs, je n'ai pas été associé à la rédaction de la nouvelle Constitution en ma qualité de garde des sceaux, écrit-il. Compte tenu de ma position personnelle contre toute modification ou changement de la Constitution en vigueur, vous comprendrez que je ne puisse plus continuer à exercer la fonction de ministre de la justice. » Cette démission a été confirmée par l'AFP par des sources proches du ministère de la justice, dont l'une a indiqué que le départ de M. Sako était motivé par « plusieurs raisons, notamment l'ingérence dans les affaires judiciaires des

ou changer la Constitution pour se maintenir au pouvoir à vie », selon le FNDC, qui en appelle aux autres membres du gouvernement et des institutions « pour qu'ils se désolidarisent de ce projet maléfique de troisième mandat ». Pour le vice-président de l'Union des forces républicaines (UFR, opposition), Ibrahima Bangoura, interrogé par l'AFP, la démission d'un ministre régalien de cette importance « veut dire que ce régime-là s'est totalement décrédibilisé ». Sollicité par l'AFP, un responsable du parti au pouvoir s'est refusé à tout commentaire dans l'immédiat.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Hans-Werner Sinn

Avec sa politique énergétique, l'Allemagne va droit dans le mur !

MUNICH - Le président Macron estime que le modèle économique allemand est à revoir de toute urgence. Au moins en matière de politique énergétique, il a sans doute raison.

Alors que la France tire 70% de son électricité du nucléaire et qu'elle encourage la transition à la voiture électrique, l'Allemagne compte sur les éoliennes et sur d'autres sources d'énergie verte. Elle prévoit d'arrêter ses centrales nucléaires d'ici 2022, et ses centrales à charbon d'ici 2038. Mais la multiplication des éoliennes fait face à une opposition croissante, car elles sont tellement nombreuses (il en est qui font près de 250 mètres de haut) que certains des plus beaux panoramas du pays ressemblent maintenant à des paysages industriels.

Les propriétaires terriens sont évidemment satisfaits de pouvoir convertir leur terrain en site industriel. En général ce sont plutôt ceux qui sont à proximité des grandes villes qui ont cette opportunité, mais dans le cas des éoliennes, comme la législation facilite leur installation en zone rurale, ce sont des occasions en or qui s'offrent aux propriétaires terriens.

Néanmoins, en raison de l'opposition croissante de toute une partie de la population à la destruction de l'environnement naturel, le développement des éoliennes marque le pas. La protestation contre le "vandalisme environnemental" se répand comme une traînée de poudre. Même l'Union allemande de conservation de la nature et de la biodiversité (NABU, Naturschutzbund Deutschland) reconsidère sa position sur les éoliennes en raison des ravages qu'elles causent parmi les insectes, les oiseaux et les chauves-souris. L'énergie solaire et les installations de biogaz sont des alternatives à l'énergie éolienne, mais elles ont des limites, car l'ensoleillement n'est pas toujours optimal en Allemagne. Et choisir d'utiliser la terre pour l'agriculture ou pour la production de biocarburants constitue un dilemme éthique.

La principale difficulté tient à la variabilité du vent et de l'ensoleillement. Avec ces sources d'énergie, il y a parfois trop d'électricité et parfois trop peu. En l'absence de vent et de soleil, il faut recourir aux centrales classiques. Alors peu importe le nombre d'éoliennes et de centrales solaires que l'Allemagne construira, elle ne pourra se passer des centrales classiques.

Lorsque les éoliennes et les centrales solaires produisent un excès d'électricité, cela pousse à la baisse le prix de l'électricité, voire le rend négatif. Ces distorsions se développeront de manière spectaculaire si la part de l'énergie éolienne et solaire qui représente actuellement 25% du marché, dépasse 30%, car les pics de production pourraient alors dépasser la demande.

Pire encore, même si la part d'électricité d'origine solaire et éolienne directement utilisable approchait 100%, il en serait de même de l'électricité excédentaire. Même si l'Allemagne et ses voisins construisent un réseau d'électricité idéal allant des Alpes à la Norvège, avec autant de centrales d'accumulation par

pompage qu'il est possible de construire sur le plan géologique pour stocker l'excédent d'électricité, la part de marché du solaire et de l'éolien ne dépassera pas 50% - si ce n'est à avoir encore davantage de pics d'électricité qui restera inutilisée ou conduira à un changement du niveau d'entropie (conversion en chaleur ou en gaz).

Confronté à ce problème, beaucoup de gens pensent que la voiture électrique est la solution du futur. Ils ont d'autant plus raison que l'UE a adopté une réglementation drastique en ce sens (à la demande de la France). Mais loin de résoudre le problème énergétique de l'Allemagne, la voiture électrique va l'aggraver.

Tirant une partie de plus en plus grande de son énergie de sources non polluantes, l'Allemagne détient le record européen du prix de l'électricité domestique - elle devance même le Danemark qui lui aussi a beaucoup développé l'énergie éolienne. Si le secteur des transports est contraint de passer à l'électricité en Allemagne, la hausse de la demande qui en résultera propulsera son prix à un niveau encore plus élevé, avec des conséquences désastreuses pour l'industrie allemande.

Si l'Allemagne veut éviter une flambée du coût de son énergie, elle doit modérer ses ambitions écologiques. Mais si elle ne réduit pas davantage ses émissions de CO2, elle ne respectera pas ses engagements à l'égard de l'UE et devra verser une amende.

Il y a seulement deux solutions pour sortir de ce dilemme. La première, facile à mettre en œuvre, consiste à convertir les centrales à charbon en centrales à gaz qui produisent moitié moins de CO2. Cela permettrait à l'Allemagne de réduire ses émissions annuelles de CO2 de 900 millions à 770 millions de tonnes. Mais cela suppose la construction de nouveaux gazoducs similaires à Nord Stream 2, un projet germano-russe qui rencontre l'opposition résolue de l'UE et plus particulièrement de la France. Ainsi, seulement une semaine après avoir signé un nouveau traité d'amitié franco-allemand en janvier, Macron a soudain mis fin à son soutien à la chancelière allemande qui s'opposait à l'adoption d'une directive de la Commission européenne. Cette directive permettait à la Commission d'avoir son mot à dire sur la gestion du gazoduc, alors qu'il ne traverse le territoire d'aucun autre Etat membre que l'Allemagne et qu'il ne devrait donc pas être soumis à la réglementation européenne.

La seconde option énergétique de l'Allemagne serait soit d'acheter de l'électricité d'origine nucléaire à l'étranger, soit de construire de nouvelles centrales nucléaires sur son propre territoire. Cela suppose un processus politique difficile de retour à la réalité et de mise en retrait de toute la génération de politiciens qui ont voulu abandonner le nucléaire. La Suède (premier pays européen à avoir renoncé au nucléaire après l'accident de Three Mile Island) est revenue sur sa décision en 2009. L'Allemagne pourrait faire de même à un moment ou à un autre. Même si elle a perdu une grande partie de son savoir-faire en matière de construction de centrales nucléaires, elle n'a pas besoin de chercher bien loin une solution : la France est prête à lui en vendre.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

House orders another US\$6.5m investigation at CBL

By Bridgett Milton

The Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) continue to find itself in the midst of financial controversies, as the House of Representatives orders a new investigation in relation to US\$6.5m as the bank remains hook in two big financial scandals that have prompted a protest here.

Five ex-officials of the CBL are on facing an economic sabotage trial for their alleged roles in Liberia LRD\$16bn scandals, as pressure mounts against President George Manneh Weah's government to take action on other officials at the bank over a controversial US\$25m mop-up exercise.

As if that was not enough already, the House of Representatives has instructed its committees on Banking and Currency, Agriculture and Public Account Committee to investigate the CBL to explain



why US\$6.5 million intended to be infused within the agriculture sector has not been used.

Further, the House wants to know if the money has been expended, and if so, who the

beneficiaries of the fund are.

According to a communication written by River Gee County District #2 Rep. Francis S. Young, the funds are intended to buttress the president's Pro-Poor

Agenda for the development of agriculture and to equally help citizens who have been incapacitated as a result of the destruction caused by the war.

"Whatever fund intended for the sector must be utilized to the fullest in order for Liberia to be on par with other nations within the sub-region of West Africa in terms of agriculture development," Rep. Young says in the communication.

According to him, the transformation of the sector

from subsistence to mechanized framing will ideally build the broken economy of the country.

The River Gee County lawmaker argues that the agriculture sector has the potential to provide substantial employment opportunities for the youths and income generation of the locals.

He explains that the idea will support government's development agenda, especially the smallholder sector, which has been directly affected as a result of the prolonged civil crisis in Liberia.

In keeping with the communication, the River Gee lawmaker is requesting plenary to invite the Governor of the Central Bank of Liberia Nathaniel Patray to appear before that August Body and give reasons why the US\$6.5 million intended to be infused within the sector has not been used.

Rep. Young expresses hope that the issue relating to the development of the agriculture sector be given considerable attention by the government in order to transform the livelihood of those at the margin of society.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

Cuttington University signs MoU with Mississippi State University

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

The Cuttington University in Bong County, Liberia has signed five years Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Mississippi State University based in the United States of America.

The Mississippi State

understanding, according to Cuttington University Director of Public Relations Kweshie Tetteh, provides for faculty and student exchanges, joint research projects in areas of mutual interest, and study abroad opportunities for faculty for advanced degrees.

Mr. Tetteh told our Bong County correspondent in an

interview on Tuesday, 28 May that the MoU will also strengthen the areas of particular interest to Cuttington University (CU) and its counterpart, the Mississippi State University (MSU).

He names developing community service capacity; innovative food systems (aquaculture, food

preservation); animal and planet (environmental) health; health care and early childhood education development and special needs as areas of interest.

A communication from Cuttington University's Department of Public Relations also details that the next step will involve a visit to



University which was founded on February 28, 1878, is a Land Grant institution and the third largest American State-run university.

It is also a leader in Agrobusiness, innovative research, and community service.

The five years memorandum of

interview on Tuesday, 28 May that the MoU will also strengthen the areas of particular interest to Cuttington University (CU) and its counterpart, the Mississippi State University (MSU).

He names developing community service capacity; innovative food systems (aquaculture, food

interview on Tuesday, 28 May that the MoU will also strengthen the areas of particular interest to Cuttington University (CU) and its counterpart, the Mississippi State University (MSU).

He names developing community service capacity; innovative food systems (aquaculture, food

Weah speaks today

Starts from back page

Monrovia says President Weah is expected to speak to prevailing national developments, including the state of the economy and the recent report submitted to his office by the General Auditing Commission on the US\$25m Mop-up excess.

Also expected in the President's speech is the planned 07 June protest by activists under the banner, Council of Patriots backed by opposition political parties to demand reforms in the governance system.

President Weah does not want protesters to get in the streets, and every effort he has explored in having the planned

assembly called off proved unsuccessful, including a recent meeting with the protest organizers at his temporary office in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The President had sought from the organizers their grievances, but they insist to do so only on the day of the protest, something, the government does not want.

However, international partners, including the United Nations, African Union and ECOWAS, remind here it is the rights of citizens to protest, which should not be denied. Story by Jonathan Browne

Visit: www.thenewdawnliberia.com

the boundaries of partnerships. By signing the instrument, the MSU notes that it set the contours of a potentially exciting journey together.

At the same time, Mr. Kweshie Tetteh has reaffirmed CU's commitment to actualizing the signed MoU which according to him will greatly benefit students of the two Institutions.

He alarmed drastic

reduction of CU subsidy from national government and described it as a very big blow to the institution.

"We are having serious challenges concerning the contribution of national government but however, the case maybe, we just need to keep working and educating our citizens," he says.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

Gov't, CBL officials lock horns

By Winston W. Parley

Ahead of the judge's decision, prosecutors and defense counsels have battled intensely in final arguments over the sufficiency of bonds and the quality of sureties submitted by indicted Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) officials in relation to Liberia's L\$16bn scandal.

Judge Peter W. Gbeneweleh is expected to decide on the sufficiency of bonds and quality of sureties representing five indicted CBL officials in persons of former Governor Milton Weeks; the son of former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and former Deputy CBL Governor Charles E. Sirleaf; CBL Director for Banking Dorbor Hagba; Director for Operations Richard H. Walker and Joseph Dennis, Deputy Director for Internal Audit.

In relation to government's contention and resistance by the defense, the Criminal Court "C" is expected to make determination as to whether lawyers from the Heritage Partners and Associate (HPA) that have retainer contract with state - owned Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) can also represent Mr. Weeks, a



Former Deputy CBL Governor Charles E. Sirleaf

Former Governor Milton Weeks

government indictee.

Additionally, the court will also address government's contention—that is whether National Social Security and Welfare Corporation (NASSCORP) boss Dewitt vonBallmoos and his wife Rhonda can legally proffer their property as surety for Mr. Weeks, while Mr. vonBallmoos heads a state - owned corporation.

The ex-officials have been indicted for multiple charges, including economic sabotage, criminal conspiracy and criminal facilitation following their arrests for their alleged

roles in the missing 16 billion Liberian bank notes scandal.

The Presidential Investigative Team (PIT) set up by President George Manneh Weah found that the CBL reported receiving a total of LRD\$15,506,000,000 from its contracted firm Crane Currency AB, but analysis of the packing list submitted by the CBL to PIT actually reveals that 18,151,000,000 was printed and shipped by the firm.

The defendants are expected to account for an alleged excess amount of LRD\$2,645,000,000 which

prosecutors say the accused former officials had no authority to print and infuse into the Liberian market.

The government says it has problems with the property deeds submitted by businessman Benoni Urey and the vonBallmoos family to justify the bond proffered for former CBL Executive Governor Milton Weeks' release because of ambiguity to the locations of the properties and their lack of distinction.

The bond proffered for co-defendant Weeks is valued at US\$909,319.88.

Further, through private insurance agency Accident and Casualty Insurance Company (ACICO), the defense team representing Charles Sirleaf, Joseph Dennis, Richard Walker and Dorbor Hagba tendered \$60,000 for each of the defendants, totaling \$240,000.00.

But prosecution says the amount of the bond that the defendants should have proffered is US\$1,673,735.44 plus LRD\$5,290,000,000, because they are indicted for US\$835,367.72 plus LRD\$2,645,000,000.00.

The government is uses as reliance a 1976 statute that calls for double the gain, which means the indictee must submit a bond which is valued double the value of the amount charged in the indictment.

But the two separate defense teams for Mr. Weeks and Mr. Sirleaf, Hagba, Walker and Dennis insist that after the passage of the Economic Sabotage Act of 1986, the Supreme Court in 1994 handed an opinion which declared the provision relied upon by the State relies to apply double the gain in the economic sabotage case as unconstitutional.

At final arguments on Tuesday, 28 May, Montserrado

County Attorney Cllr. Edwin K. Martin wondered how the sureties can be qualified when all of the deeds provided by Mr. Urey and the head of NASSCORP Mr. Dewitt vonBallmoos and his wife Rhonda were ambiguous.

Earlier, defendant Weeks' lawyer Cllr. Abraham Sillah said there is no law that requires any pre-trial detainee to double the gain, on grounds that the Supreme Court declared as unconstitutional the statute cited by the prosecution.

According to him, the prosecution's reliance does not apply in economic sabotage case because there is separate statutory provisions enacted by Legislature for economic sabotage.

He concludes that his client's bond is sufficient and adequate, adding that the surety is adequate.

According to counsels representing defendants Sirleaf, Hagba, Walker and Dennis, the Supreme Court has ruled that insurance companies must meet certain conditions which include articles of incorporation, business registration certificate, tax clearance and certificate from the Central Bank and an audited financial statement.

The defense team says all of these requirements were met and presented in the case at bar.

Further, the counsels explain that ACICO which proffered bonds for the four defendants is worth more than \$1.6m that includes assets, referencing the audited financial statement.

They conclude that the surety for the four defendants is not only qualified, but it is also sufficient. **-Edited by Othello B. Garblah**

CSO sues GoL, protesters

By Winston W. Parley

Liberian human rights lawyer Cllr. T. Dempster Brown has filed a petition for the alternative writ of mandamus against the Liberian government and the organizers of the pending June 7 protest, Council of Patriots (COP), requesting the Supreme Court to confine protesters at certain locations during protest.

Filing the petition on Tuesday, 28 May, the counsel says he represents the Citizens United to Sustain

Peace and Democracy, a group that he says raises concerns that the protesters will violate the rights of other citizens who will not form part of the protest.

Cllr. Brown's action comes ahead of another Liberian lawyer Cllr. Arthur T. Johnson who recently threatened a lawsuit against the

COP's pending protest on grounds that he is a taxpayer who has his family and properties that he does not want to suffer any injury through protest.

The writ of mandamus is

issued by a superior court to compel a lower court or a government officer to perform a mandatory action.

Allegations of corruption, the poor state of the economy and a US\$25m mop - up exercise are among many other reasons why opposition and critics of President George Manneh Weah's regime want to protest in demand of reforms.

President Weah and international partners, including the UN, ECOWAS and AU have met with protest organizers COP for dialogue, but the COP insists it will go ahead with the mass assembly during which it will present its grievances to the government.

But Cllr. Brown and his Civil Society Organization (CSO) have problems with the COP's communication to the Minister of Justice, stating that the protest will commence on 7 June, meaning that the protest will continue indefinitely until protesters' demands are met.

Cllr. Brown says he wants the petition for the alternative writ of mandamus to lie because the Minister of Justice granted the protesters' request without designating a specific venue where the government and the COP will meet for the presentation of the COP's petition on June 7.

The lawyer argues that safeguarding of public security, public order, public health or morals, rights and freedom of others are the concern of every government all over the world and the Justice Department or Ministry of Justice headed by the Attorney General implements these functions.

As such, Cllr. Brown contends that the failure of Attorney General Cllr. Frank Musa Dean to designate a specific venue where government representative and the COP will meet for the presentation of their petition will violate the rights of other citizens who will not protest.

The Civil Society Organization (CSO) represented by Cllr. Brown is concerned that on June 7, parents will not allow their children to go to school, health workers will not go to work, all markets, stores and shops will

be closed down because there is no designated venue for the presentation of petition by the protesters.

The group adds that the June 7 protest is creating fear in investors, teachers, parents and health workers.

On the basis of their concerns, Cllr. Brown and his group have asked the Supreme Court to designate either the Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Complex in Paynesville or the Antoinette Tubman Stadium on UN Drive as venue where government the COP will meet for the presentation of petition.

The Civil Society Organization (CSO) represented by Cllr. Brown further asks the Supreme Court to order the government to provide security for the COP, and that the COP be given one day for the presentation of its petition.



Weah speaks today



President George Manneh Weah addresses the nation today, Wednesday, May 29, at 12:00 noon, according to the Executive Mansion.

The President may have a lot on his menu, ranging from

the economy, protest, security and collaboration with the international community to sustaining Liberia's peace, among others.

Liberians are anxiously waiting to hear what he has to say about the dismal state of

economy characterized by rapid depreciation of the Liberian dollar against the United States dollar with the exchange rate currently at LRD193 to one US\$1.00 amid rising prices.

Today's address will be President Weah's first major speech since the outcome of a fact-finding audit into the US\$25 mopping-up exercise by a Technical Economic Management Team (TEMT) chaired by the Minister of Finance and development Planning Samuel Tweah and co-chaired by the Executive Governor of the Central Bank of Liberia Nathaniel R. Patray.

Full accountability on the mop-up of excess liquidity in the Liberian market has raised more questions than answers, including report by the TEMT itself.

The Executive Mansion in



Ronaldo my best signing at Real Madrid - Perez

RReal Madrid president Florentino Perez says Cristiano Ronaldo is the best signing he has made during his time at the Santiago Bernabeu.

Ronaldo spent nine seasons at Madrid in total, scoring over 450 goals and counting four Champions Leagues, two LaLiga titles and two Copa del Rey trophies among his honours.

The Portugal forward left in July 2018, joining

problems during the nine years at Real Madrid, never once arriving late or anything.

"I think he's the best player I signed for Real Madrid. I always had a great relationship with him. We never had any problems, not even over money."

Ronaldo's departure followed on from Zinedine Zidane's decision to quit Madrid, though the Frenchman has since



Juventus in a deal worth €112million.

"I think he already made it quite clear that he wanted new challenges," Perez said on 'El Transistor' when asked about Ronaldo hinting at an exit immediately after Madrid's Champions League victory in Kiev last season.

"He used that moment to say it, but I think he'd been thinking about it for some time.

"He never created any

returned for a second spell as coach following Julen Lopetegui's disastrous spell and Santiago Solari's underwhelming stint.

Perez added that, as soon as Zidane outlined his intention to leave the club, there was little he could do to change the coach's mind.

"He came to my office and told me. When Zidane decided, there was no turning him around," Perez said.

Milan confirm Gattuso departure as manager

The club also confirmed that Leonardo has resigned after just a single season as sporting director

AC Milan have confirmed that Gennaro Gattuso has left his position as manager by mutual consent.

Gattuso has been in charge since November 2017 and departs after failing to lead the club to a Champions League spot for next season, with Milan finishing in fifth place in Serie A in 2018-19.

The 41-year-old admitted he was considering his future on Sunday after Milan ended their season with a 3-

2 victory at SPAL, with the win not enough to leapfrog rivals Inter or Atalanta for a place in the Champions League.

"AC Milan wishes to thank Gennaro Gattuso for his leadership during the last 18 months," a statement on the club website read.



"A true legend of the Rossoneri, Gennaro stepped into the role during what was a difficult period for the club and has performed admirably, securing the club's highest league points total since 2012-13."

The NewDawn Press

2 colors Heidelberg printing machines



We Offer The Following Printing Services:

- Newspapers, Magazines
- Flyers, Posters, Calendars
- Brochures, Letterhead
- Receipts, Invoices
- Souvenirs, Gifts
- Designs, etc...