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# The New Dawn

French Version Inside

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# No more war



**P11**

## *-Pastor assures Liberians*



Charles E. Sirleaf

Milton A. Weeks

**P11**

# Gov't calls for re-arrest



# Continental News

## Deadly clash as Sudan protest dispersed

Sudanese security forces have attacked a pro-democracy protest outside the military headquarters in the capital, Khartoum, activists say.

Gunfire can be heard in video footage, with medical sources saying at least 13 people were killed and dozens hurt.

Sudan has been governed by a Transitional Military Council (TMC) since President Omar al-Bashir was overthrown in a coup in April.

The council denied the main protest site had been broken up using force.

The leaders of the protest movement, who demand that a civilian government take over the running of the country, said they were stopping all contact with the military and called a general strike.

The Central Committee of Sudanese Doctors, which is

close to the protesters, said 13 people had been killed and that there was a "large number of critical casualties".

Activists say the security services moved on the main protest site early on Monday.

But TMC spokesman, Lt Gen

Shams al-Din Kabbashi, said the security forces had moved towards a location near the main protest site which had "long been a hotbed of corruption and negative practices".

"Sudanese forces did not

disperse the sit-in outside the army headquarters by force, but rather targeted a nearby area which has become a threat to the safety of citizens," he told UAE-based Sky News Arabia TV channel.

"The tents are still there and the youth are moving there freely," he added, saying that many protesters had "preferred to leave the sit-in".

The Sudanese Professionals Association (SPA), which is spearheading nationwide protests, said it was suspending all communication with the TMC, calling for a campaign of "sweeping civil disobedience to topple the treacherous and killer military council". Journalist Benjamin Strick, who specialises in verifying footage on Twitter, has shared dramatic videos from Khartoum, where repeated gunfire could be heard. Some Khartoum residents blame the notorious

paramilitary unit known as the Rapid Support Forces.

It was set up to help keep Mr Bashir in power and has its roots in the Darfur conflict in western Sudan, which began in 2003. Then known as the "janjaweed", this militia carried out frequent massacres.

Meanwhile, the US embassy in Sudan said attacks by Sudanese security forces on protesters must stop.

Speaking to the BBC, the UK Ambassador to Sudan, Irfan Siddiq, described it as a "hugely worrying and negative development", and that he was woken by the sound of heavy gunfire.

"I feared that this is what many had been warning of for some time, that there would be an attempt by the security forces to forcibly disperse the protest site, and it seems that's what's happened now, with a lot of casualties." -BBC



Image copyrightAFP/GETTY IMAGES: Protesters set ablaze tyres to try to stop Sudan's security forces

## Kenya's new banknotes and the battle against corruption

Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta has announced that the country's currency is to be replaced with a new generation of banknotes.

Kenyans must return their 1,000 shilling (\$10; £8) notes to banks by 1 October, in a bid to fight money laundering, counterfeits and corruption.

New currency is to be brought in over the coming months with other

denominations being phased out gradually.

Some Kenyans have expressed anger over the new banknote design, which features an image of a statue of Kenya's first President, Jomo Kenyatta - the current president's father.

The decision on the design, as well as the clampdown on the 1,000 shilling notes, has been challenged in court.

Why is Kenya replacing its

currency?

Kenya is withdrawing the note to crack down on embezzlement and tackle a wave of counterfeit 1,000 shilling notes.

The governor of Kenya's central bank, Patrick Njoroge, also expressed "grave concern" over larger banknotes being used for "illicit financial flows in Kenya and also other countries in the region".

The 1,000 shilling note is the highest value note in Kenya and according to Mr Njoroge, the Kenyan shilling is the equivalent to the US dollar in east Africa, in terms of its recognition.

President Kenyatta promised to stamp out corruption when he was elected in 2013.

But his critics say there have been few convictions since then, especially of high-profile people.

BBC Africa business reporter Georgie Ndirangu says the demonetization - the withdrawal of a coin, note, or precious metal from use as legal tender - is seen as a direct response to this criticism. Officials and well-connected businessmen in corrupt cartels are believed to

## UN chief warns of 'high risk' of atrocities in Mali

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is warning of a "high risk" of atrocities in Mali in a report that calls for beefing up the UN peacekeeping presence in the strife-torn center of the country.

In the report to the Security Council obtained by AFP, Guterres said he was "appalled" by the upsurge in violence and called on the government to strengthen its response to extremist groups.

"If these concerns are not addressed, there is a high risk of further escalation that could lead to the commission of atrocity crimes," Guterres wrote in the report sent to the council on Friday.

At least 157 people, including 46 children, were massacred in the central village of Ogossagou on March 23, in raids blamed on extremists stoking communal tensions. With security worsening, Guterres recommended that there be no drawdown of the UN peacekeeping force, known as MINUSMA, despite calls by the United States for cuts to blue helmet missions worldwide.

The MINUSMA mission should be extended for a year with its troop ceiling of 13,289 unchanged along with the maximum deployment of 1,920 police, said the report.

There are currently about 14,700 troops and police deployed in Mali, which ranks as the most dangerous UN mission, with 125 peacekeepers killed in attacks since deployment in 2013.

Guterres recommended that MINUSMA strengthen its presence in the center of the country, where attacks have been the deadliest, by deploying one or two police units, or about 280 police.

In addition, a UN camp in northern Mali could be handed over to Malian forces, freeing up 650 personnel for reinforcement in the central Mopti region, the report said.

The council is set to vote on renewing MINUSMA's mandate on June 27.

MINUSMA was established after radical Islamist militias seized the north of the country in 2012. They were pushed back by French troops in 2013.



Image copyrightGETTY IMAGES: Kenyans will exchange the old 1,000 shilling notes for the new tender

hold hundreds of millions of illegally obtained shillings in cash, and withdrawing the 1,000 shilling note is

expected to close many money-laundering avenues, as

# EDITORIAL

## Thwarting public dissent

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL of the Liberian National Police Col. Patrick Sudue appears firm to thwart the June 07 protest being organized by a group of Liberians under banner, Council of Patriots to demands reforms in the Weah administration.

ON THE BUILD-UP to the actual protest date this Friday, (07 June) as pronounced, the Police Chief seems to be shifting the goalpost to restrict and frustrate protesters from getting in the streets of Monrovia trying to, in his own words, give a difference between a march and an assembly.

IG SUDUE VOWED in a community policing meeting in Monrovia Thursday, 30 May that there will be no marching on June 7. "Nobody marching; nobody marching. Article 17 says peaceful assembly. Assembly means, the way all of us gathered here today, that's assembly. [Did] we march to come here?" Col. Sudue asked rhetorically as the crowd respond, "No."

"FINE, THAT'S WHAT they call assembly." In his argument, a march is only done for instance, from (Duala or Gbarnga to Monrovia) one point to another when people are engaged in a protest march, contrary to a peaceful assembly, which he says people involved agree to meet at a certain location at a particular time.

"SO, THOSE THAT will go to march, the government has given you your space. But you should be ... peaceful," Col. Sudue cautions.

ARTICLE 17 OF the Constitution of Liberia reads, "All persons, at all times, in an orderly and peaceable manner, shall have the right to assemble and consult upon the common good, to instruct their representatives, to petition the Government or other functionaries for the redress of grievances and to associate fully with others or refuse to associate in political parties, trade unions and other organizations."

THE COUNCIL OF Patriots or protest organizers say they intend to converge on Capitol Hill, the seat of the Liberian government to read and present their petition to President George Manneh Weah, demanding reforms in his administration.

BUT WHILE PROTESTERS rely on Article 17 for their June 7 assembly, Col. Sudue suggests that Article 13 of the Constitution also guarantees the right of free movement for citizens and residents who may not form part of the protest, warning protesters not to hinder movement of others who may want to go about their normal businesses.

WE LIKE TO emphasize that the Police have a duty to protect both protesters and non-protesters as enshrined in Article 13 and Article 17, respectively, rather than trying to prevent one group from getting in the street. In other words, one right or one article does not supersede the other.

AND THE TRUTH of the matter, Liberians had peacefully marched before in the streets and petitioned their leaders in the Legislature and even before foreign Missions near this capital with the recent example being the "Bring Back Our Money" campaign few months ago. The authority seems to be adapting scare tactics against this one.

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# COMMENTARY

By Zaki Laïdi

## Why the EU Election Was a Win for Macron

*Although the far-right National Rally edged out La République en Marche ! in the European Parliament election, broader trends in European politics now look favorable for French President Emmanuel Macron. His party will now lead a pivotal centrist bloc, and will be able to work closely with the newly reinforced Greens on crucial reforms.*

PARIS - Though the final vote tally might seem to suggest otherwise, the European Parliament elections were a strategic success for French President Emmanuel Macron. There are four reasons why this is so.

First, Macron succeeded in framing the election as a contest between progressives and populists. Though he has been assailed at home in recent months - including by some on his own "side" - it is worth remembering that this message did not emerge out of thin air. Rather, it harks back to Macron's 2017 presidential campaign, which itself tapped into a broader political sea change taking place across Europe. In that election, he overcame the traditional right-left divide. Two years later, this was replicated in the European Parliament elections.

Historically, the Republicans on the right and the Socialists on the left have dominated French politics. Yet these parties' combined share of the popular vote was under 15%, whereas Macron's La République en Marche ! won 22.4%, and the far-right National Rally (formerly the National Front) picked up 23.3%. Behind these figures is an unprecedented collapse of the mainstream French right, which has failed to reconcile identity politics with traditional liberalism. Though some French conservatives have migrated to the National Rally, much of the center-right electorate has gravitated toward Macron's party, owing to efforts by Prime Minister Édouard Philippe (formerly of the Republicans).

Moreover, most of those who switched to La République en Marche ! are pensioners who did so despite being hit hard by Macron's tax reforms (some of which have been reversed). This suggests that Macron's progressive-versus-populist narrative helped to re-mobilize France's - and perhaps Europe's - pro-European electorate. While the National Rally performed well and Italy's right-wing League party made gains, they failed to trigger the EU-wide political earthquake that many had come to expect.

The second reason the election represents a victory for Macron is that his party will now be able to claim leadership over a pivotal centrist parliamentary group of 110 members. The relative losses suffered by the European People's Party (EPP) and the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D), combined with the surge in support for the Greens, means that the European Parliament is entering a period of quadripartite governance. Provided these groups are able to compromise, the new arrangement will probably be an improvement on the old one, wherein the EPP and S&D divvied up all of the jobs. For the first time in the European Parliament's history, the number of MEPs affiliated with the two main parties represents only 44% of the total.

A more fluid parliamentary composition will allow for more ad hoc majorities to emerge in support of various policy proposals, given that

there is so much common ground between La République en Marche !, the S&D, and the Greens. And, as an added bonus, the end of the EPP/S&D duopoly also marks the end of German hegemony in the Parliament.

Third, the Spitzenkandidaten process - whereby the largest party grouping selects the president of the European Commission - is likely to collapse, and this may also work to Macron's advantage. The system is a first-past-the-post mechanism in a proportionally elected Parliament, and has more to do with partisanship than with democracy, because it gives automatic power to the largest group.

But while the EPP won the most parliamentary seats, its Spitzenkandidat, Manfred Weber, is very controversial. Just before the election, he was weakened by the political demise of Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz, whose government was brought down by the release of a video in which his vice chancellor, Heinz-Christian Strache of the Freedom Party, appears to offer a quid pro quo for electoral help from Russia.

But Merkel still defends Weber, and, apart from Macron and Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte, most EU leaders are reluctant to confront the European Parliament on the Spitzenkandidaten issue. That may shorten the odds for Margrethe Vestager - who is not from the EPP, but who is, in a sense, a liberal Spitzenkandidat - while lengthening them for Michel Barnier, who is from the EPP but is not a Spitzenkandidat. If the Council succeeds in ruling out Weber and his populist supporters, Macron will claim it as a success.

Finally, the election provides a check on German hegemony within the EU more broadly. Germany's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) has been weakened, and the country's Greens have grown stronger. For his part, Macron will find the Greens much easier to work with on eurozone reform, especially if they end up joining a new German coalition government.

Taken together, these post-election considerations paint a rather positive picture for Macron. The question now is whether he can use his strength at the EU level to shore up his domestic position. This will not happen automatically. With the fall of the French right, there may be a temptation to position La République en Marche ! as a new home for right-wing French voters. But while this might capture Paris's bourgeois 16th arrondissement, doing so would be a mistake. Instead, Macron should focus on securing more of the atomized left, particularly those who have moved to the National Rally.

As matters stand, La République en Marche !'s base remains limited to the "winners" of globalization. Rural, alienated, and economically vulnerable voters remain in the National Rally's camp. To win them over, Macron must reduce the polarization between the two parties.



# Trump's Trade-War Miscalculation

By Zhang Jun

**S**HANGHAI - Just when a trade agreement between the United States and China appeared to be in sight, negotiators found themselves back at square one. The immediate reason for the disruption was China's insistence on a substantially rewritten draft agreement, which, according to US President Donald Trump's administration, reneges on previously agreed terms. But the root cause of China's changes to the draft - the reason behind its reluctance to meet US demands - lies in a fundamental miscalculation by the Trump administration.

Simply put, the US has been overplaying its hand. The agreement that China rewrote would have obliged the Chinese side to legislate some of the changes sought by the US, and it was negotiated amid an aggressive US campaign against the Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei. That campaign has included adding the company to America's trade blacklist, thereby cutting off its supply of critical technologies, and pushing allies to isolate the company as well.

While such actions will undoubtedly hurt Huawei, the company can eventually offset its losses by forging ties with other fast-growing Chinese tech companies. For the rest of the world, however, the Trump's administration's attacks on Huawei - and on China more generally - will have far-reaching consequences.

China is too deeply embedded in global supply chains simply to go away. Alienating the world's leading manufacturer and industrial producer - with its consumer market of 1.4 billion people - will severely disrupt global value chains and cast a shadow over the entire world economy.

The Trump administration's miscalculations may have resulted partly from acting in haste, in the hope of notching a "win" ahead of next year's presidential election. But the US also seems convinced that it is up against a China with a particularly weak hand, owing to the risk of a hard landing for its economy. That is not the case.

While China imports relatively little from the US, it may have more weapons than its opponent to deploy in this

trade war. Beyond retaliating directly, through tariffs on agricultural products and commercial aircraft, it could tighten capital controls, dump its unparalleled holdings of US Treasury debt, or allow its currency to depreciate. (The wave of competitive devaluations triggered by the latter option would destabilize the US dollar, as well as the international monetary institutions.)

So far, however, China has shown considerable restraint. For example, despite the renminbi's recent depreciation against the US dollar, the People's Bank of China has expressed its intention to maintain exchange-rate stability. Even if deepening tensions with the US over trade and technology force it to take some short-term retaliatory actions, China is likely to maintain this restraint for the foreseeable future.

The reason is simple: this moderate approach serves China's own long-term interests, both directly (by supporting continued economic growth and development, preserving social stability, and protecting state integrity) and indirectly (by avoiding further costly disruptions to global markets). Ironically, it also will compel China's commitment to the very structural reforms that the US claims to be seeking.

The trade war has highlighted the risks inherent in maintaining an open economy. But, rather than slam the door shut on the rest of the world, China is attempting to protect the global economy's stability.

China's leaders do not believe that the trend of capitalist-led globalization - in which China has been both a leading beneficiary and, increasingly, a major contributor - will be reversed any time soon. Because the US remains, in China's view, the world's preeminent defender of the free markets toward which China is moving, its deviations from free-market orthodoxy and abuses of state power could shake America's own economic foundations and threaten its institutions.

To be sure, China and the US will most likely become increasingly estranged. China will develop its own core technologies, in order to end its dependence on the US, and

build up the strategic sectors that will propel its economic development.

But such technological progress on China's part will, in any case, require the country to implement structural reforms. In particular, it will have to protect intellectual property rights and establish more efficient capital markets, in order to encourage basic scientific research, technological innovation, and entrepreneurship. Recognizing the role of capital markets in promoting technological innovation, China will open a Science and Technology Innovation Board at the Shanghai Stock Exchange later this month.

This is not to say that China will close the door on trade negotiations. On the contrary, the US-China trade relationship does have its structural imbalances, which China is willing to address.

But, rather than allow the Trump administration to push it to increase imports unilaterally - an approach that is both naive and reckless - China is insisting on resolving the problem in stages. The world should support this method, with the US, in particular, relaxing restrictions on exports to China and welcoming Chinese investment in the US.

To many, China and the US appear to be falling into the "Thucydides Trap," a self-fulfilling prophecy in which a hegemon, fearing a challenger, brings about a war for global dominance. But, even as the economic contest between the two countries continues, this outcome is far from inevitable.

A lack of mutual political trust has not prevented the US and China from engaging in mutually beneficial commercial collaboration over the last 40 years, nor has it hampered the recent surge in cultural, educational, and other exchanges. At a time when the two countries face many common challenges - including climate change, nuclear threats, terrorism, poverty, and financial-market stability - one can only hope that the US administration once again shows the vision and wisdom needed to renew such cooperation with China.

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TUBMAN BOULEVARD, 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> STREETS, SINKOR – P. O. BOX 2044  
MONROVIA, LIBERIA  
Email: info@necliberia.org



## FINAL CANDIDATES LISTING FOR THE 2019 MONTSERRADO COUNTY SENATORIAL BY-ELECTIONS

NO.	NAME OF APPLICANT	GENDER	COUNTY	POSITION	PARTY	RECOMMENDATION
1	COOPER, MACDELLA MACKIE	FEMALE	MONTSERRADO	SENATE	INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE	ACCEPTED
2	DILLON, ABRAHAM DARIUS	MALE	MONTSERRADO	SENATE	LIBERTY PARTY (LP)	ACCEPTED
3	DUKULY, MOHAMMED AYOUB	MALE	MONTSERRADO	SENATE	VISION FOR LIBERIA TRANSFORMATION (VOLT)	ACCEPTED
4	ENDERS, SAMUEL REAGEN	MALE	MONTSERRADO	SENATE	INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE	ACCEPTED
5	KANYON, MASSA MASSAQUOI	FEMALE	MONTSERRADO	SENATE	INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE	ACCEPTED
6	WEEKS, KIMMIE L	MALE	MONTSERRADO	SENATE	INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE	ACCEPTED
7	WIE, PAULITA C. C	FEMALE	MONTSERRADO	SENATE	COALITION FOR DEMOCRATIC CHANGE (CDC)	ACCEPTED

## FINAL CANDIDATES LISTING FOR HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (MONTSERRADO, DISTRICT # 15 BY-ELECTIONS)

NO	NAME OF APPLICANT	GENDER	COUNTY	POSITION	PARTY	DISTRICT	RECOMMENDATION
1	BAYOH, KELVIN MORRIS	MALE	MONTSERRADO	REPRESENTATIVE	INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE	15	ACCEPTED
2	FAHNBULLEH, SR. ERASMUS DAODA	MALE	MONTSERRADO	REPRESENTATIVE	VISION FOR LIBERIA TRANSFORMATION (VOLT)	15	ACCEPTED
3	FRANK, BISHOP SLEBO	MALE	MONTSERRADO	REPRESENTATIVE	INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE	15	ACCEPTED
4	KAMARA, ABU BANA	MALE	MONTSERRADO	REPRESENTATIVE	COALITION FOR DEMOCRATIC CHANGE (CDC)	15	ACCEPTED
5	KAMARA, LAMENU CHAPY	MALE	MONTSERRADO	REPRESENTATIVE	TRUE WHIG PARTY (TWP)	15	ACCEPTED
6	TUBOR, JR. AMOS NYANWLEH	MALE	MONTSERRADO	REPRESENTATIVE	COALITION FOR LIBERIA'S PROGRESS (CLP)	15	ACCEPTED
7	UREY, TELIA J.	FEMALE	MONTSERRADO	REPRESENTATIVE	ALL LIBERIAN PARTY (ALP)	15	ACCEPTED

# LIBERIANS DEBATE

With Sally Gaye

In what many panic-stricken Liberians describe here, as prelude to the June 07 protest, supporters of Montserrado County District#10 Representative Yekeh Kolubah, one of the organizers of this week's protest, and a group believed to be pro-government youth clashed Monday, 03 June in Monrovia, reportedly leaving two person injured. The New Dawn asks some Monrovia residents about the violence in the build-up to the actual protest that most Liberians fear might turn violent.



**Michael Doe Tipayson**

"Let me be honest about today's violence, the supporters of Hon. Yekeh Kolubah were provoked by pro-government supporters, who started throwing stones and the end result was casualty. If we're not careful, that's how it will start on June 7th. The CDC has announced that all its partisans should stay off the streets on June 7th, which is a good step but I am urging them to go beyond words and really talk to their supporters to respect the rights of the protesters.

Also, leaders of the PROTEST must be willing and able to guide and provide control of those who will turn out for the peaceful march, and the government has the biggest role to play in protecting all citizens.

We have our innocent kids in Liberia; we have our family members in Liberia; we have our friends in Liberia, and we love Liberia. The signs on the wall are not welcoming and it doesn't represent social harmony."



**Matthew Dee**

"The anti-protesters must know today that the Constitution of Liberia gives Liberians Right to peacefully assemble. Until the Constitution is rewritten, we are calling on all of you against the protest to hold your peace. It could have been you have a concern to express to your Leader; we would have also given you your constitutional right."

**Gloria Sewn**

"I keep telling people that this society is gullible, yet we are not understood by them. We are not against protest, but what comes along with protest is what we are cautious of. Young people, let's stay away from this protest and violence; please don't allow yourself to be used by those greedy politicians. What I saw today is not a good sign for this country and our children coming up."



**Prince Dahn Doegolia**

"We are in trouble my people, this protest can never be peaceful because these guys have organized men to disrupt this June 7 protest to [paint] this government ugly to the world. All day, Yekeh is in the streets like a market dog. He needs to sit down small and shut his mouth. Two opposite sides can't go to war. Let's just remain peaceful.



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**Andy Uche**

"Representative Yekeh Kolubah is a high risk to the fragile peace in Liberia. This man is a former rebel who inflicted harms on our people in the 90s. As a former rebel, this man is now part of a protest and knowing his past, I am deeply worried and concerned."

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Dialogue, not protest

## -Pastoral Network suggests

By Lewis S. Teh

National Pastoral Network for Peace, a nationwide Christian group here reiterates earlier call to organizers of the planned June 07 protests to engage national government through dialogue rather than protesting in the streets.

Reading a three-page Press Statement over the weekend in the Borough of New Kru Town, Montserrado County District #16, the Secretary General of the Network Alphonso K. Hena notes that in the past three months, they have observed with dismay friction between the government and the group calling itself Council of Patriots or COP over the planned demonstrations against the government to demand reforms in the economy, corruption, the US\$25 Million mop-up of excess liquidity, among other things.

“Having to seeing what is going on, the Pastoral Network is urging the COP to engage government through

dialogue and reconciliation inclusive of opposition politicians.”

Mr. Hena calls on the Network for Peace, the Liberia Council of Churches, and the Liberian Full Gospel Ministers, among others to craft a durable and peaceful solution to the problem, saying the Network strongly believes that

peaceful negotiation and acceptance of views of every participant during negotiation will bring about genuine solution to the present situation.

He adds that in such manner, the Network categorically condemns the impending June 7 protest, noting that never did any protest settle problems in this country, referencing the 1979

rice riot.

Meanwhile, the Network recommends that the COP presents its grievances to the government for deliberation by all parties and that all parties should disengage from making threats, profane or abusive languages against the President and officials of government on social media, and other latforms.

Mr. Hena calls on all political parties to engage the government in a peaceful manner for peace and development.

Earlier, the Rev. James E. Mulbah, Chairman of the National Pastoral Network for Peace says their objective of seeking the face of God is for God-fearing leaders to serve His people.

“We are aware that you cannot separate the Church from the society, therefore, standing as Acting chairman for this group, we thought it wise

to clear the air and inform the public that God is concerned about what is unfolding in this country.”

He says the Pastoral Network mobilizes Churches through their respective pastors to fulfill the vision, adding that many times people refuse to mix politics with their social lives, but they should beware that whatever affects the citizens affects the people in the Church, and part of their duties is to organize crusades throughout all 17 districts in Montserrado, praying for the nation and its leaders.

Rev. Mulbah explains the Network also sensitize its members of their duty to the State, saying while it is true they are Christians, they must vote wisely.

He notes that in Liberian politics, if people don't understand the dynamics of God's will, they go astray, but as gatekeepers in God's house, they would have to account tomorrow. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**



SPARK Plus LIGHT UP

## LWSC, American joint venture group sign MOU

A memorandum of understanding to establish a joint venture in Liberia has been signed between the Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation (LWSC) represented by its Managing Director Duanah A. Kamara, and an American venture group, LLC.

LLC is duly registered and incorporated under the laws of

executive officer Richard Hoffman represented the American Venture Group and Quest Water Solutions at the signing ceremony.

CEO Richard Hoffman says the collaboration will provide sufficient purified water for households in Liberia, noting that investment will provide sustainable supply of clean,



Delaware, United States of America and Quest Water Solutions, Inc, also duly incorporated under the laws of Nevada, America.

Rosemarie E. James, executive director of Clar Foundation and LWSC Managing Direct Duanah A. Kamara, represented the Government of Liberia, while chief

safe-drinking water for all.

“We are here for the provision of sufficient, affordable and sustainable supply of clean, safe-drinking water to underserved populations within Liberia,” Hoffman adds.

He explains the joint venture will require the



## RDC splits on June 7th protest

One of Liberia's dozens political parties, Redemption Democratic Congress, (RDC) seems to be divided on “June 7th Save the State” protest in Monrovia this Friday, with its National Chairman, Rev. Victor Saylee, declaring public support for the protest.

The RDC headed by former interim Speaker George Dweh, is one of the registered parties that participated in the 2017 Presidential and Representative Elections.

However, Mr. Dweh vehemently opposes the planned protest, contrary to his national chairman.

Chairman Saylee declares his support in an interview with reporters here, calling on the Government of Liberia to constructively engage protesters that will eventually serve the best interest of the State.

“Let it be noted herein that the press statement unilaterally signed by RDC political leader George S. Dweh, Sr., is a gross violation of Chapter 5, Article 7, Section

(49) 1, 2 & 5”, he says.

He says the party is not unaware of avoidable mistakes, insensitivity, and financial malpractices of the Coalition for Democratic Change-led government, leading to mass suffering of Liberians.

He continues that on the other hand, it is also very difficult to justify excesses of past Liberian governments that bear equal responsibility for the corruption, exploitation, oppression, and abuse of the country's growing democracy.

“Obviously, these abuses have set into motion the continuous governance and leadership crises in Liberia; the past leaders of Liberia cannot be excused from the problems of today, because the bad developments of today are a byproduct of misrule in the past”, he adds.

However, he admonishes all well-meaning Liberians and international partners to be guided against opportunism or entitlement mentality, saying, “At this critical juncture, Liberians need to be reminded that the ability to oppose government does not necessarily translate into the capacity for effective and efficient administration of government.”



RDC National Chairman, Rev. Victor Saylee

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Court lacks power to stop protest

## -Protest organizers

By Winston W. Parley

Following a closed door conference held Monday, 3 June with Chambers Justice Joseph Nagbe, June 7 protest chief mobilizer Henry Costa has told reporters that the presiding indicated that the Supreme Court cannot stop the protest from being held.

Both the Government of Liberia and the June 7 protest organizers Council of Patriots (COP) were sued by a civil society group called Citizens United to Sustain the Peace, over concerns that the pending protest would violate other citizens' rights as it did not have a time limit neither a particular place where protesters will assemble.

Critics and opposition of President George Manneh Weah's government say they will take part in pending protest endorsed by four collaborating opposition parties to demand the sacking of Finance Minister Samuel Tweah, Central Bank Governor Nathaniel Patray

and declaration of President Weah's assets.

Among other things, the protesters also want President Weah to address the bad economic situation in the country.

Mr. Tweah and Mr. Patray continue to remain targets of public perceptions that a

US\$25m intended for a mop-up exercise was allegedly mismanaged, mainly because the General Auditing Commission (GAC) finds that 52 entities that received US\$1,092,292.00 during the mop-up exercise per CBL records did not answer or reply to GAC's telephone calls and text messages during investigation.

Mr. Patray served as co-chair to Minister Tweah on the Economic Management Team (EMT) which spearheaded the mop-up exercise.

Several other discrepancies are cited in the GAC report, but Justice Minister Musa Dean says no money went missing in the US\$25m mop-up exercise.

However Mr. Henry Costa told reporters outside the Court on Monday that if the president accepts protesters' petition and begin to deliver on their immediate demands including sacking Mr. Tweah, Mr. Patray and declaring his assets, then they will leave the streets.

According to Costa, the Chambers Justice says the issue of protest is a constitutional

matter and the Court does not have the power to stop it.

The lawyer representing the Citizens United to Sustain the Peace Cllr. Dempster Brown had complained the government and protesters because there was no location stated for protest.

But during the conference with Justice Nagbe, Chambers Justice Joseph Nagbe mandated the Ministry of Justice to get back to him between Monday and Wednesday to show where the protesters will assemble.

Earlier, Justice Minister Musa Dean had said government is still seeking advice to get back to the Justice in Chambers regarding the location of the protest.



# Suspended Bong Supt., others beg President Weah

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan  
in Bong

Several women groupings in Gbarnga including the Muslim and Christian Communities have joined suspended Bong County Superintendent Esther Nyamah Walker to appeal to President George Manneh Weah to reinstate Madam Walker.

Superintendent Walker was suspended by President Weah a day after a leaked audio went viral on social media and on some radio

stations here in which the official was heard talking lengthily about how Finance Minister Samuel Tweah, Monrovia City Mayor Jefferson Kojee and Minister of State Nathaneil McGill were allegedly running President Weah's government.

She joined hundreds of rural women headed by the Bong County Village Saving Loan Association to appeal to the president for her reinstatement as superintendent, barely four months after she faced

President Weah's wrath.

In a leaked recording, Superintendent Walker, a close associate of Vice President Jewel Howard-Taylor, was also heard revealing to unknown individuals that she was confronted by McGill and Tweah that Madam Taylor and Bong County District #3 Rep. Marvin Cole were out to overthrow President Weah.

The appeal was done through Internal Affairs Minister Varney Sirleaf.

A member of the Village Saving Loan Association Fatu Baynay says they regret the situation, pleading with President Weah to see reason to reinstate Madam Walker.

She reminds Minister Sirleaf that President Weah is not just a president but also a father for all Liberians and must have mercy on the suspended superintendent. According to her, Madam Walker has over the past time worked immensely for the people of Bong County, lamenting that it will not be fine to sack her.

The Muslim Community represented by some officials, also joined in begging the president for Madam Walker's reinstatement.

Alieu Abu Siakor, a member of the Community says President Weah did not make a misstate to appoint Madam Walker because she serves impartiality.



Madam Esther Nyamah Walker

# VOLT delivers campaign promises

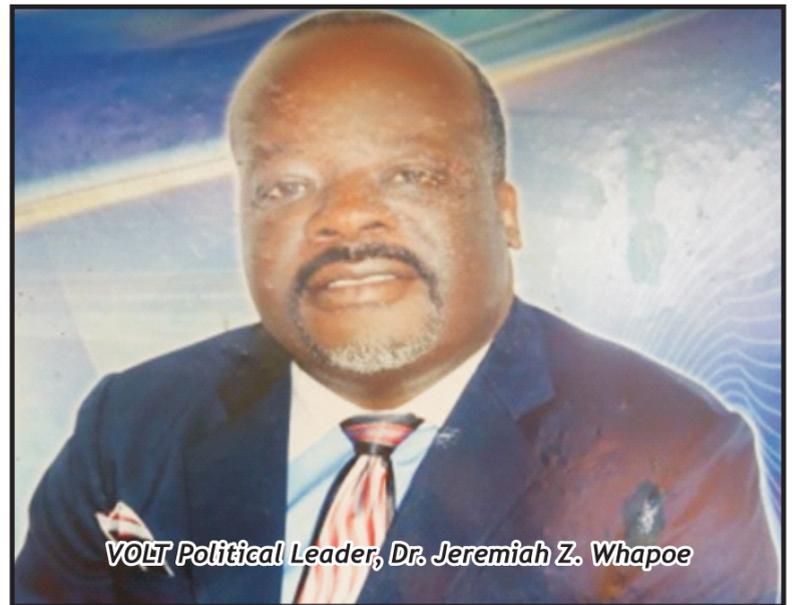
Vision for Liberia Transformation Party or VOLT fulfills campaign promises made during the 2017 Presidential and Representatives Elections in two counties.

Making the disclosure at his party headquarters in Monrovia ahead of the dedicatory ceremony of 103 acre-farm, political leader Dr. Jeremiah Z. Whapoe says the endeavor is in response to promises made to the Liberian people during the

Commenting on the 103 acres in Nimba County, Dr. Whapoe assures Liberians that the party is currently cultivating cassava, eddoes, corn and vegetables.

He says the VOLT agriculture project is being implemented by Optimum Agriculture Incorporated (OPAI) an organization established by the party.

The 103 acres in Nimba County is located in Gbeandin while the 100 acres in Bong



VOLT Political Leader, Dr. Jeremiah Z. Whapoe

2017 elections.

He says the party dedicated its first agriculture project in Gbeandin, seven miles from the commercial hub of Gompa [Ganta] in Nimba County.

Dr. Whapoe notes that despite losing the elections, the party is committed to fulfilling promises made to electorate.

VOLT has acquired 203 acres of land in Bong and Nimba counties, respectively for agriculture purpose.

County is in Palala.

"In Bong County, we are cultivating 100 acres to plant corn, rice and vegetables as well," the VOLT leader explains.

He says the party's primary focus to acquire lands in Lofa, Grand Cape Mount and Grand Bassa counties will be achieved by 2020 for subsequent mechanized farming across the country in four to five years. -

Editing By Jonathan Browne

# Français

## La NEC invalide l'expulsion de Mme Sirleaf de son parti

La Commission électorale nationale (NEC) annule la décision du parti de l'unité (UP, ancien parti au pouvoir) portant expulsion de l'ancien présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf et plusieurs autres cadres du parti.

L'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, leader politique émérite du parti, le sénateur Conmany Wesseh, l'ambassadeur Medina Wesseh et Patrick Worzi, ancien secrétaire général, avaient été expulsés du parti par le comité exécutif au lendemain des élections présidentielles et législatives de 2017, après avoir été accusés de n'avoir pas soutenu le parti lors des élections.

Saisi, l'agent des audiences de la NEC avait précédemment jugé légale l'expulsion, entérinant ainsi la décision du comité exécutif de l'ancien parti au pouvoir.

Mais, le Conseil des commissaires, présidé par le président Jerome George

Korkoya, au siège de la NEC à la rue 9, a cassé vendredi dernier la décision du responsable des audiences, annulant ainsi la décision d'expulsion des fonctionnaires concernés.

« La décision du responsable des audiences dans cette

affaire est annulée. La décision d'expulsion prise le 13 janvier 2018 dans cette affaire, ayant été prise sans le vote des deux tiers requis par le règlement intérieur du parti de l'Unité, est déclarée nulle et non avenue et n'a aucun

effet juridique sur eux », a déclaré le Conseil des commissaires.

La Commission ajoute que la loi prévoit que la charge de la preuve incombe à la partie qui se plaint ou allègue un fait, sauf que, lorsque l'objet d'un argument négatif relève singulièrement de la connaissance de l'autre partie, il est considéré comme vrai.

Le dossier montre que les deux témoins des plaignants ont confirmé l'allégation selon laquelle la décision de la suspension a été prise par une minorité des membres composant le bureau exécutif. Selon le règlement intérieur du parti qu'a présenté la partie plaignante, une décision d'une telle nature n'est valable que quand deux tiers de l'ensemble des membres du comité exécutif national se disent favorables à travers leurs votes.

Les accusés, dont le président de l'UP, Wilmot Paye, représenté par le cabinet d'avocats Sherman & Sherman, ont fait valoir que comme certains députés du parti de l'unité n'ont pas pu être réélus en 2017, ils ne pouvaient pas faire partie du comité exécutif et que le parti, lors de la réunion d'expulsion, ne connaissait pas le nombre exact des membres du comité exécutif.

Selon la NEC, le Parti de l'unité aagi sans réunir les deux tiers des voix requis, annulant ainsi la décision du 13 janvier 2018 qui porte expulsion d'un certain nombre de responsables du parti.

La Commission a cité l'article 20 (a) de la Constitution du Libéria de 1986, qui stipule que : « Nul ne peut être privé de la vie, de la liberté, de la sécurité de sa personne, de la propriété, d'un privilège ou de tout autre droit sauf à la suite d'un jugement d'audience aux dispositions énoncées dans la présente Constitution et dans le respect de la légalité... »

Et l'article 79 (e) de la Constitution exige que le règlement intérieur et les statuts de tout parti politique soient conformes à la constitution libérienne.

Wilmot Paye, président du parti de l'Unité maintient que « l'expulsion du 13 janvier 2018 a été décidée par le comité exécutif national, qui a jugé nécessaire d'expulser quatre membres du parti pour un motif valable, car le règlement intérieur du parti stipule que chaque membre du parti est obligé de soutenir les candidats du parti aux élections... Ainsi, selon la sagesse du comité exécutif national, les quatre personnes ont été considérées comme ayant violé les règles ».



Ex-President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

Senator Conmany Wesseh

## Guinée : un réseau de journalistes spécialisés en protection sociale, officiellement lancé

C'est à la faveur d'une conférence de presse à Conakry, que les journalistes membres du Réseau des journalistes Guinéens de la protection sociale (RPJG\_PS), ont lancé ce samedi 01 juin 2019 à la MDP, cette structure.

Selon le président Mamadou Oury Diallo, le REJGUI-PS est né pour accompagner les couches vulnérables.

« Nous nous sommes dit qu'il faut devenir des spécialistes du monde de la protection sociale pour non seulement comprendre le vocabulaire du milieu, le processus et être en quelque sorte un relai au niveau des citoyens qui sont souvent objet de ces actions, mais aussi pour les acteurs eux-mêmes parce que les énergies qui sont mobilisées par le gouvernement à travers les

politiques nationales de développement économique et social, mais aussi l'apport des bailleurs traditionnels comme le FMI et autres qui apportent des moyens pour que la vie des pauvres populations soit impactée. Mais que nous ne comprenons pas le processus, parce que nous ne savons pas quelle stratégie ou quelle technique de ciblage sont utilisées par ces acteurs du domaine pour atteindre ces populations », a expliqué le président de la (REJGUI-PS) avant de lancer un appel à tous les acteurs évoluant dans le domaine de la protection sociale pour des collaborations efficaces et durables.

Présent à cette cérémonie le ministre du commerce et des PME, a fait savoir que le gouvernement s'inscrit dans la même logique que cette association.

« Le gouvernement essaie de mettre en place toutes les structures ainsi que la réglementation pour développer le concept de protection sociale pour que nous puissions faire de manière à aider et à faire à ce que les guinéens, puissent accéder à tous les services sociaux de base », a rassuré Boubacar

Articles traduits  
Par Valéry G. Guhéna  
E-mail: [valeryghn10@yahoo.com](mailto:valeryghn10@yahoo.com)  
Tel: 076 589 44 0881483394



Barry.

Le réseau des journalistes guinéens pour la protection sociale a un canal de communication, qui est à la fois outil de travail, le site d'information spécialisé, [guineeactusociale.com](http://guineeactusociale.com). Il s'agira pour ses membres de faire des reportages sur des questions de protection et de sécurité sociale, des interviews avec des acteurs intervenants dans ce domaine, et les citoyens ciblés par les actions de protections sociales. Ils entendent aussi

initier des enquêtes édifiantes sur les problématiques de protection sociale, et qui seront au rendez-vous sur ce site.

Des acteurs intervenants dans le domaine de la protection sociale ont pris part à cette cérémonie comme le directeur national adjoint de l'action sociale, Mohamed Diaby, le conseiller du directeur général de la caisse sociale Lala Malan Kanté ainsi que le Représentant pays du Fonds monétaire international FMI, Monsieur José Souleymane.

# Français

## La CEDEAO exhorte les libériens au dialogue et à l'apaisement

À la suite d'une série de pourparlers de médiation avec le gouvernement et les organisateurs de la manifestation du 7 juin, la Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO) exhorte les manifestants à faire valoir leur droit sans pour autant créer un climat d'insécurité inutile dans le pays, avertissant que le pays est toujours fragile.

«Et nous avons également insisté très clairement auprès des organisateurs et de tous les partis politiques que cette marche, pour les raisons que je viens d'indiquer, à savoir la sécurité et le maintien de la paix, si elle doit se tenir, il faut qu'elle soit pour un seul jour », a déclaré le président de la Commission de la CEDEAO, Jean-Claude Kassi Brou, lors d'une conférence de presse à Monrovia, le vendredi 31 mai 2019. M. Kassi Brou d'ajouter que la marche ne devrait pas avoir lieu dans les différentes régions, avertissant en outre que plus la marche est longue, plus il est difficile de maintenir la sécurité et plus elle devient complexe et imprévisible.

La manifestation du 7 juin baptisée Save the State (Sauvons notre Patrie) est organisée par le COP (Conseil des Patriotes) avec la bénédiction des quatre principaux partis politiques de l'opposition : le Parti de la Liberté (LP), le Congrès national alternatif, du Parti de l'unité (UP) et le Parti de tous les libériens (ALP).

Toutes les tentatives de négociations en vue de l'annulation de la manifestation ont été soldées par un échec. La rencontre entre le président de la république et les organisateurs de la manifestation s'est terminée dans une impasse, c'est aussi le cas pour la rencontre qui avait été prévue par le Sénat.

Selon les organisateurs, le rassemblement aura lieu à Capitol Hill où sont confinés les sièges des trois pouvoirs de l'Etat, à savoir la présidence, le parlement et le palais de la justice. C'est là où les manifestants présenteront leurs doléances au président George Manneh Weah le 7 juin.

La corruption, le mauvais état de l'économie, la mauvaise gestion des 25 millions de dollars décaissés pour éponger l'excès de liquidités sont certains des points que les manifestants veulent dénoncer.

Les manifestants disent que si le président Weah ne répond pas immédiatement à leurs préoccupations, ils retourneront dans les rues à partir du lundi 10 juin et organiseront une manifestation continue jusqu'à ce que leurs préoccupations soient

satisfaites.

Ils ont rejeté la proposition des autorités de rester confinés au stade Antoinette Tubman pour leur protestation.

Le ministère de la Justice a déclaré que l'on a rendu compte de tout l'argent qui avait été décaissé pour éponger l'excès de liquidité, contrairement à la conclusion troublante publiée par la Commission générale des audits (GAC) qui révèle que 52 entreprises qui, selon la banque centrale, auraient reçu 1 092 292 dollars américains dans le cadre de l'opération de nettoyage de l'excès de liquidité n'ont pas pu répondre aux appels téléphoniques. Ces entreprises semblent ne pas exister du tout.

M. Kassi Brou a révélé que la CEDEAO a eu à rencontrer les autorités de tous les corps de sécurité et de défense du Libéria, dont notamment l'armée et la police, pour veiller à ce que la marche soit pacifique. Il a souligné l'importance d'un dialogue constructif, encourageant ainsi les Libériens à s'asseoir et à travailler ensemble, et à trouver une solution à tous les problèmes afin que les solutions soient finalement mises en œuvre dans le pays.

Le chef de la Commission de la CEDEAO a révélé qu'au cours de la seconde rencontre, toutes les parties, y compris le Conseil des patriotes (COP), le gouvernement et les organisateurs de la manifestation, ont exprimé leur attachement à la paix.

« Et nous sommes très heureux car tout le monde, que ce soit le gouvernement, que ce soit les partis politiques de l'opposition, la société civile... sont très attachés à la paix », s'est-il félicité.

M. Kassi Brou a souligné que le COP et les partis d'opposition souhaitent une marche pacifique, notant que "Personne ne veut prendre de risque, et ceci pour nous, est très positif".

Selon lui, la CEDEAO soutient fermement le dialogue, mais si les gens veulent marcher, le bloc régional insiste que cela soit pacifique, reconnaissant que la manifestation fait partie des droits constitutionnels, pourvu qu'elle soit pacifique.

Par contre, M. Kassi Brou s'est dit convaincu que les Libériens connaissent bien l'histoire de leur pays, tout en estimant qu'ils ne veulent pas revenir en arrière. « Après deux jours de mission ici, je suis rassuré car toutes les parties avec lesquelles j'ai parlé - l'exécutif, les dirigeants de l'opposition, le Conseil des patriotes. Elles veulent toutes la paix pour le pays. C'est très important. Je n'ai jamais entendu une seule personne affirmer vouloir faire quelque chose qui créera des problèmes dans le pays »,.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Zaki Laïdi

## Pourquoi les élections européennes ont été une victoire pour Macron

PARIS - Même si le décompte final semble suggérer le contraire, les élections du Parlement européen ont été un succès stratégique pour le Président Emmanuel Macron. Il y a quatre raisons à cela.

Tout d'abord, Macron a réussi à présenter ces élections comme un concours entre progressistes et populistes. Bien qu'il ait essuyé des attaques sur le plan national au cours des derniers mois - notamment de la part de certains au sein de son propre « camp » - il est bon de se souvenir que ce message n'est pas apparu comme par magie. En fait, il nous ramène plutôt à la campagne présidentielle de 2017 de Macron, qui a elle-même puisé dans un changement politique radical d'envergure européenne. Lors de ces élections, il a eu raison du traditionnel clivage droite-gauche. Deux ans plus tard, cela s'est reproduit aux élections du Parlement européen.

Historiquement, les Républicains de droite et les Socialistes de gauche ont dominé la vie politique française. Pourtant, les résultats cumulés du vote populaire pour ces partis ont été inférieur à 15 %, tandis que le parti de Macron La République en marche ! a remporté 22,4 % des voix et que le Rassemblement National d'extrême-droite (l'ancien Front National) a remporté 23,3 % des voix. Ce que montrent ces chiffres, c'est l'effondrement sans précédent de la droite française, qui n'a pas réussi à concilier la politique d'identité avec le libéralisme traditionnel. Bien que certains conservateurs français aient rejoint le Rassemblement National, une grande part de l'électorat de centre-droit s'est donc tournée vers le parti de Macron, en raison des efforts déployés par le Premier ministre Édouard Philippe (ancien membre des Républicains).

En outre, la plupart de ceux qui sont passés à La République en marche ! sont des retraités, en dépit du fait d'avoir été durement touchés par les réformes fiscales de Macron (dont certaines ont été annulées). Ceci suggère que le récit « progressiste contre populiste » de Macron a aidé à mobiliser à nouveau l'électorat pro-européen français - et peut-être européen. Bien que le Rassemblement National ait obtenu de bons résultats et que le parti de droite italien de La Ligue ait gagné du terrain, ils n'ont pas réussi à déclencher le séisme politique à l'échelle de l'UE auxquels bien des gens s'attendaient.

La deuxième raison pour laquelle les élections sont une victoire pour Macron, c'est que son parti va à présent être en mesure d'occuper un rôle de leadership parlementaire sur un groupe centriste clé de 110 membres. Les pertes relatives essuyées par le Parti populaire européen (PPE) et par l'Alliance progressiste des socialistes et des démocrates (S&D), associées à la montée en puissance des Verts, font entrer le Parlement européen dans une période de gouvernance quadripartite. À condition que ces groupes soient en mesure de faire des compromis, la nouvelle entente sera probablement une amélioration de l'ancienne, où le PPE et le S&D se sont partagés tous les postes. Pour la première fois dans l'histoire du Parlement européen, le nombre de députés européens affiliés aux deux principaux partis ne représente que 44 % du total.

Une plus grande fluidité dans la composition parlementaire va permettre à davantage de majorités ad hoc d'émerger pour soutenir de

multiples projets politiques, étant donné qu'il y a tant de points communs entre La République en marche !, le S&D et les Verts. Et en prime, la fin du duopole PPE/S&D marque également la fin de l'hégémonie allemande au Parlement.

Troisièmement, le processus des têtes de liste - par lequel le parti qui regroupe le plus grand nombre de membres choisit le Président de la Commission européenne - risque bien de s'effondrer, ce qui peut jouer en faveur de Macron. Le système est un mécanisme de scrutin majoritaire à un tour dans un parlement élu au scrutin proportionnel - et a plus à voir avec l'esprit de parti qu'avec la démocratie, parce qu'il donne automatiquement le pouvoir au plus grand groupe.

Mais alors que le PPE a obtenu le plus grand nombre de sièges au Parlement, sa tête de liste Manfred Weber est un candidat très controversé. Juste avant les élections, il a été affaibli par la chute du Chancelier autrichien Sebastian Kurz, dont le gouvernement a été renversé par la publication d'une vidéo dans laquelle son vice-chancelier, Heinz-Christian Strache du Parti de la liberté, semble offrir une contrepartie à une aide électorale en provenance de la Russie.

Mais Merkel défend encore Weber, et, à l'exception de Macron et du Premier ministre néerlandais Mark Rutte, la plupart des dirigeants de l'UE hésitent à confronter le Parlement européen sur la question de la tête de liste. Cela va peut-être augmenter les chances de Margrethe Vestager - qui n'est pas issue de l'EPP, mais qui est, en un sens, une tête de liste libérale - tout en réduisant celles de Michel Barnier, qui est de l'EPP mais qui n'est pas une tête de liste. Si le Conseil parvient à éliminer Weber et ses partisans populistes, Macron va revendiquer cela comme étant un succès.

Enfin, ces élections permettent de contrebalancer l'hégémonie allemande au sein de l'UE en général. L'Union chrétienne-démocrate de l'Allemagne (CDU) a été affaiblie et les Verts du pays se sont renforcés. Quant à lui, Macron aura beaucoup plus de facilité à collaborer avec les Verts sur la réforme de la zone euro, surtout s'ils finissent par rejoindre un nouveau gouvernement de coalition allemand.

Prises ensemble, ces considérations post-électorales dressent un tableau plutôt positif pour Macron. La question est maintenant de savoir s'il peut utiliser sa force au niveau de l'UE pour renforcer sa position nationale. Cela ne va pas se produire automatiquement. Avec la chute de la droite française, on peut être tenté de positionner La République en marche ! comme un nouveau point de ralliement pour les électeurs français de droite. Mais si cet argument peut séduire le 16ème arrondissement bourgeois de Paris, il serait faux d'y souscrire de manière générale. Au lieu de cela, Macron doit s'assurer de regagner une plus grande part de la gauche fragmentée, en particulier chez les électeurs qui ont rejoint le Rassemblement National.

Dans l'état actuel des choses, la base de La République en marche ! se limite toujours aux « gagnants » de la mondialisation. Les électeurs ruraux, les laissés pour compte et les personnes économiquement vulnérables restent dans le camp du Rassemblement National. Pour les convaincre, Macron devra réduire la polarisation entre les deux partis.

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Minister Sirleaf calls on Bong citizens not to protest

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan  
in Bong

Liberia's Internal Affairs Minister Varney Sirleaf has called on the people of Bong County to stay away from the planned June 7 protest on grounds that it is intended to create chaos in Liberia.

He made the call over the weekend when Mr. Sirleaf paid a visit to the County and addressed a cross section of citizens.

Some citizens here mostly critics of the government have planned to protest on June 7 in an effort to draw the attention of the Liberian government to the current situation of the Country.

During the protest, they aggrieved citizens are expected to petition the government to address concerns surrounding how US\$25 million was handled during a mop-up exercise, the rising foreign exchange rate



and the bad state of the economy, among others.

But the Internal Affairs Minister indicates that the protest is not the right thing to do in moving the Country.

He believes that Liberians should join hands and support President George Manneh Weah as he works to make the Country better, instead of going to the streets which

might result to the destruction of properties.

"My good people of Bong County, I am telling you today not to take the street to protest. We need to protect our Country instead of going to the street to protest which will not be fine for us," he adds.

Minister Sirleaf argues that in spite of the hardship in Liberia, the government of President Weah needs not to be blamed.

According to him, President

Weah alone cannot make the Liberia "we want," suggesting that if Liberia should be better, the need for every citizen to work should not be overlooked.

"President Weah is actually doing his best to fighting the hardship," he continues.

Minister Sirleaf explains that Firestone Liberia wants to leave the country due to drop in the prices of rubber, but President Weah being an experienced leader, has told the company to diversify its work and engage in the planting of coco and coffee to help build the Liberian economy.

Minister Sirleaf encourages the citizens to take the Weah led - government as their own by supporting its activities so as to serve as a gateway to the nation's development.

He states that protest will not help the people of Liberia but will only make the situation worse for the common people who do not even have food to eat.

Concluding, he urges citizens in Bong County to go back to the soil and engage in farming activities which will help put food on their tables.--

*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

Cont'd from back page

## Panel indicts More

that may result in any child's vulnerability to abuse, exploitation, and neglect, as required by Section 1.2(f) of Article VIII of the Children Law; demonstrate a holistic approach in child protection work aimed at achieving results that prevent, and respond to child

exploitation and abuse", as required by Section 1.2(g) of Article VIII of the Children Law.

The Panel further notes the abuse of the MTM beneficiaries, all girls in Liberia and/or the delay in discovering the abuse can be traced to the decision of Katie to start MTM's operation in the country at private home(s) without necessary policies, structures, and established offices, including her (Katie's) romantic relationship with and high trust in Macintosh Johnson.

The Panel observes the action of Katie Meyler in granting Macintosh Johnson near sole authority in deciding who obtains and maintains the MTM scholarship; allowing him to be alone with one or a few of the minor students, and failing to report her fear or suspicion that Macintosh breached the duty of care owed the children and her safeguarding obligations to the survivors as per the provisions of the Children Law of Liberia, and Katie's romantic relationship with Macintosh Johnson, which it

describes as a key factor that negatively influenced her handling of or response to the Macintosh case, including her reluctance to have gone to testify in the trial despite repeated knowledge of the defense's key arguments that the prosecution was nothing more than the machination of Katie against

Macintosh because he did not want to marry her thus, terminated their romantic relationship is an astonishing failure of oversight and/or refusal to accept responsibility and be accountable.

At the same time, it notes the Ministry of Education did not adequately exercise its

accreditation and supervisory functions first, in allowing the charity to open here without first obtaining due accreditation, and in allowing or seeing More Than Me operate as an all-girl school without having seen, reviewed and been satisfied with the background and experience of a d e q u a t e f e m a l e administrative staff as is and would usually be the case, especially in light of the Ministry's experience with a number of other "all-girls" schools that have operated or are operating in the country.

It says unless written evidence is shown of effective, executed consent of use of the names and photos and other information of the girls, MTM use of such information was wrongful under Liberian law and probably US laws, and that it has more than just a moral

obligation to the survivors, and the quantum and uncertain duration of the current support being provided them is manifestly inadequate, especially in light of the fact that at least one of the survivors is HIV-positive.

"There is probably more that we did not uncover in respect of each of the two incidents given that the Panel did not have power to subpoena documents or compel attendance or testimonies of people believed to have relevant information", the Report concludes.

Meanwhile, the Panel recommends that in any and all responses by whomever to the Macintosh and Cyrus Cooper rape cases and/or MTM's handling of each matter or the liability of responsible persons, all efforts should be made to consider the best interest of the survivors consistent with the provisions of the children

law; and this should include respecting their requests that MTM be allowed and continued to operate in an appropriate environment that adequately protects them from abuse and also ensure compliance with applicable laws and best safeguarding practices especially pertaining to children.

It wants MTM, as an organization, and the MTM Board as the body responsible for and vested with the management of MTM to accept full responsibility and liability for the incidents in question

and work with stakeholders to establish a path for moving forward based on openness, accountability, and due respect for the best interest of its beneficiaries, the girls.

"That MTM should make reasonably adequate provision for the sustainable financial support of the survivors, which should substantially be greater than what is currently provided. This could entail the establishment of a trust fund for survivors known and others that may come forward or be identified in the future.

That Katie Meyler accepts responsibility and/or be held liable to the fullest extent of applicable law (s) for her actions, inaction and decisions that caused or contributed to

Macintosh Johnson and Cyrus Cooper abusing the girls, and d e l a y e d [ i n ] discovery/reporting of the abuses and rapes."

It also recommends that Saul Garlick should accept full responsibility and liability for his actions and omissions that contributed to MTM's failure to have reported

the Cyrus Cooper rape incident to the competent authority, and that the Report be shared with the Government of Liberia to enable it hopefully (i) investigate and, if necessary, prosecute Cyrus Cooper and any other person(s) who assisted him with the alleged rape, among other actions.

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# Gov't calls for re-arrest

By Winston W. Parley

Prosecutors in Monrovia have petitioned the Supreme Court, asking for the rearrests of five indicted Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) officials, ahead of a lower court's decision that is pending following the defendants' justification of bonds proffered for their release.

Former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf's son and bank deputy governor Charles E. Sirleaf, former CBL Executive Governor Milton A. Weeks are on trial for alleged economic sabotage along with Dorbor Hagba, Richard Walker and Joseph Dennis.

Following two investigative reports into Liberia's \$16 billion local currency scandal, the five bank officials were indicted for an alleged LRD\$2,645,000,000 plus US\$835,367.72.

The government says each

of the defendants is required to post a bond of US\$3,306,250.00, but defendant Weeks only posted a property valuation bond of a little over 900,319 while each of the four other defendants posted US\$60,000 bail bonds.

Judge J. Boima Kontoe was presiding at Criminal Court "C" at the Temple of Justice when the defendants filed these bonds early this year and got released from the Monrovia Central Prison, pending justification of the bonds filed.

However the process of justifying these bonds commenced under the court term when Judge Peter Gbenewelleh is presiding at Court "C" during which sureties defended their bonds in open court followed by final arguments by both government and defense lawyers.

However based on the Supreme Court's mandate on Monday, 3 June, Judge Gbenewelleh could not proceed further to deliver a ruling on the justification of the bonds and other issues heard over the past weeks, including government's challenge against Heritage Partners and Associates (HPA) law firm's presence on the defense team.

In its petition, the prosecution accuses Judge Kontoe of acting in error when he signed the defendants' bail bond without taking into consideration the statutory

requirement.

Additionally, the government contends that Judge Kontoe's conduct was a judicial act that cannot be overturned by [his peer] Judge Gbenewelleh on grounds that it will also amount to a review of the decision of his (Judge Gbenewelleh's) predecessor.

While Judge Gbenewelleh's ruling is yet to be given, the prosecution also tells the Supreme Court in advance that where the judge "is to set aside the bond for being inadequate," his action would be illegal because he has no authority to undo his colleague's action.

Based on the prosecution's petition for writ of prohibition, Chambers Justice Joseph Nagbe has directed Judge Gbenewelleh to appear for a conference on Tuesday, 4 June at 12.00 noon.

The Chambers Justice also places a stay order on all further proceedings in the case pending the outcome of the conference.



Charles E. Sirleaf



Milton A. Weeks

# No more war

The senior Pastor of the Remedy Movement International, Pastor Philemon A. Tarphe told members of his congregation here on Monday June 3, that there will be no more war, no more hardship and no more deception in Liberia.

Pastor Tarphe who is affectionately called 'The Pioneer' by his followers said there is no need to panic and that the Lord is in control of the country.

His statement comes days ahead of the planned June 7, protest by members of the Council of Patriots or COP, a

group that is now demanding several reforms within the George Weah government.

The pastor said the era within which Liberia finds itself is a defining moment for the country, adding for too long politicians have deceived citizens here and the Lord is ready to redeem the country.

Speaking to this paper after his service on Monday night, Pastor Tarphe declined further explanation but rather referred this writer to Psalm 115:11-13 saying the Lord will help this nation and that there will be no more war, hardships and deception from elected officials.

Psalm 115:11-13 reads: "Ye that fear the LORD, trust in the LORD: he is their help and their shield.

12 The LORD hath been mindful of us: he will bless us; he will bless the house of Israel; he will bless the house of Aaron.

13 He will bless them that fear the LORD, both small and great."



Cont'd from page 6

# LWSC, American joint

companies to design, build, finance, install, own and operate 270 water purification and distribution systems in rural communities throughout Liberia for the purpose of meeting the country's clean water supply by vending and selling the purified water to approximately 1,000,000 residents in Liberia at an affordable rate.

Speaking earlier, LWSC boss Kamara, details that each unit will be powered by a mini solar system, including phone charging outlets for community dwellers.

He emphasizes that the investment portfolio will require no financial contributions from the LWSC or the Liberian government, as investors are desirous of supporting the Pro- Poor

Agenda for Development and Prosperity or PADP, as championed by President George Manneh Weah.

"The joint vendor is a simple, turnkey, and scalable inclusive business model that also provides positive socio-economic benefits for the communities in which we operate through the hiring and training of local personnel for the installation, operation,

# Lonestar MTN launches

Cont'd from page 7

High School, Madam Reeves indicates that high school students there will experience what is called E-learning as soon as possible to expose them to the world via the internet.

"So today we have come here to launch our 21 Days of y'ello Care and we are looking forward to work with all of you here to make an impact," she notes.

Further, Madam Reeves narrates that MTN will also donate some digital tools to these schools to impact the students with skills that will enable them to sit for an interview, go online and create their own beautiful cloud storage, among others.

As at 2018, she reveals that MTN started to do ICT training for young people because the company believes that everyone deserves the benefit of a modern connected live.

She details that the 21 Days of y'ello Care is the MTN Family's annual event aimed at giving back to the community as part of its corporate social responsibility campaign that happens in all 21 MTN companies around Africa.

The 21 Days of y'ello Care affords MTN staff the

opportunity to go back to the communities to deliver training, give back to clients and do so many things.

In 2016, Madam Reeves recalls that the company donated a brand new ICT lab at a rural school in Grand Cape Mount County, refurbished a library at the Charles D.B. King School in 2017 and rebuilt a hand pump at the Monrovia Demonstration School, among others.

For his part, Lonestar Cell MTN Legal and Regulatory Manager Winston Tubman says this is something that the MTN group does every year in June, giving back to the community that makes the company what it is.

Following the launching exercise, the Principal of G.W. Gibson Mr. Moses Zanga extended profound thanks to the MTN Family for the transformation it is bringing to his school, saying a few days from now the school will boast of a computer lab.

Also representing Bassa High School, Mr. Richard Paye thanked the Lonestar Cell MTN for the 21 Days of y'ello Care, saying it will be a great help for his school.

maintenance, and service systems."

The collaboration will embark on building capacity and resilient communities, improving health and associated healthcare costs, and allowing kids to go to school and mothers to be gainfully employed, are just a

few benefits of providing affordable clean, safe water to rural communities.

The investment is championed by an American retired professional basketballer and billionaire, Dikembe Mutombo. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

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## Panel indicts More Than Me Foundation

### -recommends prosecution

Jonathan Browne

An Investigative Panel constituted in 2018 by the Liberian Advisory Board of the American Charity More Than Me (MTM) to investigate multiple and specific allegations of sexual abuse and exploitation of female beneficiaries of MTM in Liberia releases an 18-count report here, indicting the charity for the abuses and recommending various actions, including prosecution.

An American online outlet, ProPublica in October 2018 published an investigative report titled, "Unprotected", detailing allegations of how vulnerable young Liberian girls whom More Than Me

Foundation (MTM) had promised protection from rape and other sexual exploitation were in fact, left unprotected

by MTM and thereby abused by at least two staff of the charity.

ProPublica also accused MTM founder, Katie Meyler, an American, of creating the environment that facilitated

the abuse of teenage girls as young as 10 and that upon discovery of the abuses, did little or nothing to bring the perpetrators to justice.

The Report notes that the conduct and other actions of staff Macintosh Johnson and Cyrus Cooper each, established a prima facie case of statutory rape while they were in the employ of MTM

The Panel says More Than Me has responsibility and may be held liable civilly or otherwise for the acts of its employees - Cyrus Cooper and Macintosh Johnson, and also for not reporting the rape allegation.

"MTM as an organization, along with its directors, CEO and other senior officers involved in handling the two incidents may be found to have violated the Children Law of 2011 ("Children Law"),

especially the provisions of the Children Law dealing with (i) the principles of the best interest of the Child, (ii) the standards for child protection practitioners, and (iii) the failure "to report a case of child abuse or neglect", the report establishes.

It particularly notes the records tend to show that MTM did not (i) "take as a

primary consideration, the best interest of the survivors as required by Section 1.2 of Article VIII of the Children Law; "demonstrate dedication to duty and commitment to the protection of every child, especially such a child as may be in need of protection", as required by Section 1.2(d) of Article VIII of the Children Law; (iii) iteratively assess and respond to any risk



## Lonestar MTN launches 21 Days y'ello Care

By Winston W. Parley

Liberia's leading telecommunication giant Lonestar Cell MTN has launched a youth-focused 21 Days y'ello Care, seeking to equip 200 high school students with computer knowledge and information communication technology (ICT).

Launching the program Monday, 3 June at the G.W. Gibson High School Campus in Monrovia, the company announced that it is sponsoring four public schools including G.W. Gibson; Bassa High School in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County, Dolokelen Gboveh

High School in Bong County and the J.W. Pearson High School in Ganta, Nimba County.

50 students will be targeted at each of these four locations cited, which will total 200 students in all for the training courses.

The 21 Days y'ello Care campaign is launched as a result of the company's observation that youth make up 65 percent of Liberia's population, but a good number of them leave the walls of high schools and colleges without knowledge in computer and ICT.

According to Lonestar Cell MTN Corporate Communications and Social

Responsibility Manager Madam Christal - Dionne Reeves, a one-day training and tools will be provided for students, following which the best and brightest students will be

picked from each section.

Madam Reeves notes that these students will be taken on a journey for a year to continue to learn building apps, cloud storage, and beautiful

software, among others.

She recalls that in 2018, Lonestar Cell MTN decided that its 21 Days of y'ello Care will be a youth-focused campaign which is designed to equip students with skills in addition to painting their schools, building or refurbishing their libraries, among others.

"We want to equip them with skills. We decided we want to equip them with skills in ICT in technology, science technology, engineering mathematics ...," says Madam Reeves.

Particularly for G.W. Gibson



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