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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2019

Rep. Yekeh Kolubah indicted

-As Rep. Gray walks freely



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NEC reschedules By-elections

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Continental News

Morsi buried after court death

Former Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi has been buried hours after he collapsed in court and died on Monday.

His lawyer told the AFP news agency the former leader had been buried in eastern Cairo early on Tuesday morning with his family present.

Morsi, who was 67, had been in custody since his removal from office in 2013.

Human rights groups, who had criticised the conditions in which he was kept, have called for an impartial investigation into his death.

His family and activists had repeatedly raised concerns about his health and the amount of time he was kept in solitary confinement, away from visits by lawyers and family.

His son, Abdullah Mohamed Morsi, told Reuters on Monday that Egyptian authorities had denied a family request for a public funeral in his hometown in Cairo

A top figure in the now-banned Islamist movement, the Muslim Brotherhood, Morsi became the country's first democratically elected leader in 2012. He was ousted and detained in a military coup a year later following mass protests against his rule.

Abdul Fattah al-Sisi, a former army chief, has been in power since 2014.

After Morsi's removal, the authorities launched a crackdown on his supporters and other dissent,

leading to tens of thousands of arrests.

The Muslim Brotherhood and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, a close ally of Morsi, are among those who have blamed the Egyptian leadership for Morsi's death. What happened in court?

Morsi was appearing in Cairo on Monday on charges of espionage related to suspected contacts with the Palestinian militant Islamist group Hamas. Officials say he had asked to address the jury, and spoke for about five

minutes from a soundproof glass cage where he was being held with other defendants. Minutes later, he apparently fainted during a break in proceedings.

"He was transferred to a hospital where he was pronounced dead," a statement by Egypt's public prosecutor said.

Officials said a forensic report had been ordered into his death, and insisted no new, visible injuries were found on his body.

State television had earlier described the cause of death as a heart attack. -BBC



Image copyright EPA: Morsi (photographed in 2016) was reportedly kept in solitary confinement 23 hours a day

Tanzania police warned over motorbike taxi assaults

Tanzania's interior minister has told police officers to stop assaulting motorcycle taxi riders.

MPs have complained that police are stopping the riders - known as boda-boda drivers - over traffic offences and then beating them up.

themselves."

Following his announcement, boda-boda drivers are happy that the issue was raised in parliament but they are still worried that it will not have an effect on the police, reports the BBC's Aboubakar Famau.

"This is a victory for all

UN humanitarian chief deplores deadly bombings in Nigeria

The UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria has condemned the multiple suicide bombings in the volatile northeast that killed 30 people, including a community volunteer and injured 40 others.

"This is another terribly sad day for civilians in northeast Nigeria and for the humanitarians who are working to help them," Edward Kallon said in a

statement late Monday.

"The UN and its partners deplore these abhorrent acts of violence and call for those responsible for these attacks to be swiftly brought to justice," he said.

"Our deepest condolences go to the families of the victims in Konduga.

We hope all those injured can access the urgent medical attention they require and wish them a full recovery," he added.

Three bombers detonated their explosives outside a hall in Konduga, 38 kilometres (24 miles) from the Borno state capital Maiduguri, where football fans were watching a match on TV on Sunday evening.

Although no group has claimed responsibility, the attack bore the hallmarks of Boko Haram, which is seeking to impose a hardline Islamic law in Nigeria's mainly-Muslim north. -AFP



Bodabodas are a popular form of transport in Tanzania

Minister Kangi Lugola told parliament: "Policemen are only allowed to give them a fine... but should not beat them or confiscate their motorcycles.

"It is our responsibility to protect those youth who are trying to eradicate poverty and create employment for

boda-boda drivers in the country. We were tired of being arrested and our motorcycles being taken frequently," one driver told BBC Swahili. -BBC



Three bombers detonated their explosives outside a hall in Konduga, 38 kilometres (24 miles) from the Borno state capital Maiduguri, where football fans were watching a match on TV on Sunday evening (AFP Photo/Audu Ali MARTE)

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EDITORIAL

Budget delay undermines accountability, transparency

DESPITE A 45-DAY delay requested by President George Manneh Weah in submitting the 2019-2020 draft National Budget to the 54th Legislature, the national financial instrument still languishes at the Executive, for unexplained reasons.

IN HIS COMMUNICATION dated April 23, 2019, President Weah asked for a 45-day extension of the deadline for the submission of the 2019-2020 budget from April 30th to June 15, 2019, citing the Public Financial Management (PFM) Reform Law, which mandates the Executive, through the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, to present the National Budget to the House of Representatives on 30th April each year for the purpose of through scrutiny by both the House and the Senate before approval.

WITH THE 45-DAY delay, the budget was expected to have been submitted by the Executive on Monday, 17 June but it failed to do so accordingly, for the second time, leaving both lawmakers and spending institutions in suspense as to when it would land at the First Branch of Government for proper analysis.

WE ARE AFRAID that persistent delay by the Executive could lead to a 4G passage of the budget by the Legislature, which should rather scrutinize the document, particularly performance reports of ministries and agencies from the previous fiscal period. In law, the budgetary cycle runs from July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020.

CONCERN IS MOUNTING in the public about the delay, which is also negatively affecting public expenditure, slowing down various ongoing development projects, including payment of domestic debts.

THE EXECUTIVE MANSION thru the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning should exert every effort necessary to have the budget submitted immediately to allow comprehensive analysis before its passage into law.

IN THE SAME vein, we call the government's attention to the recent IMF analysis on Liberia that stresses the to formulate realistic budgets and to implement a sound borrowing plan that ensures debt sustainability, while cautioning against non-concessional borrowing, including progress in public financial management reforms to improve the quality of spending in a resource-constrained environment such as ours.

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD of Directors stresses that significant fiscal adjustment is needed going forward, recommending that efforts should focus on mobilizing domestic revenue and rationalizing spending, especially the wage bill, while securing needed space for social and capital spending.

CONTINUOUS OVERCROWDING OF the wage bill has stifled focus on other areas of the economy, regrettably denying key sectors such as Health and Education of vital support. The education system lacks qualities in terms of competent instructional staff and realistic policies.

PRESIDENT WEAH THRU the Ministry of Finance should delay no further in submitting the FY2019-2020 draft national budget to the Legislature to ensure thorough scrutiny not just for sake of check and balance, but transparency and accountability.

COMMENTARY

By Leon Willems

Justice for Journalists

Journalists around the world risk their lives every day to shine a light on what those in power want to keep hidden. Those who end up paying the ultimate price deserve justice, not just for their own sake, but for the sake of the journalists who are still here, working to reveal to their readers, viewers, and listeners the world as it really is.

AMSTERDAM - It has been more than eight months since Jamal Khashoggi, a prominent Saudi journalist and critic of his home country's government who had been living in self-exile, was tortured, killed, and dismembered inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul. As the Saudis bent over backward to obscure the truth about Khashoggi's fate, Turkey launched an investigation. As expected, not much has come of it.

Turkey is hardly a credible advocate for press freedom: in 2018, more than 80 journalists in the country received long prison sentences or fines for their work. But even if the Turkish government's indignation over Khashoggi's murder was exaggerated for diplomatic gain, Turkey's judiciary has complied with its international obligations to investigate.

Saudi Arabia, by contrast, is utterly flouting its obligations on this front. Under international pressure, the Kingdom is conducting hearings for 11 suspects. But according to Agnes Callamard, the United Nations special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary, or arbitrary executions, these secretive, closed-door hearings are more about saving face than securing justice.

"We do not know who are charged as defendants, who among them face death sentences, and what are the charges" Callamard noted at a recent conference in Berlin. Western governments, she continued, "should not rubber-stamp a trial process that is ignoring all international standards."

By accepting the results of criminal proceedings that lack transparency and due process, the international community would fail Khashoggi and severely damage the broader effort to end impunity for crimes against journalists. Unfortunately, there is precedent for precisely this outcome.

In 1982, at the height of El Salvador's civil war, Colonel Mario Reyes Mena ordered his troops to set up an ambush just outside of the city of El Paraiso. Four journalists working for the Dutch broadcaster IKON, who were in the country to report on the war, walked right into the trap, and were essentially executed.

Amid the ensuing global outrage, El Salvador's government tried hard to conceal the truth, claiming that the reporters were accidentally caught in crossfire between the army and the rebels. The United States government, which trained, advised, and supplied the Salvadoran army, backed this explanation in public statements, spurring outraged protesters to descend on the US Consulate General in Amsterdam.

But the victims' colleagues did not give up: their research indicated that the four journalists had, in fact, been deliberately targeted. Nearly a decade later, in 1993, the UN Truth Commission tasked with investigating the Salvadoran civil war confirmed this view. Yet Reyes Mena, now 79 years old, lives a quiet life in a suburb of Washington.

At first, this impunity could be explained by a 1993 amnesty law protecting the military, paramilitary

groups, and guerrilla fighters from prosecution for human-rights abuses committed during the war. But the Salvadoran Supreme Court overturned that law in 2016, declaring it unconstitutional.

Now, an ill-equipped and understaffed Salvadoran prosecutor, acting on a criminal complaint filed by the lawyers of one of the slain journalists' brothers, is investigating possible criminal charges against Reyes Mena, as well as Francisco Antonio Moran, the former head of El Salvador's secret police. But it is hardly clear that justice will be served, not least because of an enduring culture of impunity for crimes against journalists.

That culture is on stark display in Saudi Arabia, and not just over the Khashoggi killing. Dozens of journalists are in prison in Saudi Arabia. One of them, Turki bin Abdulaziz al-Jasser, was reportedly tortured to death last year. Saudi Arabia has faced no diplomatic penalty for such behavior.

But impunity for perpetrators of crimes against journalists is not a foregone conclusion. Last year in Slovakia, the 27-year-old journalist Ján Kuciak, who had been investigating alleged political corruption linked to organized crime, and his fiancée, Martina Kušnírová, were shot dead. After the killings, people took to the streets to demand that the authorities prosecute those responsible.

Public pressure, together with the European Union's demands for due process, had a powerful effect: the prime minister resigned, the general prosecutor was replaced, and an investigation was launched. In March, the businessman Marián Kocner was charged with ordering the murders.

Even in El Salvador, there is now a glimmer of hope that justice will be served. Thanks to the work of human-rights lawyers and activists, the resolve of the victims' family members and former colleagues, and pressure from the Dutch government, the public prosecutor's office is preparing to take statements from the relatives of the slain IKON journalists.

To support such efforts to secure justice for serious violent crimes against journalists, Free Press Unlimited, the Committee to Protect Journalists, and Reporters Without Borders have created "A Safe World for the Truth." Investigations of such crimes - carried out by a team of journalists, forensic specialists, legal experts, and public data researchers - will be at the heart of the project.

To encourage public pressure like that seen in Slovakia, the investigators will publish their findings in documentaries and on social media, and deliver them to the relevant authorities. If this does not spur credible action to bring perpetrators to justice, we will create an international body to prosecute cases in a transparent and open People's Tribunal on Crimes Against Journalists.

Journalists around the world risk their lives every day to shine a light on what those in power want to keep hidden. Those who end up paying the ultimate price - such as Khashoggi, Malta's Daphne Caruana Galizia, and Belarus's Pavel Sheremet - deserve justice, not just for their own sake, but for the sake of the journalists who are still here, working to reveal to their readers, viewers, and listeners the world as it really is.

O-PED

By Christiana Figueres

Europe Must Answer the Climate Call

BRUSSELS - In early 2015, the European Union became the first major economy to set a post-2020 target for limiting greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions. By committing to reducing emissions to at least 40% below 1990 levels by 2030, the EU initiated a global movement that culminated in the adoption of the Paris climate agreement later that year.

This week, the EU has an opportunity to take up the banner of climate leadership once again. EU leaders are currently discussing the bloc's approach to the United Nations Climate Action Summit this September, which UN Secretary-General António Guterres hopes will serve as a political launchpad for a new round of commitments to cut GHG emissions.

The European Council must get the ball rolling, by adopting the 55% reduction target that the European Parliament endorsed in March. This is a time for bold action, not incrementalism. Recognizing that the initial targets fell well short of what was needed, the Paris agreement requires participating countries to revisit their earlier commitments every five years. Governments have committed to strengthening their targets to reflect their "highest possible ambition," and the first such revision is due by 2020.

According to the UN, around 80 countries have already indicated that they will ramp up their climate commitments at this year's summit. Recent announcements by the United Kingdom, Japan, New Zealand, Chile, Finland, and Costa Rica show that these governments have heard the call. And China and India, two of the world's largest and fastest-growing economies, have confirmed that they are ahead of schedule in meeting their initial targets, which suggests they could deepen their commitments over the coming year. The EU must seize the moment and take advantage of emerging opportunities to decarbonize the global economy even faster.

The scientific consensus on climate change underscores the danger of complacency. Global average temperatures are already 1°C higher than in the pre-industrial era, and are continuing to rise by 0.2°C per decade. A world that is 1.5°C warmer is just around the corner; if we continue along an irresponsible path, warming of 2°C or more is inevitable.

As the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has made clear, economic growth in a world that is 2°C warmer will be much slower than in one that is 1.5°C warmer. And it should go without saying that the impact of rising sea levels, raging forest fires, acidifying oceans, and extreme weather will be more severe, more regular, and far costlier.

The IPCC finds that, to avoid the worst, global GHG emissions must be cut by 45% below 2010 levels by 2030, and then to net zero by 2050. Yet, despite repeated warnings from climate scientists, global emissions are still rising, including in Europe. As the UK and Irish parliaments recently acknowledged, following protests by young people around the world, we are facing a climate emergency.

For its part, the EU is working on a plan to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. But while long-term decarbonization strategies are welcome, they are no substitute for short-term measures, and they should not be considered a panacea for global warming. Timing is everything, and without a transformational effort to halve global emissions by 2030, we will not be able to count on a safe future.

Fortunately, the EU is well positioned to lead the way. New renewable-energy and efficiency targets established last year have put the bloc on track to reduce emissions by 45% by 2030, compared to its 2015 target of 40%. Better yet, there is strong evidence that the EU could go even further. A recent report by Climate Action Tracker finds that bigger cuts in GHG emissions from the EU's electricity sector, residential buildings, and passenger road and rail transport systems would reduce total emissions by 52% by 2030.

It is important to remember that pursuing even more ambitious emissions cuts would not imply an additional burden. On the contrary, it would provide a pathway for economic renewal, improved quality of life, and reduced energy poverty, which currently afflicts 50-125 million Europeans. According to the Climate Action Tracker report, emissions reductions in line with a 1.5°C warming target would create 350,000 more jobs by 2030, particularly in the wind- and solar-energy sectors.

We could not have secured the Paris climate agreement in 2015 without the EU's leadership in setting early, ambitious targets and in helping to bridge diplomatic differences. Now, it's crunch time, which means that Europe must rise to the occasion once again.

OPINION

By jim O'neill

Economic Lessons From Everest

LONDON - Like many others, I was shocked by recent images showing the size of the queue that formed in May to scale Mount Everest, the world's highest peak, from the Nepalese side. The idea that delays caused by overcrowding may be partly to blame for some of the 11 reported deaths on the mountain during this year's climbing season is horrific to consider.

About a decade ago, my wife and I trudged the path from Lukla, Nepal, toward the Everest Base Camp, so I have some feel for the attraction of such adventures. But, along with the excitement, I remember feeling disappointed at the sheer number of people undertaking the trek. The initial intrigue was gone, and we saw little point in continuing the struggle just to wait in line. We reversed course at the last stop before Base Camp. (For any aspiring trekkers, I would recommend the underappreciated route up to Nepal's Gokyo Lakes, which was much less crowded, and had equally splendid views.)

Beyond specific conditions such as the narrowness of the trail, Everest's overcrowding problem is not so different from many other economic and social challenges that policymakers confront, namely an imbalance between supply and demand, and possibly poor regulation. One example, of special concern to me, is the market for antibiotics, which is failing because the development of new drugs is not keeping pace with demand. But more closely related to Everest is the broader challenge of managing tourist hotspots. Around the world, more and more people have joined the middle class, and they (understandably) want to experience the best that the planet has to offer.

When it comes to Everest, part of the problem is a fixed supply. There are only so many paths up the mountain (though some daring alpinists, no doubt, prefer to blaze their own), but the number of tour groups has increased. Given this, it stands to reason that the price should be allowed to rise until the balance between supply and demand is restored.

Of course, Nepalese policymakers, eager for tourism revenue, would balk at this suggestion; and they would probably argue that the average visitor should not be turned away from such a massive natural attraction. But, in that case, they must introduce and enforce stricter safety and regulatory standards for the companies offering tours up the mountain (which will also put upward pressure on prices).

The same fixed-supply problem applies to all tourist hotspots. As I have noted previously, Switzerland would have to produce more beautiful mountains to have any hope of satisfying the burgeoning demand from Chinese tourists visiting the Alps. The same can be said of Petra, Jordan, or any other wonderful destination. In all of these cases, the rational economic solution is to allow the price to rise, or to introduce more stringent regulatory controls.

When it comes to the market for antibiotics, many in the pharmaceutical industry would offer the same remedy. If the price of antibiotics (especially those for treating "gram-negative" bacterial infections) were considerably higher, the inappropriately high demand for such drugs would fall, and companies would have an incentive to re-enter the risky business of researching, developing, and gaining approval for urgently needed drugs.

When compared to the Everest dilemma, this argument makes sense. The problem is that life-saving drugs are not the same thing as adventures and vacations. While imposing a much higher cost might solve the problem in wealthy societies, it would compound the problem of access across vast parts of the emerging world. In many parts of Africa, the Indian subcontinent, and beyond, paying higher prices is not an option. To prevent the emergence of antimicrobial-resistant (AMR) bugs that could threaten the entire world, these societies need to be able to manage and prevent infectious diseases effectively and responsibly.

After leading the British government's independent Review on AMR in 2014-2016, I have continued to call for a large "market-entry reward" to encourage drug makers to pursue the development of new antibiotics. But this measure alone will not suffice. As the Everest problem shows, we also need policy initiatives to limit inappropriate usage, which will require more investment in diagnostics. With the right policies in place, pharmaceutical companies could charge higher prices for necessary new drugs, but those drugs would be administered only in cases deemed appropriate by improved diagnostic tools.

Come to think of it, perhaps the Nepalese authorities should introduce a diagnostic technique at their check-in sites, in order to test the preparedness of aspiring summiteers. Not only would that deter those who cannot judge for themselves; it would also save lives.

PERSPECTIVES PERSPECTIVES

Public Policy. Economics. Democratic Politics. Political/Economic Decentralization. Public Dishonesty. Dual Citizenship

RICE & COOKING OIL IMPORT CARTELS IN LIBERIAN POLITICS AND THE "SANI ABACHAS" OF LIBERIA: A REPRINT

With Bai M. Gbala, Sr. (June 17, 2019)

Introduction

President George Weah's recent, timely, call for dialogue on Revitalization of our Economy is, in fact, a reasonable call for implementation of the Decentralization & Local Governance Policy, indeed, an energized effort to attract Rural Liberia Dwellers, now crammed in over-populated urban areas, back to their home Counties through improved economic, educational, political and related national development.

This Article, revised and updated version of the Original published on April 18, 2018, is now reprinted in response to popular demand by the readers.

The Liberian People of Rural Liberia

Rural Liberia did not know or heard about *American, Bangladeshi, Chinese, Malaysian or Taiwanese Rice and Brazilian (Argo) Cooking Oil*, nor the *Liberian Import Rice Cartel*. This was not necessary, because Rural Liberians were, and are, farmers who produced all of their needs in food.

Historically, farming- *subsistence agriculture* - was the main and only economic activity. Land was held in common by the residents of the communities. Private land ownership was not permitted or allowed in order to make land available to all households.

Accordingly, Rural Liberia produced all of the nation's need in food - *rice, corn, cassava, yams, eddoes, potatoes, banana, plantain, palm & "julu" tree oil, wild meat, fish, poultry products, etc.*, until the District Commissioners, Revenue Agents and the Liberia Frontier Force (LFF) arrived from the seaside-Government in faraway-Monrovia.

They established powerful tribal chiefs, traditional rulers with the local military detachments, instruments through which socio-economic and political power was meticulously perfected and implemented. They imposed exactions - forced collections of rice, cattle, poultry, palm oil, palm wine and 4 (British) shillings per hut in real estate taxes from the towns and villages. Rural hut owners were "tabayed" (feet clamped and tied between split poles) and forced into hut tax payment by selling other personal properties.

Socio-Political Conditions

The systematic abuse of socio-political and economic power meted out against citizens of Rural Liberia included forced building of residences for district commissioners, revenue agents and barracks for local, military detachments.

Citizens were forcibly recruited from towns and villages and used as "porters" or carriers to transport "officials" in hammocks and luggage carried on heads from town to town or district to district without the right of free choice or compensation; forced and unpaid in building roads or "paths" with crude implements such as hoes, cutlasses, diggers, axes and shovels, and many other such practices to which citizens of Rural Liberia were subjected.

It is important to note that the "Emperor" (Liberian Imperial President) had been and is *naked all along*, the Ruler of a single political class and single political party-state, with "taxation without representation".

Moreover, thousands of able-bodied men, rural



Child on Rice Farm

citizens, were forcibly recruited from towns and villages and contracted to Spanish cocoa and coffee plantations owners on the Island of Fernando Po (now Equatorial Guinea in Southwest Africa) to work without their knowledge, consent and compensation under severe conditions of servitude, with all contractual considerations (fees) paid to the Liberian Government.

Flight of Citizens from Rural Liberia

The socio-economic and political indignities imposed by the *Liberian imperial Rulers* with economic hardship and the consciously-planned lack or absence of opportunities for education, economic well-being, personal growth and development in Rural Liberia motivated massive flight of able-bodied young and older men to Urban Liberia.

This Rural-to-Urban migration left the nation without adequate food production, especially, Rice and cooking Oil, the nation's staples and created the need for imports. But the seaside, urban coastal communities (counties) had, all along, imported some rice to augment their inadequate supply of local rice, *due to the absence of transport/communications.*

Thus, began the historic Rural-to-Urban Migrations, first, of economic migrants that culminated with the political migrants who fled from the brutalities and horrors of the recent, civil war, all to the City of Monrovia, then the only safe haven.

The massive migration from Rural Liberia resulted in inadequate production/supply of local rice and cooking oil and provided the opportunity for the Political imperial Rulers to enter into sweetheart contracts of the Rice Import Cartel with foreign-own firms for increase of rice imports, rather than take planning and development decision to organize and locate industrial enterprises in Liberia to produce rice, cooking oil and related tropical food products for local consumption and the export trade.

Former President Charles Taylor initiated the prevailing increase of import of foreign rice and former President Mrs. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf vigorously pursued, continued and expanded the Rice Import Cartel which, now, holds the nation hostage.

The former Presidents - Charles Taylor and Mrs. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf were, reportedly, paid "kickbacks" of US \$5 per bag of rice imported/sold.

According to the newspaper *Hotpepper (Hotpepper Liberia, February 5, 2018)*, Mrs. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf

is reported to be worth US \$2.5 billion, while former President Taylor's reported billions include hundreds of millions reportedly hidden from investigators buried in Liberia; and stolen millions, reportedly, from the Liberia Maritime Authority in collusion with LISCR, Liberia's Shipping Agency.

Some of these millions, reportedly, capitalized financing of the Lone Star MTN cellular telephone Company. Former President Taylor is reported to be the major shareholder with annual dividends paid while serving the 50-year sentence for war crimes. Indeed, some of Liberia's reported "richest men and women" are, in fact, rascals, con artists, bandits, thieves and murderers!!

According to the most recent GW Report, about US \$5 million were paid in bribes to officials of the Sirleaf Government, while some (the officials) admitted being paid US \$35 thousand each as *bonus* "for hard work" which netted the Government US \$50 million revenue. But the reported US \$50 million cannot be found. Gone, evaporated in thin air or in the private pockets of some government officials, because President Weah says that he met the GOL completely broke.

The Weah Administration

Now, the Weah political dispensation, hopeful redeemer of Liberia and its poor, unrepresented, hopeless and helpless poor, apparently, continues the tradition with commitment to cooperation with Mr. John Bestman, Chairman, and the Rice Import Cartel "to . . . do anything (such as import) . . . tax reduction in the effort to reduce the (market) price to 25kg and 50kg bag of imported rice", rather than take planning and development decision to organize and locate industrial entities in Liberia to produce rice and related tropical food products for local consumption and the export trade", as we suggested earlier.

Moreover, it has been proven that chemically-processed, imported rice lacks the required, naturally-healthy nutrients in naturally-produced Liberian rice but Liberia depends on imported rice, although the Liberian nation is endowed by nature with more naturally-fertilized land than people, at this point in time.

But this approach, intended to discontinue and avoid the infinite, excessive, dangerous dependence on imported RICE and the Import Cartel is ignored, because the political rulers are paid "US \$5 kick-back per bag of rice imported/sold". And so, finally, rampant and roaring corruption has produced, is producing, the "Sanni Abachas" in Liberia.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

UNDP on Electoral Reform in Liberia

The UNDP/Elections Project is supporting the National Elections Commission (NEC) rollout of series of regional sensitization campaigns and consultations leading to a reform of the current election laws of Liberia. Donors funding the

the Country beginning in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County. This will be followed by Gbarnga, Bong County on June 20, 2019. Two additional events are also scheduled to take place in Tubmanburg, Bomi County on June 24 and in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County

both national and international elections observers on the 2017 general and presidential elections and by extension, improve elections administration in keeping with international best practices. The regional events are aimed at promoting citizens' participation in the electoral reform process, create awareness on prepositions or proposed amendments intended for legislative actions etc.

A broad spectrum of over 350 stakeholders are targeted to form part of these exercises. They include representatives of civil society organizations, youth and women groups, local authorities, traditional leaders, physically challenged individuals, faith based institutions, students, teachers,

These activities will lead to the electoral reform consultations to be held in July this year.

It is expected that with the needed civic awareness and a review of the reform action plans, target groups will be more empowered to return to their respective constituents to build consensus on proposed amendments to be presented during the reform consultations. -Press release



elections project include the European Union, the Irish Aid, Canada and the Government of Sweden through its Embassy in Monrovia.

On 18 June 2019, NEC commenced the regional awareness campaigns across

on June 27.

This latest effort which is part of interventions under the 2019 Elections-Project work plan, is gear towards supporting the National Elections Commission address some key recommendations of

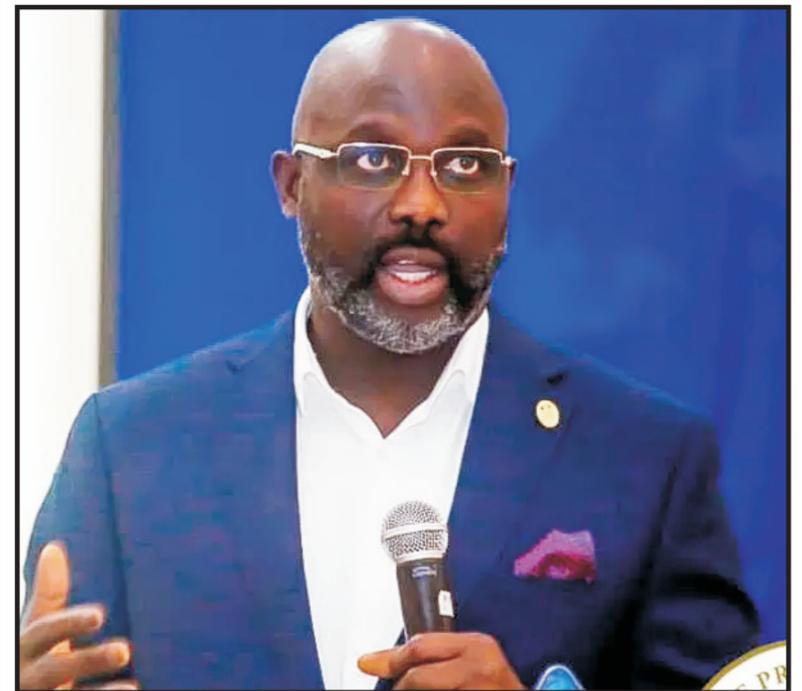
Weah extols US visiting medical team

President George Weah has praised a visiting American medical team for its hard work and relieving services targeting citizens, particularly underprivileged Liberians.

President Weah said he was elated that citizens and other residents in the country were benefiting from valuable

the John F. Kennedy Hospital in Monrovia. They were brought in by Mercy Health Services, a United States based medical organization founded by a Liberian, Madam Saiyai Hansen in collaboration with Operation International.

The medical practitioners were accompanied to the President's office by Liberia's



medical services being conducted by the team of US doctors.

President Weah made the commendation Tuesday, June 18, 2019, when the visiting doctors paid him a courtesy call at his Foreign Affairs office in Monrovia.

The 23-man U.S. Medical team is in Liberia performing a range of medical services at

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Dee-Maxwell SaahKemayah, Sr.

The visiting team, which is also expected to visit school campuses to treat needy people, included three Liberian medical doctors, Madam Saiyai Hansen, Patricia Anderson and Evelyn Jones.

Universities Students Association inducts new leadership in office

The installation and certification of officials of Universities Students Association, a campus-based student movement at the University of Liberia has been held at the UL main campus

executing their functions, while serving as role models for others to follow.

The SUP Chairman also calls on the newly elected leadership to work in line with the University Administration for

He encourages them to be patriotic and lead with moral in meeting the welfare of all students no matter the situation they may encounter. Chairman Edison urges the all universities student body to



on Capitol Hill. Keynote speaker and chairman of the UL Student Unification Party Carlos Tingban Edison admonishes elected officials of the U.S.A. to rise above fear in

good relationship and harmony to ensure a peaceful learning environment. He wants them to also partner with other universities across the country in a win-win situation for all scholars.

join hands in unity and solidarity with others to build a peaceful, successful student organization that would serve as light for other institutions of higher learning in the country. Edison points out that to lead

others is a poignant decision, and advises that there will come a time that fear, apprehension, intimidation and other emotions will set in and that's when true leadership is tested and graded, reminding officials-elect to at all times promote, defend and fully represent the interest of all universities students to tell yet that success story.

In his induction speech, president-elect KanuKanumba of the U.S.A says he is deeply gratified for the opportunity afforded him and his team to serve the student populace across Liberia.

He urges fellow students to do away with ethnicity and rather unite in pursuit of academic freedom, stressing that he does not see scholars from various campuses fighting for

college supremacy, but rather love, togetherness.

KanuKanumba expresses appreciation for the independent election commission that conducted the election with high level of transparency and fairness on 17 May 2019 that brought into office the present leadership.

The U.S.A. leadership includes KanuKanumba President, Solomon T. Garteah, Vice President for Administration, Calvin Sanvee, Vice President for Operations, Amos M. Bongali, General Secretary, and Princess Sayon, Treasurer, respectively. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Several foreign refugees accuse GoL, UNHCR

By Lewis S. Teh

Several refugees here from Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast, Togo, Mali, and Somalia claim the Government of Liberia and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees or UNHCR have abandoned them.

Addressing a news conference Tuesday, June 18, at the VOA Refugee Camp in Brewerville, Montserrado County, the mixed refugees explain the essence of their press statement is to draw the Liberian government, UNHCR, and other international partner's attention to their plights, which they describe as unfavorable living conditions.

"we want to extend our gratitude to the Government of Liberia for playing host to us; however it's no secret that many of us that came here have had little opportunities for expanding



our livelihoods. In our case, the UNHCR and the Government of Liberia are obligated to extend protection or assistance to us, consequently, UNHCR- Liberia is aloof and unconcern with

our welfare and their statistics do not provide a comprehensive picture about our appalling conditions and welfare", complains Mr. PujehMomoh, Assistant Secretary, Sierra Leone

refugees.

He says the agenda for protection represents the comprehensive framework for global refugee policy, noting, "We would like for the state, in collaboration with the UNHCR, and the Government of Liberia through the LRRRC to revisit the six main goals set out in the agenda, it is against this backdrop that we are calling on the UNHCR, and the government to help build refugees human capital so as to project self-reliance."

Momoh laments that as refugees, they are faced with realities that deny them from having a dignified life, and fulfillment of their capabilities. "We are faced with many problems as it relates to education, health, socio-economic, among others."

According to him, there were two durable solutions that were carried out which are local integration, and repatriation, leaving out a third group composed of those that opted for Refugee Status Determination or (RSD) in 2008.

He continues that in 2008, a decision was made by both the government through the

LRRRC, and the UNHCR where refugees were asked to choose an option suitable for themselves, explaining that while the two options were being dealt with, those wanting repatriation were repatriated, and those wanting to be integrated were also integrated.

Pujeh points out that even though those processes were not completed, a third group opted for RSD and they were interviewed after filling in forms, but they have been abandoned, and some are considered stateless as their refugee identities were taken away from them.

He says reason why they don't want to return or be integrated is because conditions back home are not favorable for them, noting the threat still exists.

According to him, many of them who are in the various communities, urban areas and camps left their respective countries to escape prosecution, armed conflict, including violence and restrictive policies, where they became critically dependent on humanitarian assistance that has since stopped. - *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Rights group suggests measures against sexual violence

By Winston W. Parley

Youth - led rights group Action for Justice and Human Rights (AjHR) is proposing series of measures that it thinks will help to stop the "cruel act" of sexual violence perpetrated predominately against children and women, ranging from tough legislations to robust judicial actions and community involvement.

At a press conference Tuesday, 18 June, AjHR Executive Director Satta Sheriff called on the Legislature and the Judiciary to join the fight, recommending that instead of amending the rape law, "we must work to improve

our judiciary system," expand the jurisdiction of the sexual offense court Criminal Court "E" and increase the number of judges it has.

"This cruel act of violence will only stop when practical steps are taken to ensure the survivors are supported and the perpetrators of abuse are brought to justice. The time to act is now!" she says.

AjHR expresses deep concern about the increase in sexual violence cases in Liberia, adding that it believes that the Judiciary and Legislature play a critical role in the fight against sexual violence here.

However Miss Sheriff voices observation that the over crowdedness of the docket of

Criminal Court "E" is one of the major reasons for delay in access to justice for survivors.

Further, she says many survivors have never accessed justice due to financial constraints, lack of due diligence and political will coupled with low implementation of the Rape Law.

"We encourage parents, community leaders, CSOs, religious groups and everyone to join the fight against sexual violence. Rape is everybody business," she continues.

According to Miss Sheriff, AjHR remains committed to advocating and ensuring the protection of every human rights and to the fight against sexual violence in Liberia.

She alarms that almost 90% of rape victims are children.

"It is disheartening to note that 803 Sexual Gender-Based Violence cases were reported from a single quarter (January to March 2019)," she explains.

In that report, Miss Sheriff notes that rape alone constituted 513 cases, but only 216 perpetrators were arrested while over 578 perpetrators still allegedly remain on the run.

"The saddest fact is that, out of the 803 SGBV cases, 605 were cases of children under 17 years. This is unacceptable and beyond pathetic," she adds.

As an institution, Miss Sheriff says AjHR demands justice for every victim/survivor affected by the harsh reality of the sexual

Weah extols US

Cont'd from page 6

"I want to thank the team for coming this far to help the people of Liberia. This is totally welcoming," the President said.

He praised the Liberian members of the team who mobilized their professional colleagues to come back home to conduct critical medical operations for fellow Liberians.

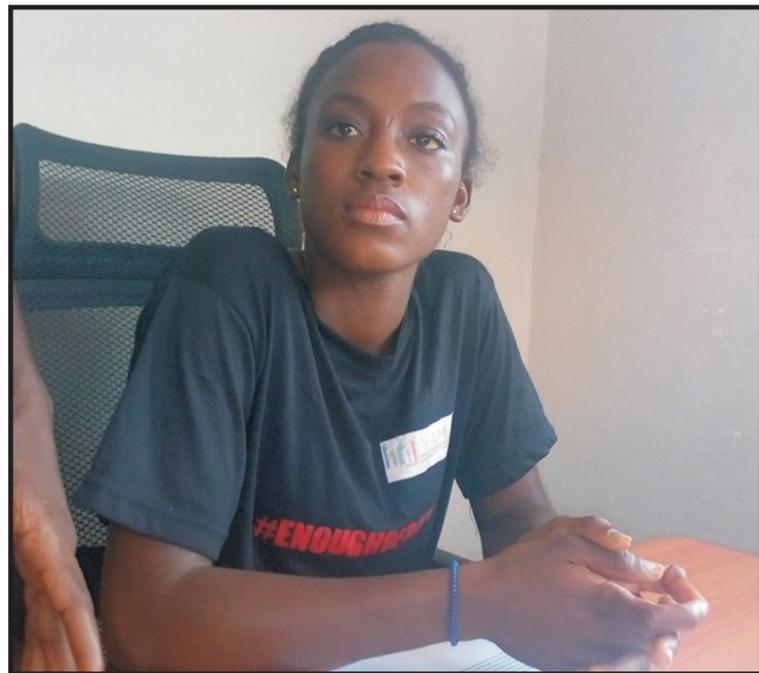
The Liberian leader noted that the visit of the medical doctors to Liberia was timely and appropriate particularly when Government has been searching for true partnerships in the health sector.

President Weah pledged Government's commitment to partner with the visiting team

to provide much-need medical services in the country calling them "special people".

He emphasized the need for the involvement of relevant government agencies and ministries and the office of Liberia's First Lady to move on with plans to expand critical medical services to Liberians.

In brief remarks, Ambassador Kemayah who organized the coming of the team Liberia commended the President of granting the doctors audience. He promised to work with other partners to provide needed assistance to the people of Liberia. - *Press release*



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violence situation in Liberia.

She announces AjHR's commitment in standing stand with the parents of the late Odell Sherman to demand full medical autopsy on the remains of the victim.

Further, she says AjHR stands with the late Yatta Kamara who was allegedly raped to death, calling for full

investigation into Yatta's death.

"We stand with the 15 and 13 years old that were gang raped to death, the 5 years, 3 years, and 2 years old girls, including the 6 other males reported in Ministry of Gender SGBV report and all those who were sexually abused," she stresses.

Français

Le procès des officiels de la CBL suspendu

Les procureurs ont bénéficié d'une suspension du procès de cinq responsables de la Banque centrale du Libéria (CBL) pour une semaine, suite à leur plaidoyer devant la Cour pénale «C» le lundi 17 juin selon lequel les principaux témoins du ministère public étaient absents.

Le fils de la Présidente Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf, Charles E. Sirleaf, sous-gouverneur de CBL, Milton A. Weeks, DorborHagba, DorborHagba et Joseph Dennis sont poursuivis devant la Cour au Temple de la Justice à Monrovia pour plusieurs chefs d'accusation dont sabotage économique, facilitation criminelle et sollicitations pénales.

Les responsables mis en accusation sont tenus de rendre des comptes des milliards de dollars libériens excédentaires prétendument imprimés et importés dans le



George S. Mulbah, Sr.



Edward Karfiah



Tokpah J. Mulbah



Dr. John S. Flomo



Melvin Cole



Kenneth Yao Awadjie



pays dans le cadre de l'opération qui consistait à remplacer les billets de banque locaux mutilés à l'approche de la fin du mandat de l'ancienne Présidente Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf.

Le scandale financier de la CBL se serait étendu sur la nouvelle administration du président George Manneh Weah. Une manifestation baptisée «Ramenez notre argent» avait été organisée en

2018 pour demander aux autorités de rendre compte des 16 milliards de dollars libériens imprimés par la société Crane Currency et expédiés au Libéria.

La défense a qualifié lundi d'ambiguë la demande de la suspension du procès pour une semaine par l'accusation car, selon elle, la requête n'a pas indiqué le nom des témoins importants qui sont hors du pays. «Les avocats affirment que Baba M. Boakai, Mark N. Kollie, Isaac C. Davies, Emmanuel Tarlu, Amos Goba, Marshall Dennis et l'honorable Alex Tyler sont tous à l'intérieur de la République du

Libéria. Ils disent aussi que J. Alex Tyler et Mark Kollie étaient présents au tribunal ce matin», a déclaré la défense.

M. Tyler, l'ancien président de la Chambre des représentants, est parmi les nombreux responsables inculpés dans l'affaire Sable Mining, une autre affaire de sabotage économique très médiatisée qui est actuellement devant le tribunal pénal «C» du Temple de la justice.

La défense a également soulevé des questions sur le droit de leurs clients à un procès rapide, garanti à la fois par la Constitution du Libéria et par le code pénal.

En outre, la défense a demandé au juge Peter W. Gbeneweled'ignorer la requête de l'accusation parce que la lettre contenant la requête n'a pas été adressée à qui de droit. La lettre aurait été adressée au greffier du tribunal et non au juge.

En réponse, le juge Gbeneweled'a fait valoir que certes les avocats de la défense veulent que leurs clients aient droit à un procès rapide, comme le prévoit l'article 21 h) de la Constitution de 1986, mais vu qu'il s'agit de la première demande de la part de l'accusation, il va falloir qu'il accède à cette demande.

Le procès a donc été suspendu et doit reprendre le lundi 24 juin à 9 heures

Plusieurs fonctionnaires inculpés !

Plusieurs anciens et actuels responsables du gouvernement des régimes d'Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf et de George Weah ont été inculpés par le 9^{ème} tribunal itinéraire du comté de Bong de plusieurs chefs d'accusation, allant du vol de biens à la fraude et à la conspiration criminelle.

Parmi les accusés figurent l'ancien représentant du district 3 du comté de Bong, George S. Mulbah, l'ex-représentant Tokpah J. Mulbah du district 1, le représentant Edward W. Kiafiah du district 5, le

représentant du comté de Bong, Melvin Cole du District 3 et John Flomo, président du Collège technique du comté de Bong.

Les individus ont été inculpés de cinq chefs d'accusation, dont violation de la loi sur la Commission des marchés publics (PPCC), vol de biens, fraude sur le revenu interne du Libéria, complot criminel et facilitation de la procédure pénale dans le cadre de la construction du collège communautaire de Dolokelen Gboveh, maintenant Bong County Technical College

(BCTC), dont plus de 4 millions US semblent avoir été dilapidés.

Selon l'acte d'accusation du 5 juin 2019, les grands jurés du comté de Bong ont estimé qu'il était plus probable que les accusés ont enfreint l'article 31 de la loi sur les concessions et marchés publics amendée.

M. George Mulbah, alors représentant du district 3, était président par intérim du comité de développement du comté de Bong pour la construction du Gboveh College, tandis que M. Tokpah Mulbah, représentant du district 1 et membre du comité d'évaluation des candidatures pour la construction, Rennie B. Jackson, alors surintendant du comté de Bong, était membre du comité de candidature pour la construction et Thomas K. Cisco, spécialiste de projet, membre du comité de candidature du ministère des Affaires intérieures.

L'acte d'accusation indique qu'au cours de l'exercice 2009/2010, les citoyens du comté de Bong ont accepté de construire un bâtiment administratif et universitaire sur deux étages, deux dortoirs, un gymnase, une cafétéria, un terrain de football, un réservoir et un groupe électrogène pour accueillir le collège communautaire de Dolokelen Gboveh, maintenant le collège technique de Bong, dans la ville de Gbarnga à un coût de 4 394 776,97 \$ US.

15 pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest espèrent toujours une monnaie unique en 2020

Les ministres des Finances et gouverneurs de banques centrales des pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest, réunis à Abidjan les 17 et 18 juin, maintiennent le cap. Ils souhaitent l'instauration en 2020 d'une monnaie unique, appelée à remplacer le franc CFA, conformément aux objectifs de la Cédéao.

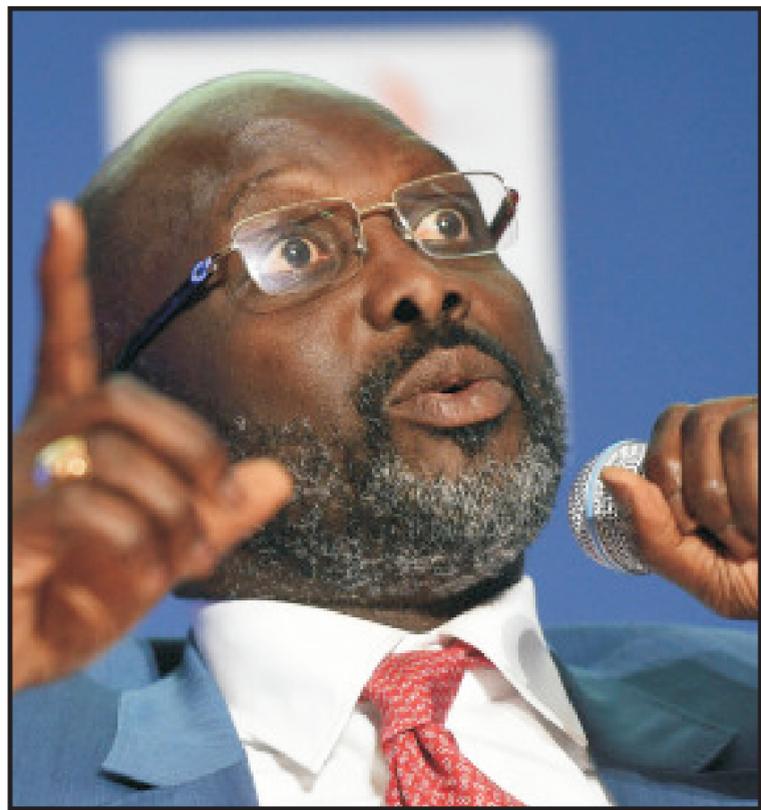
Les responsables économiques de 15 pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest veulent commencer le déploiement de la future monnaie unique en 2020. Le projet date de 1983 et son lancement a été plusieurs fois reporté, mais les concernés maintiennent le cap.

Ils sont réunis ce lundi et mardi à Abidjan pour examiner le rapport du comité d'expert, notamment « ses propositions et recommandations » sur les noms et symboles de la future

monnaie, sur le régime de change ou le modèle de banque centrale, rapporte Jean-Claude Brou, président de la commission de la Cédéao. Ils rendront leur propre rapport ce mardi.

Comme l'explique Adama Koné, ministre ivoirien de l'Économie et des Finances, il reste des défis à surmonter.

« La monnaie unique que nous envisageons n'est plus, à présent, une utopie technocratique. [...] Nous devons œuvrer, dans notre espace communautaire, à lever toutes les barrières intérieures et les obstacles réglementaires à la libre circulation des biens, des capitaux, des services et des personnes. [...] L'échéance de l'année 2020 [...] c'est maintenant. », Adama Koné, ministre ivoirien de l'Économie et des Finances



Français

Mali : la situation à Kidal au centre d'une réunion de haut niveau du CSA

La troisième réunion de « haut niveau » du Comité de suivi de l'accord d'Alger (CSA) s'est tenue au Mali. Elle a rassemblé le ministre algérien des Affaires étrangères Sabri Boukadoum, dont le pays est le chef de file de la médiation internationale, les représentants de pays voisins, des groupes armés et le chef de la Minusma. Les discussions ont tourné autour de l'accord signé en 2015, notamment sur la ville de Kidal, toujours aux mains des ex-rebelles.

Alors que le renouvellement du mandat de la mission de l'ONU au Mali (Minusma) est en discussion à New York, les acteurs sur le terrain ainsi que les médiateurs officiels de la crise malienne se sont montrés studieux à cette rencontre de haut niveau. « L'ambiance était vraiment franche, estime Mahamat Saleh Annadif, chef de la Minusma. J'ai constaté que tout le monde est conscient de l'enjeu. »

Des symboles, des gestes forts pour aller enfin de

l'avant dans l'application de l'accord. Il y a eu notamment une demande claire et nette de la partie malienne et acceptée par l'ex-rébellion que, sans aucune ambiguïté, le drapeau malien flotte, comme l'exige l'accord de paix, dans le ciel de Kidal, localité toujours sur contrôle des ex-rebelles.

Le chef de la mission de l'ONU au Mali s'en réjouit : « Pour la première fois, j'ai assisté à un CSA qui a abordé cette question sans tabou. Rien ne s'oppose à ce que le drapeau malien puisse flotter à Kidal comme partout ailleurs. »

De son côté, l'ex-rébellion a réclamé le retour sur place des services de l'administration et de l'armée reconstituée. Et au moment où circule sous le manteau une liste de personnes susceptibles d'être sanctionnées par l'ONU car constituant un frein à l'application de l'accord de paix, les participants à la rencontre ont élaboré un projet de révision de la feuille de route.

Weah fait de nouvelles promesses

Les habitants du quartier de Old Road auront un marché ultramoderne dans 31 jours, c'est en tout cas la promesse qu'a faite lundi le président George Manneh Weah aux marchands de cette localité.

Selon un communiqué de la présidence,

le quartier de Old Road se verra doter d'un marché moderne conformément à une promesse du président de la république.

Le communiqué de presse indique que Dupont Road Community est l'une des rares communautés à avoir déjà bénéficié d'un marché de ce genre.

Le président Weah, entouré de plusieurs dizaines de commerçants et d'autres habitants,

a affirmé que la maquette de la nouvelle structure est déjà disponible et que les travaux de construction vont bientôt commencer.

Il a fait cette révélation lundi lorsqu'il a visité le déplorable marché d'Old-Road Community construit il ya plusieurs années.

L'Agence libérienne pour l'autonomisation des communautés (LACE) devrait superviser la construction du nouveau marché de Old Road.

Après la tournée de Old-Road Community, le président Weah s'est rendu dans le bidonville de West Point où il a évalué la situation de l'érosion qui menace des milliers d'habitants et des commerçants.

Au fil des ans, une partie importante du territoire de West Point a été rongée par la terrible érosion marine, faisant des centaines de déplacés et sans abris.

L'exécutif a déclaré que le gouvernement du président Weah a fait des efforts pour sauver

les communautés touchées par l'érosion dans le cadre de son «projet de défense du littoral».

L'une des initiatives de défense costale a pratiquement sauvé l'un des plus importants centres universitaires et médicaux du pays, l'école secondaire D. Twe et l'hôpital Redemption.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Leon Willems

Justice pour les journalistes

AMSTERDAM - Voilà plus de huit mois que Jamal Khashoggi, un éminent journaliste saoudien et critique du gouvernement de son pays natal qui vivait en exil, a été torturé, tué et démembré, dans les murs du consulat d'Arabie saoudite à Istanbul. Tandis que les Saoudiens se sont mis en quatre pour cacher la vérité sur le sort de Khashoggi, la Turquie a lancé une enquête. Comme prévu, elle n'a rien donné de nouveau.

La Turquie n'a rien d'un défenseur crédible de la liberté de la presse : en 2018, plus de 80 journalistes dans le pays ont été sanctionnés par de longues peines de prison ou par des amendes à cause de leur travail. Mais même si l'indignation du gouvernement turc sur le meurtre de Khashoggi a été exagérée à des fins diplomatiques, le système judiciaire de la Turquie s'est conformé à ses obligations internationales d'enquêter.

L'Arabie saoudite, par contre, méprise totalement ses obligations sur ce plan-là. Sous la pression internationale, le Royaume a organisé des audiences pour 11 suspects. Mais selon Agnès Callamard - Rapporteur spécial des Nations Unies sur les exécutions extrajudiciaires, sommaires ou arbitraires - ces audiences secrètes à huis clos sont plus destinées à sauver la face qu'à servir la justice.

« Nous ne savons pas qui sont les prévenus, ni lesquels parmi eux encourent des condamnations à mort, ni quelles sont les accusations, a remarqué Callamard lors d'une récente conférence à Berlin. Les gouvernements occidentaux, a-t-elle poursuivi, ne doivent pas approuver un procès qui fait fi de toutes les normes internationales. »

En acceptant les résultats d'une procédure pénale dépourvue de transparence et de régularité de la procédure, la communauté internationale ne rendrait pas service à Khashoggi et nuirait gravement à l'effort plus général visant à mettre fin à l'impunité pour les crimes contre les journalistes. Malheureusement, il existe un précédent pour ce résultat précis.

En 1982, à l'apogée de la guerre civile du Salvador, le Colonel Mario Reyes Mena a ordonné à son armée de tendre une embuscade à l'extérieur de la ville d'El Paraíso. Quatre journalistes travaillant pour la chaîne néerlandaise de médias IKON, qui étaient dans le pays pour faire un reportage sur la guerre, sont directement tombés dans le piège et ont été bel et bien exécutés.

Au milieu de l'indignation mondiale qui s'ensuivit, le gouvernement du Salvador a tenté de cacher la vérité, en affirmant que les journalistes avaient été accidentellement pris dans des feux croisés entre l'armée et les rebelles. Le gouvernement des États-Unis, qui avait formé, informé et équipé l'armée salvadorienne, a soutenu cette explication dans ses déclarations publiques, ce qui a poussé des manifestants indignés à déferler sur le Consulat général des États-Unis à Amsterdam.

Mais les collègues des victimes n'ont pas abandonné : leur recherche a indiqué que les quatre journalistes avaient en fait été délibérément pris pour cible. Près d'une décennie plus tard, en 1993, la Commission de la vérité des Nations Unies, chargée d'enquêter sur la guerre civile salvadorienne a confirmé ce point de vue. Malgré cela, Reyes Mena, âgé aujourd'hui de 79 ans, coule une vie paisible dans une banlieue de Washington.

Tout d'abord, cette impunité s'explique par une loi d'amnistie de 1993 protégeant l'armée, les groupes paramilitaires et les guérilleros contre les poursuites pour violations des droits de l'homme commises pendant la guerre. Mais la Cour suprême a annulé cette loi en 2016, en la déclarant anticonstitutionnelle.

À présent, un procureur salvadorien dépourvu de moyens et de personnel, saisi d'une plainte au pénal déposée par les avocats de l'un des frères des journalistes assassinés, constitue des accusations criminelles à l'encontre de Reyes Mena, ainsi que de Francisco Antonio Moran, l'ancien chef de la police secrète du Salvador. Mais il n'est pas du tout certain que la justice sera rendue, notamment en raison d'une culture de l'impunité pour les crimes contre les journalistes.

Cette culture s'affiche en toute impunité en Arabie Saoudite, pas seulement à propos du meurtre de Khashoggi. Des dizaines de journalistes sont emprisonnés en Arabie saoudite. L'un d'eux, Turki ben Abdulaziz Al-Jasser, aurait été torturé à mort l'année dernière. L'Arabie saoudite ne fait face à aucune sanction diplomatique pour un comportement de ce genre.

Mais l'impunité pour les auteurs de crimes contre les journalistes n'est pas une fatalité. L'année dernière en Slovaquie, le journaliste de 27 ans Ján Kuciak, qui enquêtait sur des allégations de corruption politique liées au crime organisé, ainsi que sa fiancée Martina Kušnírová, ont été abattus. Après les meurtres, des gens ont manifesté dans les rues pour exiger que les autorités poursuivent les responsables.

La pression de l'opinion publique, ainsi que les exigences de l'Union européenne en matière de régularité de la procédure, ont eu un effet considérable : le Premier ministre a démissionné, le Procureur général a été remplacé et une enquête a été lancée. En mars, l'homme d'affaires Marián Kocner a été accusé d'avoir commandité les assassinats.

Même au Salvador, il y a à présent un espoir que la justice sera rendue. Grâce au travail des avocats et des militants des droits de l'homme, à la résolution des membres des familles des victimes et d'anciens collègues, et de la pression exercée par le gouvernement des Pays-Bas, le Ministère public se prépare à recevoir les déclarations de la famille des journalistes décédés d'IKON.

Afin de soutenir de efforts de ce genre en vue d'obtenir justice pour les crimes graves avec violence contre les journalistes, Free Press Unlimited, le Comité pour la protection des journalistes et Reporters sans frontières ont créé « A Safe World for the Truth » (Un monde sûr pour la vérité). Les enquêtes sur ces crimes - réalisées par une équipe de journalistes, d'experts judiciaires et juridiques et de chercheurs sur les données publiques - sera au cœur du projet.

Pour encourager la pression de l'opinion publique à l'image de celle constatée en Slovaquie, les enquêteurs vont publier leurs résultats dans des documentaires et sur les médias sociaux et vont les faire parvenir aux autorités compétentes. Si cela n'encourage pas des actions crédibles pour traduire en justice les contrevenants, nous créerons alors un organisme international afin d'intenter des actions en justice de manière transparente et ouverte devant un Tribunal populaire des crimes contre les journalistes.

Les journalistes du monde entier risquent leur vie chaque jour pour faire la lumière sur ce que les gens au pouvoir veulent garder secret. Ceux qui paient le prix ultime - comme Khashoggi, Daphne Caruana Galizia à Malte et Pavel Sheremet en Biélorussie - ont droit à la justice, non seulement dans leur propre intérêt, mais pour le bien des journalistes qui sont encore ici, qui travaillent pour révéler à leurs lecteurs, à leurs auditeurs et à leurs téléspectateurs le monde tel qu'il est vraiment.

PERSPECTIVES PERSPECTIVES

Public Policy. Economics. Democratic Politics. Political/Economic Decentralization. Public Dishonesty. Dual Citizenship

JUNE 7, 2019 "SAVE THE STATE" SAGA

PRESIDENT'S ROUND-TABLE DIALOGUE "TO SAVE THE STATE": REFLECTIONS OF A CONSTITUENT,
STUDENT OF PUBLIC POLICY & SENIOR CITIZEN-ELDER

Cont'd from last edition

With Bai M. Gbala, Sr. (June 14, 2019)

- b) Consequently, the Liberian people are up in arms, including, almost, all political parties and calling for the arrest and dismissal of the Minister of state for Finance & Development Planning, Hon. Samuel D. Tweah. The Politicians threaten a national protest demonstration.
- c) The MF&DP and LRA are over-staffed, over-paid and dominated by dual citizens who do not live in Liberia, with families living, permanently, in the foreign countries. They travel periodically to these countries in which they maintain fabulous bank accounts with money "earned" in Liberia, transferred regularly out of Liberia. They are paid 6-figured salaries and salary/wage allowances for housing, portable electricity generators and service, top-of-the-line, late model automobiles, local travel expense, telephone scratch cards, reported insurance coverage, newspaper allowance, etc., *although they plan and develop nothing*
- d) The MF&DP is known widely to retain and pay itself huge sums from social, economic funds allocations for the counties; pay out huge sums to non-existent "educational" institutions; and huge sums as business/development loans to politically-connected, ineligible entities. The "Loans" have, now, become uncollectible.



encourage export trade to reduce Liberia's balance of trade deficit; and improve Liberia's terms of trade; pay keen attention to and improve investment incentives and regulatory activities to attract direct foreign investment; and many others.

We sent a copy of our Paper to the Central Bank of Liberia. A response from the CBL Analyst, a Mr. Nathaniel R. Patray, III, dismissed the Paper as "Academic Exercise". That Analyst is the Executive Governor of the CBL today and faces the same problems of some 18 years ago.

Observations

Not only that past turbulent, deadly facts of history of Liberian Government and Governance are clear, comprehensive and validated records by many world-class historians and novelists that need no repetitive citation here but the most recent past 25-30 years of the Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf-sponsored civil war of destruction, population displacement as refugees, human suffering and death of quarter of a million Liberians, and the unprecedented high level of graft/greed or corruption that question the integrity, credibility and transparency of the proposed pro-Poor Agenda.

Former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf Regime

Billed as "democratically-elected, first female head-of State on the African Continent, but her Government secured political power by the most undemocratic methods - the overthrow, by force of arms, of a legitimate government and the gruesome live-torture and murder of the President by insurgents sponsored and led by the Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf's Association for Constitutional Democracy in Liberia (ACDL).

Conclusion

During the period of the past few days leading to the day and date planed for presentation of the Petition, the Liberian Government had been engaged in threats of arrest, detention and prosecution of citizens with plans or suspected to take part in the assembly for presentation of the Petition, an attempt to muscle and prevent the presentation the grievances. The internet and related social media outlets were closed by government.

The committed/dedicated, un-armed peaceful citizens, brave with the political will and characteristic African "guts", though faced with threats of modern weapons of mass destruction, converged, peacefully, upon the Capitol Building to present their Petition of grievances, as agreed on June 7, 2019.

But the expectations of the peaceful petitioners met great disappointment, because the Liberian Government failed to appear as agreed; and that the President of Liberia's designated Representative, the Vice President of Liberia, the elected official of government, to receive the Petition of grievances on behalf of government, failed and refused to appear, *did not show up.* Regarding President's Call Roundtable Dialogue

Review of the President's invitation for dialogue to revive the nation's Economy raises several troubling, unanswered questions, in the light of Government activities. For example, the President's invitation proceeds from a false premise that "our democracy has been tried, tested and has proven to be mature, resilient and strong".

This approach is a game of Circular Decisions in which there are no final decisive solutions found and made. After the widely-publicized and well-attended meeting of widely-discussed national issue, a Presidential Commission, Special Task Force, Team, or Committee is appointed behind closed doors, consisting, mainly, of corrupt and unqualified confidants of the Presidents and that is the end. The appointed members begin engagement in maneuvers to enrich themselves by stealing, and stealing of public resources. For, the President Weah, himself had said, recently, that "if you work for government but own no home, bicycle, etc., then you are stupid". The implication is obvious! The IMF, the International Monetary Fund just told His Excellency, George Weah that government Payroll costs are too high and must be slashed. *Indeed, this is where its at!!*

About ECOWAS, AU, UN Officials

A word about the recent wave of ECOWAS, African Union and the UN officials in Liberia. Some of these Diplomatic Honorable(s) hiding behind "doctor this and doctor that" are corrupt, thieves and liars looking for a fast, US greenback in collusion with Liberian corrupt officials. Examples are ECOMOG, ECOWAS and UN Peace Keepers who stole Liberia blind!!

Just talk to the Honorable Thabo Mbeke, Former President of South Africa and the Honorable Former President of The Gambia about the Human suffering, Destruction and Death in La Cote d'Ivoire during the presidential elections that brought Allasane Ouattara in power.

Lastly, there is No Doubt

That the Current President and his appointed officials of Government are aware, we are more than sure, that the days of a Single Political Party-State and Political Tyranny dominated by a very few, lawless single social, cultural class are long-gone, particularly, when former President Taylor and his ACDL-sponsored insurgent-regime of "Jungle Justice" was driven into exile by organized Pro-Democracy Fighters in support of the legitimate government. Apparently, the vigilant watchful eyes of these Pro-Democracy Fighters organized in the tradition of the Partisans who aided the Allies against Nazi Germany during WW2, helped to create the Ghana Peace Pact, bring about the now-famous Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and kept the Civil warmongers-rulers in check.

Among the peaceful petitioners, the multitude of citizens who converged upon the Capitol Building on June 7, 2019 were some of the Pro-Democracy Fighters, *let us not forget!!*

The Honorable Nathaniel R. Patray, III, is Executive Governor of the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL). He was appointed Vice Chairman of the Technical Economic Management Team (TEMT) for cooperation/coordination with the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning for implementation of the Mop-Up exercise:

- a) According investigation and reports by national/international agencies, TEMT was found guilty of unsuitable management practices in the use of US \$25 million in implementation of the Mop-Up exercise. Therefore, Liberian political parties threaten national protest demonstrations with demand, also, for the arrest and dismissal of Honorable Nathaniel Patray, III. Together, Central Bank of Liberia and the Ministry of Finance, have legal responsibility for Fiscal/Monetary Affairs of Liberia. In other words, the prevailing Fiscal/Monetary, macroeconomic paralysis is, and must be, laid at the feet of the CBL and Ministry of Finance. Both the MF&DP and CBL were found guilty of avoiding organized commercial banks and licensed foreign-exchange traders or not using accepted/acceptable "best practices" to achieve best results. It is very important, indeed mandatory, that we note that the conditions of 18-20 years ago continue and repeated/prevaling today.

In our reaction to the printing of the huge, but undisclosed quantity of Liberian "Liberty" Banknotes, placing them in circulation and the withdrawal of highly-mutilated "JJ" banknotes some 18 years ago we wrote an article, "Now That We Printed New Liberian Banknotes, dated June 2001, from the "comfort" of former President Taylor's Monrovia Central Prison (Political Cell Block #1) on macroeconomic analysis with emphasis on:

Liberia's foreign exchange rate regime; circulation of another country's national currency in tandem with one's own, the negative economic impact; arbitrary equivalence of foreign exchange rates based not on the interaction of market forces of supply/demand; basic economic reasons for depreciation of foreign exchange rates; the absence in Liberia of planned, developed industries for production of goods & services for local consumption to discourage Liberia's dangerous, excessive dependence on imports and

Rep. Yekeh Kolubah indicted

By Winston W. Parley

President George Manneh Weah's staunch critic Montserrado Representative Yekeh Kolubah has been indicted by prosecutors over claims that he ordered his bodyguards to beat and wound one Emmanuel Sherman who allegedly rejected T-shirts and leaflets printed for the June 7 Save the State peaceful protest.

Prosecutors claim in the indictment that the bodyguards acted on Rep. Kolubah's order, but they have ignored public pressure to equally charge and indict ruling party Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) Rep. Acarus Gray in whose presence his aide allegedly brutalized a businessman for arguing with the lawmaker (Rep. Gray).

Out of 20 students and supporters of Rep. Kolubah that were arrested in the



week leading to the June 7 peaceful protest, five persons along with the lawmaker have been indicted for alleged aggravated assault, criminal attempt to commit murder,

kidnapping and criminal facilitation/solicitation.

Rep. Kolubah is indicted along with defendant Oliver C. Konneh, Abu Keita, Mohammed S. Keita, Johnson Kpor and

Mohammed A. Kaba.

Rep. Kolubah's lawyer Cllr. Lavala Supuwood told an interview Tuesday afternoon, 18 June that the lawmaker had not yet been served the indictment during the time of the interview.

In regards to when Rep. Kolubah will receive his indictment, Cllr. Supuwood says he is sure the Legislature and the Judiciary will work out the issues of protocol, but he cannot speculate about that now.

Rep. Kolubah is a vocal critic of President Weah and the administration, and he is one of the key planners of the June 7 Save the State protest led by the Council of Patriots (COP) to demand reforms in government.

However the legal team representing Rep. Kolubah and the rest of the five indicted persons were at the Criminal Court "A" working to settle the release of the inditees by tendering property bond and also availing human surety on the Court's demand.

"No we expect them to be with us," Cllr. Supuwood says in the interview, adding that "in the absence of any objection so far, uh, bond is valid."

According to the defense team, the property bond filed is valued US\$35,000.

The indictment says defendants Oliver Konneh, Abu Keita, Mohammed Keita, Johnson Skpor illegally arrested Emmanuel Freeman in Gay Town, Old Road Community on 5 June at 4:30, stripped him naked, handcuffed him and severely beat him with sticks, rocks and piece of iron on his head and other parts of the victim's body.

Prosecution claims in the indictment that the accused took the victim into the yard of Rep. Kolubah and began to inflict serious bodily injuries on the victim.

In the process, the indictment claims that Rep. Kolubah came out of this house "with a pistol" in his hand and allegedly remarked: "This is the man, we'll zero him tonight."

The indictment alleges that the Rep. Kolubah's statement motivated the Oliver and the rest of the accused to further beat Emmanuel Freeman mercilessly with sticks and a piece of iron in plain view of the lawmaker and under his alleged instruction.

NEC reschedules By-elections

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

The National Elections Commission announces with immediate effect an adjustment in the date of the Montserrado County Senatorial by-election and the Representative by-election in Montserrado Electoral District#15 from 02 July to 08 July 2019.

Addressing a news conference Tuesday, 18 June at the NEC headquarters in

Liberian Legislature.

He notes that in consonance with the timeline released for the conduct of the by-elections, the NEC informed the public that contingent upon prevailing circumstance, the calendar could be subject to adjustment.

"In that regard, the commission wishes to announce that the constitutionally mandated timeline of 90 days remain on course", Chairman Korkoya

provision of pre-packed electoral materials that must be used by poll workers for the successful conduct of the polls.

"I am very pleased to note that the selected vendor has committed to the government and NEC to deliver the pre-packed materials on or before June 30. The National Elections Commission also secured the commitment of the vendor for the printing of the ballot papers to have the ballots delivered within the same deadline," he further explains.

Commenting on government's support to the electoral process, Chairman Korkoya says the NEC submitted a joint budget of US\$2.5million to the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning for both by-elections.

He details that in response to the request, government has deposited US\$900,000 plus LRD 114,000,000 or an equivalent of US\$600,000 at the conversion rate of LRD194 for One United States dollar, thus, totaling US\$1,500,000, into the accounts of the National Elections Commission.

Meanwhile, the Commission further announces that the process of recruitment and screening of over 10,000 temporary electoral staffs, assessment of 488 precincts and over 1,000 polling stations has begun, while civic, voter's education and gender awareness campaign are ongoing.

The two by-elections are caused by the death in February of late Montserrado County Sen. Geraldine Doe-Sherif in Ghana, following a



Sinkor, Monrovia, Chairman Jerome George Korkoya says the by-elections will now be conducted on Monday, 08, July 2019 instead of July 02 as earlier announced by the Commission.

Chairman Korkoya says the new date is still within the constitutionally mandated 90-day timeframe within which by-elections must be conducted to fill vacancies created in either house of the

assures.

However, he points out that there might be some technical adjustments within the timeline to account for development beyond the National Elections Commission's control.

The Commission discloses that one such development is availability of pre-packed materials, adding that a key component for the conduct of the by-elections is timely

Margibians hail Bishop

Starts from back page

and resigned after 11 years as Assistant Manager of the Cargo Department of the Roberts International Airport.

As a native of Margibi, Bishop Klayee was born and raised in Smell No Taste, now Unification City.

Over the last three months, Bishop Klayee has earmarked

plans to open the new terminal and office complex at RIA as part of the airport modernization project.

Revitalization of rural airstrips by making them commercially viable has also been under consideration.--

Press release

Weah makes new

Government Representative, which includes Ministries of Justice, Finance, Mines and Energy, Former Speaker J. Alex Tyler and Rev. Joseph G. Johnson as members.

Additionally at the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) President Weah has appointed Timothy Thomas, James B. Dennis and Richard A. Dolley as members of the board of governors; while Nyemadi D. Pearson is appointed as CBL Acting Deputy Governor for

Operations and Dr. Musa Dukuly as Acting Deputy Governor for Economic Affairs.

Other appointments affecting the Ministry of Foreign Affairs include Blamo Nelson, Ambassador to Japan, Henry Fahnbulleh, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Wannie Diggs, Deputy Minister for Administration.

At the National Aids Commission, Lewis Wright is appointed as Commissioner.-- Press release

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protracted illness and the death of District #15 Rep. Adolph Lawrence in a car crash in March. -Editing by

Jonathan Browne

Weah makes new appointments



President George Manneh Weah on Tuesday, June 18, 2019 made several appointments and nominations in Government.

According to an Executive Mansion release, the nominations affecting the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Central Bank of Liberia, Roberts International Airport,

National Housing Authority and other commissions and agencies are subject to confirmation by the Liberian Senate where applicable.

Those appointed include Madam Cecelia Cuffy, Managing Director, National Housing Authority (NHA) and Tonia D. Johnson, Deputy Managing Director for Administration, NHA.

At the Roberts International Airport (RIA), President Weah has appointed Madam Musu Shannon as chairman of the board and Bishop J. Allen Klaylee, Managing Director.

Madam Diana Nebo has been appointed Deputy Managing Director for Administration at the National Port of Authority (NPA) while Mr. Lorenzo Pelham goes as Deputy Director General for Operations at the Liberia Drugs Enforcement Agency (LDEA).

Mr Maxwell Grigsby is appointed as chairman at the National Commission on Small Arms; Mr. Anderson Slobor Chea, Deputy Managing Director for Operations at the Liberia Telecommunication Corporations; Mr. Emmett R. H. Sampson, Sr., Director of Board at the Liberia Petroleum Refining Company (LPRC) and Madam Marie Urey Coleman, LPRC Managing Director.

President Weah has further made appointment affecting the Board of the Mittal Operating Company



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Margibians hail Bishop Klayee's appointment as LAA boss

Opinion leaders and citizens of Margibi County have hailed President George Manneh Weah for the appointment of Bishop John Allan Klayee as Managing Director of the Liberia Airport Authority (LAA).

According to a press release issued by the LAA on Tuesday, 18 June, the citizens say it is first of its kind for a Margibian to head the airport authority, though the Roberts International



Airport (RIA) is within the County.

J. Francis Karpu, an eminent citizen and chairman of the Coalition of Democratic Change (CDC) in Margibi, notes that the appointment of Bishop Klayee demonstrates President Weah's commitment to consider the importance of geopolitics in his government.

Mr. Karpu intimates that he has every confidence that Bishop Klayee will deliver in his position.

For his part, Margibi Former

Representative Atty. SaahGbollie adds that the nomination of Bishop Klayee for the LAA's top post is welcoming and signals the President's willingness for inclusive government at the grassroots level.

Bishop Klayee has served as Acting Managing Director, haven't being appointed in 2018 as Chair of the Board of Directors for the airport authority.

Prior to this, he has worked

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