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# The New Dawn

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TRULY INDEPENDENT

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# "Tarry of falsehoods"



Cllr. Varney Sherman



Cllr. Fonati Koffa



***Koffa describes Sherman's testimony***



# Senate rejects CBL nominees

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# Continental News

## Libyan migrants 'fired upon after fleeing air strikes'

The UN says it has received reports that guards fired on migrants who tried to flee air strikes on a detention centre near Libya's capital Tripoli on Tuesday.

The UN says it believes at least 53 migrants died and 130 were hurt in the air strikes on the Tajour centre.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet has said the air strikes could constitute a war crime.

The government and an opposing militia have blamed each other for the attack.

Thousands of migrants trying to reach Europe, many of them sub-Saharan Africans, are being held in Libyan detention camps. Dozens who set off from Libya were feared dead as a boat capsized off Tunisia on Wednesday.

Libya has been torn by violence and division since

long-time ruler Muammar Gaddafi was deposed and killed in 2011.

A recent upsurge in violence began in April when the self-styled Libyan National Army (LNA), commanded by Gen Khalifa Haftar, launched an offensive against the UN-

backed Government of National Accord (GNA), led by PM Fayeza al-Sarraj.

The latest situation overview from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs raised the number of reported deaths at the centre to 53, with six children among those

killed and bodies still being pulled from the rubble.

"There are reports that following the first impact, some refugees and migrants were fired upon by guards as they tried to escape," it states, without giving any further details.

A UN mission visited the camp on Wednesday and helped evacuate the injured but said there had been "no general relocation of the remaining refugees and migrants" and that some 500

people faced "the same degree of vulnerability and exposure to violence".

The report added: "Humanitarian actors call for the immediate release of refugees and migrants from detention centres and for relocation to safe shelter."

The Libya Observer quoted Interior Minister Fathi Bashagha as saying the government was now considering closing all detention centres and releasing all migrants. -BBC



Image copyright REUTERS: The UN says one air strike hit a hangar containing more than 100 migrants

## DR Congo security forces 'fire on protesting miners'

Activists in the Democratic Republic of Congo say security forces have fired on miners who were protesting against being evicted from a copper and cobalt mine run by the British-Swiss multinational Glencore.

Activists say shots were fired at the miners after they marched to the governor's office and pillaged shops in the southern town of Kolwezi.

It is unclear whether live rounds or rubber bullets were used. The illegal miners were forcibly evicted from the Glencore mine after they missed a deadline set by the government for them to leave.

The decision to evict the men came after more than 40 miners were killed in a landslide last month.

Glencore estimates that about 2,000 illegal miners enter the mine every day. In a

statement it said that it hoped that security forces would "exercise restraint and operate in accordance with... international human rights standards". Activists say evicting them will do nothing to alleviate the poverty that forces people into illegal mining. The DR Congo produces more than half the world's cobalt, a key component in batteries for mobile phones and other devices. -BBC



## Ebola check points 'set on fire' in Uganda

Uganda's Daily Monitor newspaper reports that health workers are "living in fear" after tents at two Ebola screening points were set on fire on Wednesday.

Malaba-Abiri and Masango - where the arson happened -

Health workers have been battling to stop further contagion with a number of precautions, including border screening points and deploying medical monitors to 22 high-risk districts to spot and manage any cases they find.



are reportedly both entry points from neighboring DR Congo where the deadly virus has killed more than 1,500 people in the past year.

It spread from DR Congo to Uganda in June when two members of the same family died from the disease.

Mass gatherings, including market days and prayers, have been cancelled in places too.

But fear of the virus and mistrust of officials still pose significant challenges. -BBC

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# EDITORIAL

## Playing with agriculture that feeds us

**JUST WHAT IS** the Weah administration's policy on agriculture, if there is any, still remains a dream, running into two years since the government was inaugurated.

**AGRICULTURE IS THE** bedrock of any nation, but it seems that Liberia, which has an agro-based economy, is putting her feet in her mouth when it comes to food.

**WHILE PRESIDENT GEORGE** Manneh Weah and his Pro-Poor government are busy on capital-intensive investment such as roads, the nation's 4.5 million people go to bed hungry each day or undernourished due to inadequate food.

**AS WE WRITE** the Ministry of Agriculture in Gardnersville outside Monrovia is virtually empty as the Minister there, Dr. Mogana Flomo, was booted out over the weekend along with the Director-General for the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) in Bong County, Dr. Marcus Jones.

**IN HIS SECOND** Annual Message in January this year, President Weah promised to give the agriculture sector the same focus he gives to road construction, but six months after, this vital sector still lies dormant with nothing else but mere policy statement on the books.

**IN A ROUNDTABLE** with officials of the Ministry and partners in February, the President reiterated the correlation between agriculture productions and economic boom on one hand, and poverty alleviation and national security on the other.

**HE TOOK THAT** message to Israel subsequently and the Israeli government has promised to assist Liberia in the area of training to boost capacity so that Liberians would return to the soil with renewed vigor and technological knowledge.

**WE URGE THE** government to go a step further in its expressed commitment to agriculture by taking practical actions in opening government farms and putting young agricultural graduates from our various universities to work. This is the surest way to proceed.

**WE BELIEVE IF** this strategy is heeded, in the next two years, Liberia would be a different story all together, for we would lay the foundation that could leap us to self-sufficiency in food.

**OUR NEIGHBORS IN** Ivory Coast and Guinea, as well as Ghana, Burkina Faso, Nigeria and elsewhere in the regime are doing just that. Food prices would continue to increase in our market as long as we rely on imported rice to feed the population, because we don't control productions from abroad.

**The New Dawn**  
TRULY INDEPENDENT

# COMMENTARY

By Charles A. Kupchan  
& Sinan Ülgen

## The US Is Still Needed in Syria

*By rushing out of Syria now, the Trump administration is ceding the field to Russia, Turkey, and Iran, all but guaranteeing another regional conflagration in the near future. By leading a new diplomatic effort to end the conflict and begin reconstruction, Trump could both extricate the US from the conflict and help stabilize the region.*

**W**ASHINGTON, DC - While the world frets about a possible conflict between the United States and Iran, the bloodshed in Syria is escalating once again. Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's regime has intensified its onslaught against the remaining opposition stronghold in Idlib Province, which is home to some three million people, including many who have been internally displaced. To avoid a new humanitarian nightmare and another mass exodus of refugees, the US must renew its peacemaking efforts.

Since a US-backed coalition of (mostly) Kurdish forces succeeded in dismantling the Islamic State's (ISIS) territorial caliphate, the US has begun walking away from Syria. Late last year, US President Donald Trump announced the withdrawal of US troops there, effectively ceding negotiations over the country's future to Russia, Iran, and Turkey.

It is now clear that Trump jumped the gun. The renewed fighting in Idlib is a potent reminder that Syria remains a tinderbox. Almost one-third of the country is controlled by a Kurdish-led militia that Turkey regards as a mortal enemy. Owing to America's support of the Kurds and Turkey's decision to purchase Russian anti-aircraft missiles, US-Turkish relations are near a breaking point. Meanwhile, Russia has orchestrated its return to the region by backing the Assad regime, and Iran has established a Syrian foothold of its own, enhancing its regional influence and increasing the prospect of war with Israel.

Instead of ignoring these risks, the US needs to get back in the game of shaping Syria's future. As a first step, it should launch a new contact group that includes Turkey, Russia, the European Union, and the United Nations. The initiative should have three critical objectives, the first of which is to pressure the Assad regime to end the violence and accept a decentralized state in exchange for international help with reconstruction. To end the conflict, the regime must abandon its offensive in Idlib, and the opposition groups clustered there must agree to disarm and stand down.

The political framework for peace and stability in Syria will require a new constitution that provides for a significant measure of regional devolution, while preserving the Syrian government's monopoly over the use of force. Allowing a potpourri of autonomous militias to remain in operation would almost certainly lead to a failed state.

For the international community, marshaling the reconstruction assistance that would accompany this political compact should be a top geopolitical and humanitarian priority. Failure to rebuild Syria's war-torn communities and restore the state's capacity to deliver essential services would leave the

door open to an extremist resurgence. Groups like ISIS prey on social distress. To start the process, the EU, backed by the UN, should take the lead on overseeing the return of refugees, raising the needed resources, and implementing a program of post-conflict reconstruction.

The contact group's second goal should be to strike a deal with Syria's main Kurdish party, the Democratic Union Party (PYD). In exchange for regional autonomy within a decentralized Syrian state, the PYD would end its alignment with the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which has been waging a separatist terror campaign inside Turkey for decades. Provided that the PYD has broken ties with the PKK, the contact group should then spearhead a stabilization plan for the Kurdish region of Syria.

The US, for its part, has an obligation to secure the political rights of Syria's Kurds, who led the fight against ISIS. But it also must repair its relationship with Turkey. The only way it can do both is to broker a rapprochement between Turkey and the PYD. To that end, the US should honor its pledge to reclaim heavy weapons that it previously transferred to the Kurds, and press the PYD to restore local control to the communities it occupied during the campaign against ISIS.

The US also needs to help keep Kurdish fighters away from the Turkish border, which could be accomplished with a safe zone in northern Syria - a proposal that is currently under discussion in Ankara and Washington. The Turkish government's recent re-engagement in direct dialogue with the PYD leadership is an encouraging sign.

The contact group's third objective should be to reduce, if not eliminate, Iranian influence in Syria. With its forces and proxies on the ground, not to mention its considerable leverage over the Syrian government, Iran can stir up trouble not only in Syria, but also in Iraq, Lebanon, and Israel. Simply establishing a new contact group would reduce Iran's diplomatic clout by barring it from the main forum for negotiating Syria's future. Beyond that, the group should also make the delivery of reconstruction assistance contingent upon Assad distancing himself from the Iranians.

Trump is right to want out of Syria. But to extricate itself from the conflict, the US must first initiate a new diplomatic peacemaking effort. If Trump walks away prematurely, Syria will be left chronically unstable, and thus vulnerable to a revival of radicalism. Moreover, America's break with Turkey will have passed the point of no return, Russia will have an unchecked proxy in the Middle East, and Iran will be empowered to foment chaos across the region. The conditions would be ripe for a renewed conflict that drags the US back into the region at an even higher cost. The choice is an easy one.



## Lord, this woman force to lie?

**Dear Father:**

*Um, they say politicians can lie oo, but this one own da broad day lie. Ehn must you lie publicly like that?*

*No, wonder my man Sundaygar can say when you bypass your respect, you can bother you're your disgrace.*

*Yes oo Father, this one that complete disgrace oh, no joke um- a real public disgrace just like how Jesus disgraced Satan publicly.*

*You mean she couldn't have told this other story in one of our Fiefdoms where at least nobody would have been able to bring the news to our village capital? Ay mehn!*

*My son what's happening again?*

*Father, da na this other Beauty Queen who wants to be big person in our village seat? She went to talk the other day to one place instead of telling the people how she has been partaking in queen contests in Uncle Sam's village and have come back to help in our village she went and told a public lie on one other fine lady.*

*Tell me something!*

*Oh, yes oo Father. The Beauty Queen went and told the entire village how she is the one who introduced this fine lady to one very rich man in Uncle Sam's village and that the rich man gave the fine lady plenty Uncle Sam's money for those oldma them who can be praying at the Fish market area there.*

*But why would she tell that kinda lie?*

*Father, she wanted to impress the people na. She wanted to tell us that she has been one of the hidden hands behind those oldma them and that she cares for this village so much that they were able to get money to hire these oldma them to be praying over there.*

*And then what happened my son?*

*Oh Father, the people say they did not know where this fine lady came from-apparently she was listening to the program live on one of these town criers na. They say she just came from the blind side and asked the MC to let her use the mic-and then she started explaining and saying how nobody must lie on her name and that she has been struggling to get her money and not by anybody's introduction.*

*They say the place the Beauty Queen was standing just like the ground should open for her to get bury inside quickly.*

*Father, they say instead of her just disappearing to go, she shamelessly came back on stage to say, "My people the time I was talking here I call somebody name?" Can you imagine this big disgrace?*

*And the people had time for her sef?*

*Who say Father, they say the people never had time for her sef-just like she moh die. You know it's like the joke they children can always tell about the lazy man. You know, the children can say the man came back from a fight and was telling his wife-"Um, I just came from beating da one. I lifted him up and by before he could say and knock him down, he saw John coming, he just said and John knock me down."*

*You see why it is not good to just go places and start lying on other people's name? I mean how could you publicly tell a lie like that? I wonder she never knew that all the things she was saying was on radio and that it was possible that her friend would have been listening or somebody would have been listening and call her friend to listen in. And the worst part is that the thing was happening live in the central town of our village.*

*What a shame they say politicians can lie but this one own was a broad day lie.*

Statement on the passage of Domestic Violence Bill by the House of Representatives

July 5, 2019

The Liberia Feminist Forum, #WeAreUnprotected Campaign, women's rights organizations, and allies of diverse social movements commend the Liberian House of Representatives for the passage of the Domestic Violence (DV) Bill. We recognize your exercise of accountability to the citizens of Liberia and most importantly, the acknowledgment of women's rights as a fundamental right and protection from domestic violence. It also highlights the fact that the government is responding to the advocacy efforts of its citizens affected by a crisis of rights violations in private and public spaces. Against the background of being on the right side of history and being accountable to the people of Liberia, we are hopeful that the House of Senate will fully concur with the House's Bill for the full passage for the protection and fulfillment of the rights of women, young people, children and marginalized groups to be free from domestic violence in Liberia.

We celebrate and recognize the collective work, and years of mobilizing and activism by Liberian women rights organizations, feminist and social movements, other civil society and community based organizations, student activists, survivors, the media, especially the Female Journalist Association of Liberia and marginalized persons affected by the scourge of domestic violence across Liberia. The Bill is a culmination of this struggle that we must win. Liberia must win.

The Domestic Violence Bill is a critical legal instrument that will ensure women, young people, children and marginalized persons are protected from sexual, physical, economic, verbal and psychological abuse and all other forms of violence that affect their health, wellbeing, integrity and rights. The Domestic Violence Bill will provide survivors and their families with mechanisms for redress, reintegration, and psychosocial support. The Bill will also accord the Liberian Government an opportunity to strengthen the justice system to uphold the dignity of survivors and ensure that justice can be accessed and delivered in a responsive, effective and timely manner. The finalization of the Domestic Violence Bill will highlight the Liberian Government adherence and obligation to associated regional and continental instruments it has ratified.

We would finally like to register that whilst the Bill aims to address all forms of the violence, the exclusion of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) limits its ability to comprehensively address the impact of FGM on bodily integrity, sexual and reproductive rights and education of women and girls that are subjected to this practice in majority of counties in Liberia. The exclusion of FGM in the bill reduces the government's ability to act on Articles 11 and 20 of the Liberian Constitution.. It reduces our obligation to the Maputo Protocol and other international instruments. We look forward to Government's engagement and finalization of an anti-FGM law, through the National Legislature.

**Liberian Feminist Forum**

**Medica Liberia**

**ActionAid Liberia**

**Community Healthcare Initiative**

**Paramount Young Women Initiative**

Aiding Disadvantage Women and Girls

Kids Education Engagement Project

Liberian Women Empowerment Network

Stop Aids in Liberia


National Association on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Girls

Youth Alive Liberia

LEGAL

Organization for Women and Children

JUDICIAL BRANCH  
SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA



OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR  
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE  
MONROVIA, LIBERIA

**Invitation for Bids for Cleaning Materials & Services**

DATE: July 5, 2019  
IFB NO. JUD/NCB/SBA/002/2019/2020

- The Judiciary Branch of Government anticipates funding from the Government of Liberia through its 2019/2020 fiscal budget for the procurement of services appertaining to **Cleaning Materials & Services**. Therefore, the Judiciary wishes to solicit sealed bids from reputable dealers in the provision of Cleaning Materials & Services. This invitation for bids follows the special procurement notice for this service which appeared in two dailies.
- The Judiciary now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the provision of the services described below. The item will be contained in one. Bid submission begins on July 5, 2019 from 10:00 AM to 4:00PM daily. The final date of submission is August 6, 2019 @ 1:30 Noon.

**Package: Cleaning Materials & Services.**

LOTS #:	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	BID SECURITY
Lot-1a	Cleaning Materials & Services.	Assorted	US \$266.00

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures as specified in the REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA Amended and Restated Public Procurement and Concession Act (PPCC ACT) published and approved: September 16, 2010. Bidding is opened to all eligible and qualified bidders' source as defined in the guidelines.
- A complete set of bidding documents for the specified Cleaning Materials & Services may be obtained by qualified and eligible bidders from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice; fifth floor Room # 505 respectively.
  - Through Inquiry from the Director of Procurement;
  - Upon payment of a non-refundable fee of US\$ 50.00 for a set of bid documents for the aforementioned lot consisting of Cleaning Materials & Services.

Bidders are required to submit the bid security in the form of Bank Guarantee along with the Bid Documents.

- Qualification requirements include the following:
  - Current Business Registration Certificate (Liberia Business Registry);
  - Current Tax Clearance Certificate (Ministry of Finance);
  - Certificate of Incorporation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs);
  - Financial Records of Performance for the past two (2) years with indication of at least two previous or current clients, with their Addresses and Telephone Numbers;
  - Availability of products at all times; and,
  - Demonstrated ability to pre-finance. Additional details are provided in the bidding documents.
  - Restricted to Liberian Businesses Only.
  - PPCC Vendor registry
  - Business Activity Code

Interested and eligible bidders may obtain additional information on the bidding process from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice Main Building, fifth floor Room # 501 or 505 Monrovia, Liberia; and from Monday – Friday during the hours of 9:00 A.M. thru 3:00 P. M. daily.

All Submissions must be signed and sealed in an envelope with one original and two duplicates to be sealed in one envelope including other requested information.

(1) IFB NO. JUD/NCB/SBA/002/2019/2020 - CONFIDENTIAL BID for the provision of Cleaning Materials & Services; to the Judiciary for Fiscal Year 2019 – 2020; and shall be addressed to:


DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT  
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE MAIN BUILDING  
FIFTH FLOOR RM. # 501  
MONROVIA, LIBERIA

All Submissions must be delivered to the Procurement Unit on or before August 6, 2019 @ 12:00 NOON. However, No Electronic bids will be accepted and late bids will be rejected.

- A pre-bid opening meeting will be held on August 2, 2019 @ 1:00 P. M. in the office of the Director of Procurement in Room #501, to answer questions relevant to the bidding process, seven (7) days after which, all further clarification requests would remain unanswered to.
- Sealed bids for Cleaning Materials & Services will be opened in the presence of all bidders or their representatives on August 6, 2019 @ 1:30pm. All potential bidders are asked to please take note of the time herein stated. Bids shall be valid for a period of thirty (30) days from the deadline of submission.
- Note: The Judiciary reserves the right to reject or accept any bid without incurring any liability or assigning any reason thereof.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Director of Procurement Court Administrator

JUDICIAL BRANCH  
SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA



OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR  
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE  
MONROVIA, LIBERIA

**NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING  
Invitation to Bid for CARTRIDGES**

DATE: July 5, 2019  
IFB NO. JUD/NCB/001/2019/2020

- The Judiciary Branch of Government anticipates funding from the Government of Liberia through its 2019/2020 fiscal budget for the procurement of Cartridges. Therefore, the Judiciary wishes to solicit sealed bids from reputable dealers of Cartridges, This invitation for bids follows the special procurement notice for this project which appears in two local dailies.
- The Judiciary now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the provision of the goods described below. Bid submission begins on July 5, 2019 from 10:00 AM to 4:00PM daily; and the final date of submission is August 6, 2019 @ 2:00.

**Packages: Assorted Cartridges**

IFB NO.	LOTS #:	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	BID SECURITY
JUD/NCB/005/2019/2020	Lot-1a	Cartridges Assorted	Assorted	US \$308.00


- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures as specified in the REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA Amended and Restated Public Procurement and Concession Act (PPCC ACT) published and approved: September 16, 2010. Bidding is opened to all eligible and qualified bidders' source as defined in the guidelines.
- A complete set of bidding documents for the specified cartridges supplies may be obtained by qualified and eligible bidders from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice:
  - Through Inquiry from the Director of Procurement;
  - Upon payment of a non-refundable fee of US\$50.00 for a set of bid documents for Cartridges. Bidders are required to submit a bid security in the form of Bank Guarantee.
- Qualification requirements include the following:
  - Current Business Registration Certificate (Liberia Business Registry) with the code or another appropriated code.
  - Current Tax Clearance Certificate (LRA);
  - Certificate of Incorporation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs);
  - Financial Records of Performance for the past two (2) years with indication of at least two previous or current clients, with their Addresses and Telephone Numbers;
  - Availability of products at all times; and,
  - PPCC Vendor registry certificate
  - Proof ability to pre-finance. Additional details are provided in the bidding documents.
  - Include Business Activity Code.
- Interested and eligible bidders may obtain additional information on the bidding process from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice Main Building, fifth floor Room # 501 or 505 Monrovia, Liberia; and from Monday – Friday from 9:00 A.M. thru 3:30 P. M.
- All Submissions must be signed and sealed in an envelope with one original and two duplicates to be sealed in one envelope, including other requested information
  - IFB NO. JUD/NCB/005/2019/2020 - CONFIDENTIAL BID for the provision of Cartridges, to the Judiciary for Fiscal Year 2019 – 2020;

DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT  
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE MAIN BUILDING  
FIFTH FLOOR RM. # 501  
MONROVIA, LIBERIA

- All Submissions must be delivered to the Procurement Unit on or before August 6, 2019 @ 1:00 P. M. However, no electronic bids will be accepted and late bids will be rejected.
- A pre-bid opening meeting will be held on Friday August 2, 2019 @ 1:00 PM in the office of the Director of Procurement in Room #501, to answer questions relevant to the bidding process as follows. Seven (7) days after which, all further clarification requests would remain unanswered to.
- Sealed bids will be opened in the presence of all bidders or their representatives on August 6, 2019 as follows: @ 2: 00 Pm. All potential bidders are asked to please take note of the time herein stated. Bids shall be valid for a period of thirty (30) days from the deadline of submission.
- Note: The Judiciary reserves the right to reject or accept any bid without incurring any liability or assigning any reason thereof.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Director of Procurement Court Administrator

JUDICIAL BRANCH  
SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA



OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR  
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE  
MONROVIA, LIBERIA

**Invitation for Bids for Printing Materials**

DATE: July 5, 2019  
IFB NO. JUD/SBA/NCB/001/2019/2020

- The Judiciary Branch of Government anticipates funding from the Government of Liberia through its 2019/2020 fiscal budget for the procurement of services appertaining to **printing Materials**. Therefore, the Judiciary wishes to solicit sealed bids from reputable agencies dealing in the provision of services relating to Printing Materials. This invitation for bids follows the special procurement notice for this service. As stated in this document.
- The Judiciary now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified Liberian bidders for the provision of the services described below. The item will be contained in one (1) package. Bid submission begins on July 5, 2019 from 10:00 AM to 4:00PM daily. The final date of submission is August 6, 2019 @ 1:00 pm.

**Package: Printing Materials.**

LOTS #:	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	BID SECURITY
Lot-1a	Printing Materials.	Assorted	US \$360.00

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures as specified in the REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA Amended and Restated Public Procurement and Concession Act (PPCC ACT) published and approved: September 16, 2010. Bidding is opened to all eligible and qualified bidders' source as defined in the guidelines.
- A complete set of bidding documents for the specified Printing Materials may be obtained by qualified and eligible bidders from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice; fifth floor Room # 505 respectively.
  - Through Inquiry from the Director of Procurement;
  - Upon payment of a non-refundable fee of US 50.00 for a set of bid documents for the aforementioned lot consisting of Printing Materials.

Bidders are required to submit the bid security in the form of Bank Guarantee along with the Bid Documents.

- Qualification requirements include the following:
  - Current Business Registration Certificate (Liberia Business Registry);
  - Current Tax Clearance Certificate (Ministry of Finance);
  - Certificate of Incorporation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs);
  - Financial Records of Performance for the past two (2) years with indication of at least two previous or current clients, with their Addresses and Telephone Numbers;
  - Availability of products at all times; and,
  - Demonstrated ability to pre-finance. Additional details are provided in the bidding documents.
  - Restricted to Liberian Businesses Only.
  - PPCC Vendor registry certificate.
  - Business Activity Code
- Interested and eligible bidders may obtain additional information on the bidding process from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice Main Building, fifth floor Room # 501 & 505 Monrovia, Liberia; and from Monday – Friday during the hours of 9:00 A.M. thru 3:00 P. M.
- All Submissions must be signed and sealed in an envelope with one original and two duplicates to be sealed in one envelope including other requested information.
  - IFB NO. JUD/SBA/NCB/001/2019/2020 - CONFIDENTIAL BID for the provision of Printing Materials; to the Judiciary for Fiscal Year 2019 – 2020 and shall be addressed to:

DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT  
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE MAIN BUILDING  
FIFTH FLOOR RM. # 501  
MONROVIA, LIBERIA

- All Submissions must be delivered to the Procurement Unit on or before August 6, 2019 @ 1:00 P. M. However, no electronic bids will be accepted and late bids will be rejected.
- A pre-bid opening meeting will be held on August 2, 2019 @ 12:00 P. M. in the office of the Director of Procurement in Room #501, to answer questions relevant to the bidding process, Seven (7) days after which, all further clarification requests would remain unanswered to.
- Sealed bids for printing materials will be opened in the presence of all bidders or their representatives on August 6, 2019 @ 1:00 P. M. All potential bidders are asked to please take note of the time herein stated. Bids shall be valid for a period of thirty (30) days from the deadline of submission.
- Note: The Judiciary reserves the right to reject or accept any bid without incurring any liability or assigning any reason thereof.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Director of Procurement Court Administrator

# Women's rights group commends House for Domestic Violence Bill

The Liberia Feminist Forum (LFF), in collaboration with #WeAreUnprotected Campaign, women's rights organizations, and allies of diverse social movements have commended the House of Representatives for the passage of the Domestic Violence (DV) Bill.

"We recognize your exercise of accountability to the citizens of Liberia and most importantly, the acknowledgment of women's rights as a fundamental right and protection from domestic violence," the group said Thursday, 4 July.

According to a release issued in Monrovia, the group says the passage also highlights the fact that the government is responding to the advocacy efforts of its citizens that are affected by a crisis of rights violations in private and public spaces.

"Against the background of being on the right side of history and being accountable to the people of Liberia, we are hopeful that the House of Senate will fully concur with the House's Bill for the full passage for the protection and fulfillment of the rights of women, young people, children and marginalized groups," the statement continues.

According to the statement, the Domestic Violence Bill is a critical legal instrument that will ensure women,

young people, children and marginalized persons are protected from sexual, physical, economic, verbal and psychological abuse and all other forms of violence that affect their health, wellbeing, integrity and rights.

"The Domestic Violence Bill will provide survivors and their families with mechanisms for redress, reintegration, and psychosocial support," the group notes.

It adds that the Bill will also accord the Liberian Government an opportunity to strengthen the justice system to uphold the dignity of survivors and ensure that justice can be accessed and delivered in a responsive, effective and timely manner.

According to the group, the finalization of the Domestic Violence Bill will highlight the Liberian Government's adherence and obligation to associate with regional and continental instruments it has ratified.

"We would finally like to register that whilst the Bill aims to address all forms of the violence, the exclusion of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) limits its ability to comprehensively address the impact of FGM on bodily integrity, sexual and reproductive rights and education of women and girls that are subjected to this practice in majority of counties in Liberia," the release indicates. —Press release

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CBL Patray push for increase finance inclusion

The Executive Governor of the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL), Mr. Nathaniel R. Patray, III has underscored the importance of financial inclusion to economic growth and poverty alleviation.

Executive Governor Patray said financial inclusion plays a critical role in reducing poverty because access to

population.

Although the statistics on financial inclusion appeared gloomy, The CBL Executive Governor expressed confidence that a coordinated National Financial Inclusion Strategy (NFIS) could reverse the trend.

He said the 2019 - 2024 Strategy, which is about to be

'all hands to be on deck'. He said:

"The National Financial Inclusion Strategy is only a strategy, the success of which is contingent ultimately on actions to be taken by all the stakeholders".

The CBL Executive Governor made the remarks during the validation workshop prior to the launch of the 2019-2024 National Financial Inclusion Strategy held at the Central Bank of Liberia on Wednesday July 3rd.

Also speaking during the NFIS Stakeholder Validation Workshop, was Dr. Nicholas Smith, a World Bank Financial Sector Specialist who heads the World Bank Technical support Team that is supporting the Government to develop the current National Financial Inclusion Strategy.

He also stressed the importance of financial inclusion, which he said was all about having a bank account, access to loans and the use of mobile money. He said financial inclusion enables people to save for retirement, invest in their business, save for a new purchase and insure against risk and was therefore critical to national development.

With the final NFIS Stakeholder Validation Workshop now out of the way, the stage is set for the launch of this all-important policy document and its implementation through the concerted actions of all stakeholders.



financial services helps individuals, families, and businesses to invest in income-generating activities and save for the future.

Despite this, Mr. Patray said only 36% of Liberians access financial services, including bank accounts and mobile money and, worse still, only 28% of women and 27% of the poorest 40% of the

launched, builds on the results of the National Strategy, that expired in 2018 and the existing FSDIP as well as the Government's Pro Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development.

While upbeat about the prospects of a National Financial Inclusion Strategy the CBL Executive Governor stressed the importance for

Civil society, govt. share perspectives

Liberian Civil Society Organizations and Government share perspectives at a two-day national peer review workshop on monitoring tools in the oil palm sector. The meeting held from July 3-4, 2019 was organized by the Sustainable Development Initiative (SDI), a local civil society organization implementing the Round Table Sustainable Oil Palm project here.

According to a press release, government agencies that participated in the knowledge sharing session include, Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR), Ministry of Agriculture, National Bureau of Concession (NBC) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Other participants from the civil society are, Volunteers To Support International Efforts



In Developing Africa (VOSIEDA), Friends of Frabaine International (FOFI) and Independent Forest Monitors (IFM).

Team Leader James Otto says the workshop was intended to gather line ministries and agencies, and

civil society organizations connected to the oil palm sector to share their different monitoring tools and experiences.

"The session helped us to see the different tools we are using, and was interesting to know how government

Business Registry

Starts from back page

2018, he met series of challenges, ranging from system break down of access to business registry, delays in processing business registration and complaints from tax payers.

"Let me say thank you to the able Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Samuel D. Tweah, for being instrumental and very supportive of the idea we are celebrating today."

He equally lauds the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Professor Wilson K. Tarpeh, for also being supportive of the initiative, including all other constructive ideas leading to the actualization of the dream to set up and the subsequent launch.

"There have been series of challenges, in fact, the last rating that came up from the World Bank, said it was taking Liberia 18 days to register a business in the Country and I think we all know that this is highly unfriendly when it comes to the business sector. So, on that basis President George M. Weah, set up a Business Climate Working Group, of which we are member and we were tasked with the singular responsibility to turn the picture around to improve the business climate and ensure that we attract investors from every part of the world." He notes.

Performing the official launch, Deputy Information Minister for Technical Services, Boakaifoana, says Government is not only interested in improving the general condition of the citizenry, but also business establishments in support of development.

Mr. Fofana notes that over the last year, government specifically set the Business

Climate Working Group and the Liberian Business Registry as an integral part of national efforts to improve the business climate in the country.

Acting Commerce and Industry Minister, Wilfred N. Bangura, expresses delight to be part of a history making event that is built around improving the business climate of Liberia.

Mr. Bangura observes that for many years now, there has been some form of darkness over the business community of the Country, noting that the launch of the State of the Art Website in Liberia marks a new dawn in doing effective business.

"We heard the Registrar General says there are foreign entrepreneurs who may come to Liberia and may like to have information of doing business in the Country, and this development will undoubtedly help in the process", Bangura asserts.

The Acting Commerce and Industry Minister further said the idea is a testament to President Weah's declaration that Liberia is truly ready for business.

The CEO of Millennium Challenge Account -Liberia, Monie R. Captan, notes that the secret behind the growth of certain economies of Africa such as Mauritius, The Gambia, Kenya and other sub-Saharan economies is digitalization, saying, "this is the only way you can take your country from the manual system and usher it into the new century were just with the touch of a screen of the computer, one can get information from anywhere in the world. And this will move us considerably at the higher point and we are going to have Liberia now competing with other growing economies in Africa." -

Press Release

agencies monitor performance of concession companies regarding basic human rights issues. Mr. Otto describes monitoring as a key focus to ensuring compliance and practices by concession companies.

He says the workshop was also intended to build a team of government and civil society actors to work together in ensuring companies are in compliance with concessional laws and practices, adding, "We want to work as a team to ensure that we are doing the same together. The idea is to work together to address issues coming out of the sector, making sure we complement each other's efforts in monitoring and information

dissemination on companies' responsibilities."

He notes that the COSs are now trying to leave from documenting issues to working together with government to address issues documented, nothing that if both parties collectively work together in gathering information, he doesn't see why someone would say they have no knowledge on what is being discussed.

Project Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Henry S. Bundor, II terms the workshop as rewarding, for the fact that it is in the interest of the country.

According to him, he looks forward to timely compliance by oil



# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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## Sherman confirms email exchanges with Sable Mining

**-but complains of emails tampering**

By Winston W. Parley

Grand Cape Mount County Senator defendant H. Varney G. Sherman confirms here that he communicated with British mining firm Sable Mining, telling prosecutors that “we exchanged emails” on what “we were doing” for them as their lawyers.

Sen. Sherman, one of Liberia’s top lawyers faced cross examination with prosecutors Thursday, 4 July for his alleged role into claims that through his law offices his client Sable Mining bribed Liberian officials including lawmakers during former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf’s regime to change a concession law to favor the company.

Among several things, the prosecution says it is relying on some documentary evidences including spreadsheets and alleged email exchanges between defendant Sherman and the company, but the accused has since denounced the evidences submitted by the State as doctored and unauthentic.

Government drew the indictment against the defendants following a report by U.K. - based watchdog group Global Witness in 2016 titled: “The Deceivers,” claiming that Sable Mining paid bribes to Liberian

officials totaling US\$950,000 to insert Section 75 in the Public Procurement and Concession Commission (PPCC) Act, providing for “non - bidding” process.

Sable Mining had interest in the Iron Ore deposits of

about technology knows that computer experts can hack into your email account and restructure its contents.

For that reason, the defendant says internet information is not admissible in court in other countries unless it is authenticated as genuine.



Wologisi Mountain in Lofa County.

But during his cross examination Thursday, Sen. Sherman insists that these emails that Global Witness says were leaked to it were hacked and doctored emails.

Sherman testified that anyone who knows anything

But he laments that unfortunately Liberia has no such law, narrating how the country’s evidence law has not been developed to address technology issues.

He continues that because the defendants challenged the emails as hacked and doctored emails, the Special

Presidential Task Force tried to get Mr. Heine Jan Van Niekerk to come to Liberia to confirm that he and Cllr. Sherman had exchanged the alleged fake emails.

Sherman tells the Court that “genuine emails” have been tampered with, and indicates further that when Mr. Niekerk refused [to come to Liberia], the Task Force created an affidavit, the authenticity which the defendant challenges.

Sherman sounds astonished by how he got speedily indicted on May 24, 2016 just after Global Witness’ report that contained the allegations was published on May 11, 2016.

According to him his indictment was obtained based on the testimony of two witnesses including Mr.

BlamoKoffa.

He narrates further that on June 6 that year, the second indictment against him was obtained, followed by the third indictment in January 2017.

However Sherman claims in his testimony that there is no evidence to corroborate the special presidential task force’s report which he argues is “really a repetition” of the Global Witness Report.

Additionally Sherman tells the Court that there is no computer forensic studying of these emails that he maintains were hacked and doctored.

Following the defendant’s testimony, State lawyer Cllr. Wesseh A. Wesseh announced that prosecution will produce rebuttals against defendant Sherman’s testimony.

## NEC cites

Starts from back page

elections impossible to be conducted as was scheduled.

“The National Elections Commission (NEC) informs the public that the Montserrado senatorial and district 15 Representative by-elections, which were scheduled for July 8, 2019 have been postponed to a later date, to be announced,” the Commission says.

Notwithstanding, the Commission informs the public that the full consignment of 1,046,100 ballot papers are currently in the country.

According to the NEC, the ballot papers including tactile ballot guides, forms and record

of the counts arrived over the weekend at the RIA and were received by authorities of the Commission along with the Liberia National Police (LNP) and taken to a secure location under LNP maximum protection.

Of the total ballot papers, the NEC says 993,850 will be used for the senatorial by-elections, while 52,250 will be used for the representative by-election.

Additionally, the Commission informs the public that the training of poll workers is currently ongoing at various locations in Montserrado County.

## House petitioned over Monrovia’s dirtiness

By Bridgett Milton

The House of Representatives has been petitioned by some citizens here to summon Monrovia City Mayor Jefferson T. Kojjee and his team to respond to questions regarding the overflow of dirt in the streets of the capital

city. Mountains of garbage are rising in Monrovia and its surroundings, as the City Corporation under the command of youthful mayor and ruling party Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) youth league chair Kojjee appears to be overwhelmed.

A group calling itself Concern Citizen for Clean Liberia (CCCL) which files the petition before the House of Representatives says it wants Kojjee, his technicians and others to be summoned by the lawmakers to respond to questions regarding the overflow of dirt in the capital Monrovia.

CCCL alarms in the petition that mere illnesses like headache, malaria, running stomach and other common diseases are killing citizens in the country.

According to the group, these illnesses listed are caused by mosquito bites, lack of safe drinking water and polluted air.

The group says it is disturbed by the huge overflow of garbage in the streets for the past two to three months.

CCCL indicates that it is the legal responsibility of the Monrovia City Mayor and all others receiving salaries at the expense of Liberians [to keep the city clean].

But the group informs



## Civil society, govt.

Page 6

palm companies with the joint monitoring initiatives between the government and CSOs

He adds that these initiatives are geared towards making positive impacts on the community and the country at large; saying, it is not about

individuals, but the country.

Mr. Bundor calls for more collaboration with civil society organizations working in the oil palm sector for information sharing and integration. **-Press Release**

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lawmakers that in recent time Mayor Kojjee told Liberians that he is not a dump-pa-hero, a statement which the CCCL sees as a slap in the faces of Liberians and a complete insult to humanity.

“Taxes paid by those marketers are being used to pay members of the very officials of government including the Monrovia City Mayor and all other persons associated with cleaning the city, yet they have deliberately

refused to do the jobs for which they are being paid for,” the group complains.

The CCCL adds that garbage around Monrovia has turned into mountains, gradually creating their own communities. The group deems it a shame and disgrace to the country when investors and guests from other countries and people with prestige come to Liberia and see how deplorable it the city is. **-Edited by Winston W. Parley**

# Français

## Les élections partielles du 8 juillet pourraient ne pas avoir lieu

Les élections partielles du comté de Montserrado pourraient ne pas avoir lieu à la date prévue, c'est-à-dire le 8 juillet, car la Commission électorale nationale envisagerait de les reporter à une date ultérieure pour une seconde fois.

La Commission Electorale Nationale avait déjà reporté les élections partielles sénatoriale et législative du district 15 du 2 au 8 juillet 2019 en raison du retard dans l'arrivée des documents.

Selon l'information qui circule dans les couloirs du siège de la commission, les fournisseurs responsables de l'impression du matériel électoral tardent à expédier tous les documents en même temps, ce qui met la NEC dans une situation difficile au point de ne pas pouvoir respecter la date des élections.

L'information a été confirmée par Abraham

Darius Dillon, candidat du bloc de l'opposition à l'élection partielle sénatoriale, lors d'une conférence de presse qu'il a animée le mercredi 3 juillet au siège du Parti de la liberté à Monrovia.

Quant à la commission électorale, elle continue d'entretenir le suspense. Son département des affaires publiques, contacté, n'a ni confirmé, ni infirmé l'information. Il ne s'est contenté que de dire que la

NEC s'adresserait à la nation hier 4 juillet.

Mais M. Dillon, lors de sa conférence de presse, s'en est pris au pouvoir, l'accusant d'une autre tactique visant à violer la Constitution et créer un risque de fraude. Il a averti que son camp ne tolèrera aucun acte d'irrégularité et de fraude au cours du scrutin.

La Constitution du Libéria stipule qu'une élection partielle doit avoir lieu dans les 90 jours qui suivent le constat d'une vacance de pouvoir au parlement.

M. Dillon estime que le président George Manneh Weah et la coalition au pouvoir veulent repousser la date des élections afin de pouvoir organiser une fraude massive, car ils ont senti leur défaite dans les urnes.

Il s'est dit convaincu que les Libériens, en particulier ceux du comté de Montserrado, sont décidés à exprimer leur mécontentement face à la "mauvaise gouvernance et la corruption dont la coalition

au pouvoir continue de faire montre" en votant pour les candidats de l'opposition.

M. Dillon est membre du bloc de l'opposition et est soutenu par quatre partis politiques de l'opposition dont le parti de l'unité (ancien parti au pouvoir de l'ex-présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf), le Parti de la liberté de Me Charles Walker Brumskine, le Congrès national alternatif d'Alexander Benedict Cummings et le Parti de tous les libériens de l'homme d'affaires Benoni Urey.

Il aussi est porte-parole du Conseil des patriotes, qui a organisé la manifestation du 7 juin à Monrovia. Il sera aux prises avec la candidate de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique au pouvoir, Mme Paulita Wie, et six autres candidats, dont Kimmie Weeks, MacDella Cooper, Mme Massa Massaquoi Kanyon, et le représentant sortant du district 6, Samuel Enders.



## L'impression d'une nouvelle monnaie locale est recommandée

Un nouveau membre du conseil d'administration de la Banque centrale du Libéria a recommandé la nécessité d'imprimer de nouveaux billets de banque « pour permettre au gouvernement d'exercer un contrôle absolu sur la monnaie locale ».

M. Timothy Thomas, qui comparait devant le sénat libérien dans le cadre d'une audience de

confirmation, a fait valoir que le taux de change élevé et la dépréciation rapide du dollar libérien par rapport au dollar américain ne peuvent être facilement mis sous contrôle par cette administration que si des mesures sérieuses sont prises, dont notamment l'impression d'une nouvelle monnaie.

Le taux de change est actuellement de 200 dollars libériens pour un dollar des États-Unis, avec une forte

possibilité d'augmenter quotidiennement.

M. Thomas a expliqué que le taux de change incontrôlable est un défi de taille pour l'administration Weah, soulignant qu'il est nécessaire de mettre en place des mécanismes sérieux pour pallier cette situation dans laquelle les personnes à faible revenu ressentent les effets néfastes de la crise économique, d'autant plus que leur pouvoir d'achat continue de s'amenuiser.

Le nouveau sous-gouverneur non confirmé de la banque centrale, Musa Dorley, a rappelé lors de l'audience de confirmation que pendant le mandat de l'ancien gouverneur exécutif, M. Mills Jones, la banque centrale avait perdu 36 millions de dollars US à cause du système de micro-crédit mis en place par la banque et dont avaient remercié beaucoup de commerçants locaux.

Le Dr Dorley a indiqué que la direction de la CBL, sous l'ex-gouverneur exécutif Jones, avait commis une

Articles traduits

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erreur en donnant de l'argent à des marchands qui l'ont dépensé en Chine et dans d'autres pays étrangers. Pour lui, il aurait été mieux que cet argent fût investi ici notamment dans l'agriculture.

"Si le prêt avait été dépensé ici, par exemple, si les prêteurs l'avaient investi dans la plantation de cacao, de palmier à huile et de café, nous aurions été au stade de la récolte aujourd'hui, ce qui aurait ramené les dollars américains par le canal d'exportation", a-t-il expliqué.

Il dit regretter que, bien que le pays vienne d'imprimer plus de 15 milliards de dollars libériens, on ne puisse pas voir les nouvelles coupures en circulation ; il n'y a que les vieux billets partout, tandis que les banques commerciales ne cessent de se plaindre du manque d'argent.

Le Dr Dorley veut que le gouvernement investisse dans les business locaux pour stabiliser l'économie et procède à la diminution des frais de scolarité dans les écoles privées et du coût de l'électricité de la Liberia Electricity Corporation.

Selon lui, les recettes générées par la vente d'électricité peuvent être acheminées vers d'autres secteurs pertinents susceptibles de renforcer les initiatives du gouvernement.

Lorsqu'on lui a demandé si la Banque centrale devait faire l'objet d'un audit, M. Dorley a d'abord hésité avant de dire qu'il existe un département d'audit interne et que la Banque est auditée périodiquement. Il a ajouté qu'il n'est donc pas à mesure de répondre oui ou non car il n'a pas encore commencé à travailler pour savoir s'il y a eu un audit récemment.





# Français

## Réforme de la CEI en Côte d'Ivoire : le projet de loi devant le Parlement

Après six mois de discussions avec les partis politiques et la société civile, le gouvernement s'apprête à présenter un projet de loi pour modifier la composition de la Commission électorale indépendante, accusée depuis presque trois ans d'être en faveur du pouvoir. Si le projet de loi est adopté par l'Assemblée nationale, la future CEI se composera de 15 membres, au lieu des 17 habituels. Le gouvernement affirme qu'elle sera forcément plus équilibrée, puisque les représentants de l'État et de la coalition au pouvoir occuperont cinq sièges, au lieu de la moitié actuellement.

Comme le réclamaient les détracteurs de la CEI, les délégués de l'Assemblée nationale, du ministère des Finances et des organisations religieuses ne sont plus les bienvenus, pendant que la société civile gagne des places avec six commissaires.

Le Conseil supérieur de la magistrature descend à un siège, et les partis d'opposition présenteront trois membres. Ainsi, le gouvernement se dit en adéquation avec l'arrêt de 2016 de la Cour africaine des droits de l'homme et des peuples, qui recommandait la mise en place d'une nouvelle Commission électorale.

Insatisfaction  
Mais cette simple recomposition ne satisfait pas l'opposition, qui réclamait une refonte totale de la CEI. Le porte-parole du FPI, Issiaka Sangaré, par exemple, regrette le maintien des représentants du chef de l'État, du ministre de l'Intérieur et du Conseil supérieur de la magistrature, pas totalement indépendant à ses yeux. Tout comme une partie de la société civile, il déplore également que son parti n'ait pas été consulté avant l'annonce officielle de ce projet de loi par le gouvernement.

## Guinée : une note confidentielle fait l'apologie d'une réforme constitutionnelle

C'est un document qui n'aurait pas dû devenir public en Guinée. Dans un pays où se pose la question d'une modification de la Constitution, qui pourrait permettre au président Alpha Condé de briguer un troisième mandat, une note émanant du ministère des Affaires étrangères, à destination des ambassadeurs guinéens, fait l'apologie d'une réforme des institutions.

Datée du 19 juin, la note tient en 12 pages, dont une traduction en anglais. Signé de la main de Mamadi Touré, le ministre des Affaires étrangères, le document demande aux ambassades de s'en « approprier le contenu » pour en « tirer les éléments de langage ». À savoir que nul ne peut ôter au peuple le droit de changer sa Constitution. Que le président est en droit d'en proposer une nouvelle pour la soumettre à référendum. Ce que contestent de

nombreux juristes.

Sur le fond, cette lettre lève un coin du voile sur ce projet que personne n'a pour l'instant consulté. Disant que l'actuelle Constitution manque de légitimité, car adoptée en 2010 par un Conseil de transition. Qu'il est « nécessaire » de réduire le nombre d'institutions pour faire des économies, tout en instaurant un poste de vice-président. Et qu'il faut intégrer diverses préoccupations sociales et environnementales pour la plupart déjà inscrites dans la loi. Dans un communiqué, le ministère confirme son authenticité, regrette la fuite et annonce des dispositions pour « situer les responsabilités ». Pour l'opposition, « le président cherche à séduire au-delà de ses frontières en faisant la promotion d'un projet antidémocratique ». Aucun pays ni institution ne s'est pour l'instant prononcé sur le sujet.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Charles A. Kupchan  
& Sinan Ülgen

## Les États-Unis sont encore nécessaires en Syrie

WASHINGTON - Tandis que le monde s'inquiète d'un possible conflit entre les États-Unis et l'Iran, le sang coule à nouveau en Syrie. Le régime du président syrien Bachar Al-Assad a intensifié son offensive contre le dernier bastion de l'opposition, dans la province d'Idlib, où vivent trois millions de personnes, dont beaucoup ont été déplacées à l'intérieur des frontières syriennes. Pour éviter un nouveau cauchemar humanitaire et un nouvel exode en masse de réfugiés, les États-Unis doivent reprendre leur action en faveur de la paix.

Depuis que la coalition des forces kurdes (pour l'essentiel) soutenue par les États-Unis est parvenue à démanteler sur le terrain le « califat » de l'État islamique (EI), Washington a entrepris de quitter la Syrie. L'année dernière, le président des États-Unis Donald Trump annonçait le retrait des troupes américaines, cédant de fait le champ des négociations sur l'avenir du pays à la Russie, à l'Iran et à la Turquie.

Il est patent, désormais, que Trump a voulu aller trop vite. La reprise des combats contre Idlib rappelle à qui l'aurait oublié que la Syrie est une poudrière. Presque un tiers du pays est contrôlé par une milice dirigée par les Kurdes considérée par la Turquie comme son ennemie mortelle. Étant donné le soutien américain au Kurdes et la décision prise par la Turquie d'acheter aux Russes des missiles anti-aériens, les relations américano-turques sont près du point de rupture. Pendant ce temps, la Russie a orchestré son retour dans la région en soutenant le régime d'Assad et l'Iran s'est indépendamment établi un point d'appui en Syrie, renforçant son influence régionale et relançant la perspective d'une guerre avec Israël.

Plutôt que d'ignorer le danger, les États-Unis doivent revenir dans le jeu qui décidera de l'avenir de la Syrie. La première étape pourrait être de créer un nouveau groupe de contact qui comprendrait la Turquie, la Russie, l'Union européenne et les Nations Unies. Une telle initiative devrait se fixer trois grands objectifs, au premier rang desquels l'accentuation des pressions sur le régime d'Assad pour qu'il mette un terme à la violence et accepte un État décentralisé en échange d'une aide internationale à la reconstruction. Afin de clore le conflit, le régime doit abandonner son offensive contre Idlib et les groupes d'opposition disséminés dans zone doivent accepter de désarmer et de se retirer.

Le cadre politique de la paix et de la stabilité en Syrie passe par une nouvelle constitution qui mettra en œuvre des mesures réelles de transfert de pouvoir aux régions tout en conservant au gouvernement syrien le monopole dans l'usage de la force. Permettre à une pléthore de milices autonomes de rester en activité conduirait presque inévitablement à la faillite de l'État.

L'organisation de l'aide à la reconstruction qui accompagnerait cet accord politique devrait figurer parmi les priorités géopolitiques et humanitaires de la communauté internationale. L'échec dans le relèvement des communautés syriennes déchirées par la guerre et dans le rétablissement de la capacité de l'État à procurer les services de première nécessité ouvrirait la porte à une résurgence extrémiste. Des groupes

comme l'EI prospèrent sur la détresse sociale. Pour lancer le processus, l'Union européenne, soutenue par les Nations Unies, devrait prendre en main le retour des réfugiés, réunir les ressources nécessaires et lancer un programme de reconstruction.

Le deuxième objectif du groupe de contact devrait être de conclure un accord avec le principal parti kurde de Syrie, le Parti de l'union démocratique (Partiya Yekîta Demokrat - PYD). En échange de l'autonomie régionale dans le cadre d'un État syrien décentralisé, le PYD devrait mettre fin à son alignement sur les positions du Parti des travailleurs du Kurdistan (Partiya Karkerên Kurdistan - PKK), qui depuis des décennies mène en Turquie une campagne séparatiste de terreur. Dès lors que le PYD aurait rompu ses liens avec le PKK, le groupe de contact pourrait s'engager dans un plan de stabilisation de la région kurde de Syrie.

Les États-Unis ont pour leur part l'obligation de garantir les droits politiques des Kurdes de Syrie, qui ont mené le combat contre l'EI. Mais ils doivent aussi restaurer leurs bonnes relations avec la Turquie. Ils n'ont d'autre façon de parvenir à ces deux nécessités que d'offrir leurs bons offices pour un rapprochement entre le PYD et la Turquie. À cette fin, les États-Unis devraient honorer l'engagement qu'ils ont pris de reprendre possession de l'armement lourd confié aux Kurdes et faire pression sur le PYD pour qu'il rétablisse les autorités ordinaires des localités occupées pendant la campagne contre l'EI.

Les États-Unis doivent aussi contribuer à maintenir les combattants kurdes à distance de la frontière turque, ce que pourrait garantir une zone de sécurité dans le nord de la Syrie - proposition qui revient régulièrement sur la table à Ankara et à Washington. Les assurances récemment confirmées par le gouvernement turc d'un dialogue direct avec la direction du PYD sont un signe encourageant.

Le troisième objectif du groupe de contact devrait être de réduire, sinon d'éliminer, l'influence iranienne en Syrie. Avec ses forces et ses milices sur le terrain, sans parler de son influence considérable sur le gouvernement syrien, l'Iran peut semer le désordre non seulement en Syrie, mais aussi en Irak, au Liban et en Israël. La constitution d'un nouveau groupe de contact réduirait à elle seule le poids diplomatique de l'Iran en lui ôtant sa place à la principale table de négociations où se déciderait l'avenir de la Syrie. En outre, le groupe devrait poser comme condition de l'aide à la reconstruction qu'Assad prenne ses distances avec les Iraniens.

Trump a raison de vouloir sortir de Syrie. Mais pour parvenir à s'extirper du conflit, les États-Unis doivent d'abord lancer une nouvelle initiative diplomatique en faveur de la paix. Si Trump s'en va prématurément, la Syrie sera laissée en proie à une instabilité chronique, par conséquent vulnérable à un retour du radicalisme. Par ailleurs, la rupture de l'Amérique avec la Turquie aura dépassé le point de non-retour, la Russie sera assurée d'une force à sa solde libre d'agir à son gré au Moyen-Orient et l'Iran aura acquis les capacités de livrer la région au chaos. Les conditions seraient rassemblées pour un regain du conflit, qui ramènerait les États-Unis dans la région, mais à un prix plus élevé encore. Le choix n'est guère difficile.

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# CULTURE & ENTERTAINMENT

With Ben Polee Wese



## MTN Liberia Music Award a '419'?

### -no cash for award winners

**M**TN Liberia Music Award (MLMA) organizers gave out the biggest April fool here to artists, the Liberia Music Industry and so many loyal fans in and out of Liberia who participated in the recent award ceremony when in fact, there were no awards.

After a successful fight to bring the Liberia Music Award (LMA) home from the United States of America where some local artists had faced

difficulty in participating, the management finally brought the award to Liberia and got one of the country's giant GSM Companies heading sponsorship, changing the name from LMA to MTN Liberia Music Award (MLMA).

Prior to the award ceremony held at the Executive Pavilion in Monrovia in December, 2018, the head for MLMA Liberia, Joseph Teah announced in a press conference that the award held in Liberia was

different from all previous ones.

Giving some attractions that made the one here different from the rest, he noted that artists who won awards took home empty frames or mere papers, but will be escorted with some cash to appreciate their effort, as it's done in other country.

However, since December 22, 2018 till now, there has not been a single cent given to the many winners, who walked away with awards during the ceremony, which has sparked huge noise both between organizers, promoters, bloggers and the artists.

Culture & Entertainment also gathers that the MLMA-Liberia Officer-In-Charge made the pronouncement as a mere bluff, noting that he didn't consult the USA team before making such declaration to the public, which is causing serious embracement for the organization.

A source from US team reveals that during the contract with Lonestar/MTN



for sponsorship, the organizers requested for US\$65,000 but the company refused on grounds that said amount was very exorbitant.

Our source continues that Lonestar/MTN committed itself to giving the organizers US\$25,000, which was too little to include fees for award winners, disclosing that an amount of US\$11,000 was given to run the ceremony.

The source adds that the USA team now sees the MLMA-

Liberia O-I-C Joseph Teah as a serious embracement, mentioning that after the first US\$11,000 was given to Mr. Teah to carry on the show, the money was allegedly misapplied, causing serious problem for the organization.

Meanwhile, the source reveals the USA team is preparing a letter to be delivered to lawyers of MLMA and subsequently hold a news conference, but didn't state what the letter is all about.



## CIC-Suzan Gbangaye fight drags

**A**s promised in our last week's edition to follow up the case between Sound of Greatness (SOG) artist CIC and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Geez.Lib Suzan Gbangaye to

the letter, the battle between the two looks like it's not ending anytime soon.

The social media posts keep appearing on both parties' timeline, informing their loyal fans of the status of the case

that has been sent to court.

A boyfriend of Geez.Lib CEO Ston Luckshine and other bloggers have been posting on their respective social media pages that the case have been closed and the CEO of Geez.Lib has finally won the battle.

"Dear lib bloggers don't be intimidated by my situation. Stand for what is right," reads a Geez.Lib CEO's post.

On the same day, the boyfriend of the Blogger posted, "This industry got no haters. All I see are great men fighting amongst themselves to get to the top that has no wealth. That's Stupidity. Let's make the top a place where we can get rich (Not Fame). We are done finally; don't hunt what you can't kill."

CIC also posted on his social media page that the case has not closed yet and it was early for other people to start celebrating.

The artist's post continues that the case has been transferred from the Paynesville Magisterial Court on grounds that it borders on slander and damages, which the Paynesville Magisterial lacks jurisdiction to prosecute.

He says therefore, the case will be furthered at the Circuit Court of Monrovia, meaning it was too early for anyone to celebrate.

"The case involving CIC and



Suzan has been dismissed by the magisterial court of Paynesville, stating that the case has to do with slander and damages which they lack the jurisdiction to prosecute the offender. Therefore, the case will be furthered at the circuit court of Monrovia. In other

words, the court case continues," CIC posted on his fan page.

But other information reaching this paper says a lot of big hands in the music industry here are appealing to the SOG artist and his management to let go the matter.



Geez.Lib CEO Suzan Gbangaye

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# “Tarry of falsehoods”

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Grand Kru County Representative Cllr. J. Fonati Koffa and Senator Varney G. Sherman of Grand Cape Mount County are locked in words of war here, over the ongoing Sable Mining case, as the former described the latter's testimony as “tarry of falsehood.”

The Grand Kru Lawmaker once headed a Special President Task Force that was constituted by former president Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to probe a Global Witness investigative report titled, *The Deceivers*, which links several Liberian officials, including Senator Sherman of taking bribe totaling US\$950,000.00 to change the concession law of Liberia in favor of the British firm, Sable Mining to win a bidding process.

Following preliminary findings, the former Sirleaf administration subsequently indicted and charged several former and current officials, including Cllr. Sherman and ex-Speaker Alex Tyler with multiple crimes such as bribery, economic sabotage, criminal conspiracy, criminal



Cllr. Varney Sherman



Cllr. Fonati Koffa

solicitation and criminal facilitation, respectively.

Now, Rep. Koffa has strongly criticized the unprecedented manner in which the Criminal Court “C” at the Temple of Justice is allowing the indicted Sable Mining defendant Senator Varney Sherman to proceed in ongoing cross-examination.

Addressing a news conference in his office at the

Capitol Thursday, July 04, he says it is incomprehensible to allow a defendant parade himself before the court in an action of “showman”, without being cross-examined.

“For three days now, Defendant Senator, Cllr. Varney Sherman has been in a tarry sparring falsehood in an attempt to seek public sentiments in the ongoing Sable Mining prosecution. Cllr.

Sherman during those three days made unsubstantiated comments against the high earned reputation of members of the Special Presidential Taskforce tasked with investigating the Global Witness, Sable Mining bribery allegations report linking former and current government officials of government to receiving bribe to award a concession agreement, particularly the Wologizi Mountain range, in Lofa County, observes Cllr. Koffa, who currently heads the House Judiciary Committee.

According to him, he wonders why would Cllr. Sherman be sparring lies and misinformation of the activities and performance of the Special Presidential Taskforce he (Sherman) said, the ‘Presidential Taskforce was nothing but a setup to witch hunt and a money spending team.’

He argues that contrary to Cllr. Sherman's accusation, his (Sherman's) indictment along with others grew out of a ‘Global Witness report’, to which none of the members on the special task force or in the Government of Liberia knew about except Cllr. Sherman.

“We will not permit the lies and deception of Cllr. Sherman's to undermine the credibility of persons with credible credentials to be dented. This case grew up of a Global Witness report alleging systematic allegations of bribery on now defendants, including Cllr. Varney Sherman. We never knew about this Sable Mining Case until it was duly reported but contrary to claims now that we are which hunting him, Cllr. Sherman knew, so then, how can he says the special task force was about to witch hunting him and others? This is complete deception.”

He continues: We are aware that Cllr. Varney Sherman was contacted by British media long before this matter came about through Global Witness, and he refused to comment to the matter. So why is he labeling members of the Special Presidential Taskforce who are only determined to rescue the image of our country by bringing to justice those persons and individuals intending to avert the

economic benefits of the entire country for personal gains.”

Commenting on claims that the special presidential taskforce spent US\$4.5 million so far in bringing the defendants to justice, Cllr. Koffa says contrary to these assertions, the Taskforce spent US\$1.1 million to begin recovering government stolen money and properties, and the process leading to bringing to Justice of now-indicted Cllr. Varney Sherman and others, including former House Speaker Alex Tyler.

“Factual evidence to the involvement of Cllr. Sherman and others were obtained from Cllr. Varney Sherman own email server by Yahoo, his bank accounts showing cancelled checks and new payment checks to him and his comptroller, the BBC report, the British Guardian Newspaper publication, including the Sable Mining Company own files. So tell me, where is the witch-hunt for Cllr. Varney Sherman”? Koffa asks.

Senator Sherman, who is the defendant, is protesting against the exclusion of British mining firm Sable Mining and Andrew Grooves from the economic sabotage trial of top Liberian officials who were allegedly bribed by the company to change concession laws.

“It is not required for a person to be a [rocket] scientist to conclude both the giver of the bribe and receiver are guilty,” Sherman testified Wednesday, 3 July in the economic sabotage trial for alleged US\$950,000 bribe offered by Sable Mining for favorable concession laws.

He believes that the trial is “merely a political witch hunt and a vendetta” submitted by former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf, having nolleprosequi (dropped case against) the company and Mr. Grooves who allegedly bribed the defendants in the case.

The defendant, also a lawyer, is one of several top Liberian officials accused by prosecution in the bribery case, with claim particularly against defendant Sherman that as lawyer for the British mining firm, he allegedly inserted Section 75 in the Public Procurement and Concession Commission (PPCC) Act regarding non-bidding process favoring Sable Mining. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

## Senate rejects CBL nominees

By Ethel A. Tweh

In a rare legislative decision since the inception of the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) - led government, the Senate Committee on Banking and Finance has rejected three persons nominated by President George Manneh Weah to occupy certain positions at the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL).

The Committee chaired by Grand Gedeh County Sen. Marshall Dennis said Thursday, 4 July that Mr. Richard A. Dolley, Mr. Timothy Thomas and Mr. James B.

Dennis are not qualified to serve as members of the CBL's Board of Governors.

Their appearance before the Senate Committee followed their recent appointment by President Weah.

The Committee has further asked the plenary of the Senate to reject the presidential appointees.

The Committee's report says Mr. Dolley and Mr. Dennis have served on the management team of the CBL and even up to the position of Deputy Governors.

The Committee further notes that judging from a

report by a presidential investigative team that points to long term lack of proper internal control system at the CBL.

According to the Committee's observation, two of the nominees have no knowledge in developing policies to mitigate any problem of internal control at the CBL.

Further, the Committee report signed by its chairman Marshall Dennis and approved by majority of its members reveals that Mr. Timothy Thomas' testimony at the hearing proves that he has no idea of the country's current economic problems.

Given the observations expressed by the Committee, it came to a conclusion that none of the three nominees are convincing in terms of proactiveness and robustness to take head on the [creeping] threat that the economic status of the country poses to its citizens in this contemporary dispensation.

The Committee therefore recommends that the Senate Plenary unanimously reject the three nominees to the CBL Board of Governors because they all lack the needed experiences, institutional knowledge and up-to-date economic management competences to resuscitate Liberia's [crippling] economy. -Edited by Winston W. Parley



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# NEC cites technical reasons

**-over second postponement of by - elections**



By Winston W. Parley

The National Elections Commission (NEC) has indefinitely postponed the conduct of the Montserrado County Senatorial and District #15 Representative by - elections for the second time, citing "technical and operational reasons."

The decision announced Thursday evening, 4 July comes just four days to the

conduct of the two by - elections that were due to be held on July 8 after they were first rescheduled from July 2.

"The Commission says the postponement is strictly on the basis of technical and operational reasons. The NEC also emphasizes that the postponement is motivated by professional considerations," the Commission announces.

The Senatorial and Representative by - elections are caused by the deaths of

Sen. Geraldine Doe - Sheriff following prolonged illness and District #15 Rep. Adolph Lawrence in a fatal car crash along the Roberts International Airport (RIA) highway.

The Commission had indicated that it needed US\$2.5m for the conduct of the elections, but it is not certain if all of the amount required by the Commission was made available by the cash strapped regime of President George Manneh Weah.

By June 18 the NEC reported that Government had provided US\$1.5m out of the US\$2.5m required, subsequently announcing the first postponement of the by - elections.

Four days to the conduct of the rescheduled polls, the Commission again revealed on Thursday that pre-packed kits have not arrived into the country and have made the by -



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# Business Registry launches online platform

The Liberia Business Registry (LBR) officially launches a 'State of the Art' website and Online Application System in the County.

The initiative, in support of efforts by the Government of Liberia to improving the business climate in the country was formally inaugurated Wednesday, July 3, 2019, in Monrovia at the conference room of the Liberia Business Registry.



LBR boss, Sampson Dee (folded hands) flanked by guests

According to a press release, the modern platform, a joint undertaking of the Liberia Business Registry, Ministries of Commerce and Industry, Foreign Affairs, Finance and Development Planning and the National Social Security and Welfare Corporation (NASCORP), attracted a number of speeches and was characterized by praises upon the Registrar General of LBR, Sampson M. Dee and his team.

"As you may know, the Liberia Business Registry is a one stop shop that is responsible to ensure that all businesses are formalized and registered. So, on that basis of our own responsibilities; we have decided to ease the process of doing business in Liberia, especially when it comes to business startup", Mr. Dee explains.

He says upon taking over the Liberia Business Registry in



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