



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

WWW

**Advertize Here!**

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

# The New Dawn

French Version Inside

TRULY INDEPENDENT

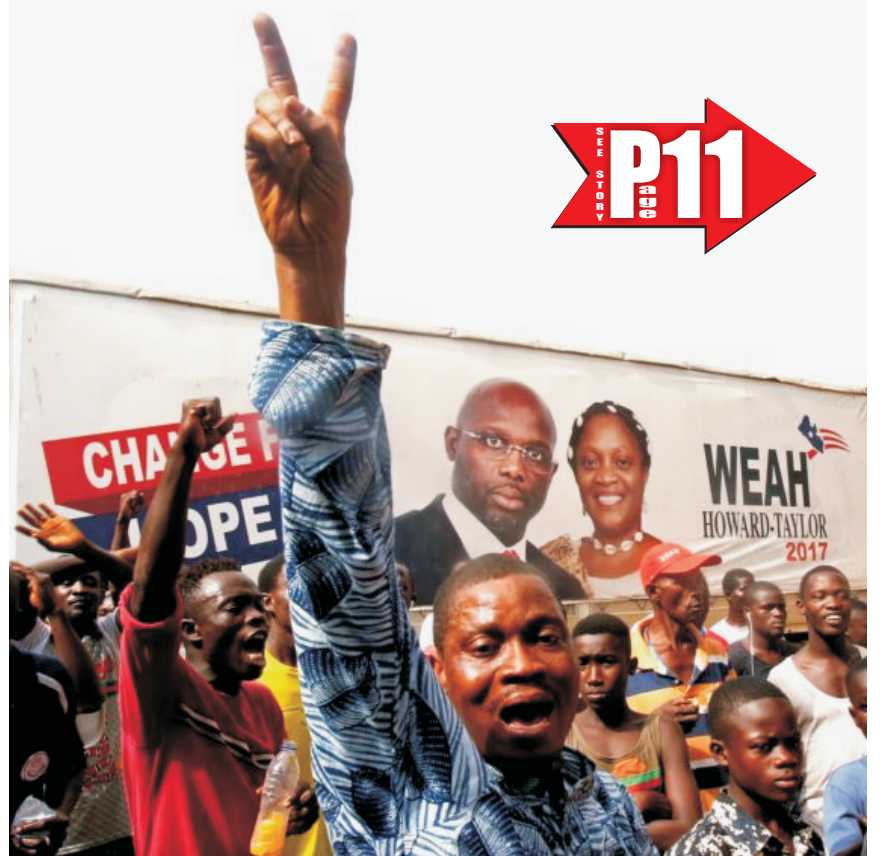
**Advertize Here For Low Rate**

VOL.9 NO. 112

MONDAY, JULY 08, 2019

PRICE LD\$40.00

# CDC plays blame games



**-As economic situation deteriorates further**



Dr. James F. Kollie, Jr.

Solicitor General Cyrenus Cephus

# Not enough!

**-Dr. Kollie tells SG Cephus**

**3 Days Free Calls**

Dial \*156\*4#

#Here4U

everywhere you go

MTN MoMo

LIBERTY BUNDLE

LRD 100

PLUS 10 mins TO OTHER NETWORKS







# Continental News

## Nigeria signs African free trade area agreement

**A**frican superpower Nigeria has signed an agreement which aims to increase trade between African countries.

This leaves Eritrea as the only African country not to be part of the trading bloc.

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari signed the landmark agreement at the African Union (AU) summit in Niger.

The first step is to cut tariffs for goods from countries within the bloc but the timeframe to do this is yet to be announced. The AU says that the African Continental Free Trade Area - called AfCFTA - will create the world's largest free trade area.

It also estimates that implementing AfCFTA will lead to around a 60% boost in intra-African trade by 2022.

Only 16% of international trade by African countries takes place between African countries, according to research by the African Development Bank in 2014.

At the moment some of

that intra-Africa trade ranges from fresh fish from the Seychelles to petrol from Angola. AfCFTA hit a hurdle last year when Nigeria pulled out days before the country was due to sign the agreement.

Nigeria is Africa's biggest economy and has long been a regional leader so, when it

stalled, observers questioned if the African trade bloc would ever actually happen.

President Muhammadu Buhari said he needed further consultations in Nigeria.

Since then, the Nigerian Office for Trade Negotiation says it has consulted with 27 groups, including trade unions.



The bloc aims to increase trade across African borders

## Botswana to appeal ruling decriminalising homosexuality

**B**otswana's government will appeal against a landmark High Court ruling that decriminalised homosexuality, the attorney general says.

Last month the court rejected colonial-era laws that imposed up to seven year jail terms for same-sex relationships, saying they were unconstitutional.

The ruling was viewed by many as a step towards improving LGBT rights in Africa.

But Attorney General Abraham Keetshabe said the judges had made a mistake.

"I have thoroughly read the 132-page-long judgment and I am of the view that the High Court erred in arriving at this conclusion," Mr Keetshabe said in a statement on Friday.

He added that he would take the case to the Court of Appeal, but did not give further details on the basis for the appeal. The High Court ruling last month was reached unanimously by three judges.

"Human dignity is harmed when minority groups are marginalised," Judge Michael Elburu said at the time. "Sexual orientation is not a fashion statement. It is an important attribute of one's personality."

The case had been brought to court by a student who argued that society had changed and homosexuality was more widely accepted, and the ruling was celebrated by human rights groups and activists around the world.

Angola, Mozambique and the Seychelles have all scrapped anti-homosexuality laws in recent years.

But laws outlawing same-sex relations still exist in many African countries, and it is punishable by death in northern Nigeria, Sudan, Somalia and Mauritania.

In May, Kenya's High Court ruled against overturning a law banning gay sex. BBC

Nigeria has a lot to gain from increasing access to its goods and services to a wider African market. But many of those consulted also feared increased regional integration would lead to unfair competition for jobs and the goods they produce.

With Nigeria signed up, AfCFTA's dream of increasing intra-Africa trade, which currently lags behind the volume of trade the continent does with Europe, is now one step closer.

Now that AfCFTA can offer access to the enormous Nigerian market, they are in a much stronger position to negotiate with regional bodies in other parts of the world. Eritrea did not participate in the negotiations because of their conflict with Ethiopia, according to the Commissioner for Trade and Industry of the AU Commission Albert Muchanga.

He adds that now the two countries are at peace and

Eritrea has asked the AU to go through the agreement with them.

"So over time they are going to come on board" he said. Free trade agreements are designed to cut trade tariffs between member countries.

Tariffs are a form of tax, like a border tax.

They are placed on goods coming into a country for a range of reasons, sometimes to try and protect a home-made product.

The purest free trade agreement (FTA) removes all border taxes or trade barriers on goods. They get rid of quotas too, so there is no limit to the amount of trade you can do.

FTAs also help make a country's exports cheaper and give easier entry to other markets.

They come in all sorts of forms and with different rules but in short, they make trade between countries as liberal as possible and allow for more rules-based competition. BBC

## Wife of 'alleged Ethiopia coup plotter arrested

**I**n Ethiopia, the wife of the man the authorities say masterminded a failed coup in Amhara state has been arrested, his daughter Mahalet Asamnew has told BBC Amharic.

Brig Gen Asaminew Tsige was accused of being behind the killings of the state governor and two others on 22

car, laptop and other documents.

Then on Thursday, they arrested her mother, Desta Asefa. It is not clear why she was detained.

The police would not comment on the reported arrest.

Last week, the authorities said that more



June.

Two days later he was killed as he attempted to escape from his hideout in Amhara's main city, Bahir Dar, police said.

Brig Gen Asaminew's daughter told the BBC that police had raided their home in the capital, Addis Ababa, last week and taken away a

than 250 people had been arrested, suspected of being involved in the 22 June violence. Along with the officials killed in Bahir Dar, army chief Gen Seare Mekonnen, and another general were killed in Addis Ababa. BBC





# EDITORIAL

## Liberia's democracy suffocates

**JUST AS VOTERS** and candidates in Montserrado County were gearing up for Monday, July 08 by-elections, they received the disappointing news that the polls have been postponed for the second time, raising serious skepticism about the readiness of the National Elections Commission to conduct the elections.

**THE NEC IN** a press statement late Thursday, 04 July cited "technical and operational reasons" for the second postponement, leaving candidates who have been campaigning across the county and in electoral district#15 respectively in a state of uncertainty as to when the polls will be actually held.

The second delay raises constitutional argument about the NEC's mandate to schedule or reschedule the by-elections outside the 90-day timeframe provided by the Constitution of Liberia since this period elapses effective July 9, 2019.

**UPON RECEIPT OF** an official communication from the National Legislature to the National Elections Commission, declaring a vacant seat in either House, the NEC is by law to conduct a by-election within 90 days to refill said vacant seat, but the Commission seems to have gone outside of this stipulation.

Therefore, it would have to return to the Legislature in order to get a new electoral date for the by-elections, something, that some opposition candidates and political parties are already suspecting is a deliberate attempt by the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change to rig the polls.

**THE LEAST OUR** democracy wants is for voters and candidates to go to the polls, questioning the credibility of the process. The onus is on the government, particularly the NEC, to do everything within its powers to erase every doubt about the process and its outcomes.

**IN ITS PRESS** statement Thursday, the NEC also cited "professional considerations" for the second postponement without clearly spelling out in ABC what those "technical, operational and professional" reasons are.

**NOW THE PUBLIC** is left to guess and self-interpret whatever the Commission means by those statements, politics inclusive. Who should be blamed?

**WE ARE HEARING** that July 20 has been announced as new date for the by-elections in Montserrado County. If this is true, fine, but officials should exercise caution in their public statements or pronouncement, so as to avoid wrong impressions and interpretations.

**WE ALL SEEK** free, fair and peaceful elections to sustaining our current democracy rather than proceeding in ways that leave room for mistrust and fears.

**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.



## O-PED

By Jorge G. Castañeda

## Mexico's Migration Mistake

**M**EXICO CITY - Last month, US President Donald Trump's administration railroaded Mexico into agreeing to take "unprecedented steps" to curb irregular migration and human trafficking across its borders. The deal - the implementation of which will be evaluated this month - is shameful for Mexico and the United States alike.

The discord over migration did not originate with Trump. In the summer of 2014, then-US President Barack Obama responded to a surge in unaccompanied minors reaching the US border by requesting that then-Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto send forces to Mexico's border with Guatemala to stem the flow. Peña complied, though Mexico never received anything in exchange, and the number of migrants reaching the border declined.

But the tensions escalated significantly under the Trump administration, not least because, by late 2017, the number of migrants reaching the US border was again skyrocketing. In early 2018, the US was reportedly apprehending some 50,000 migrants - especially from Central America, but also from Cuba and Africa - per month, compared to about 20,000 per month in 2015-2016.

Trump's own attempts at solutions had little impact. His promised border wall remains far from built. His policy of separating migrant children from their parents at the border was met with such an outcry that he had to reverse it, though children continue to be kept in appalling conditions. Mass deportations proved a weak deterrent as well.

For a president who won his position partly on the promise to slash immigration at all costs, this was excruciating. But it became truly intolerable this year, when arrivals again soared yet again, with the US authorities encountering or arresting over 144,000 migrants on the Mexican border in May alone, a 32% increase over April.

This surge is blamed partly on Mexico's new president, Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO), who announced before taking office last December that he would pursue an "open arms" migrant policy, including expedited, year-long humanitarian visas and virtually unimpeded movement through the country. Though few visas were actually issued, the promise was enough to convince tens of thousands of Hondurans, Salvadorans, Guatemalans, Cubans, and others to set off for Mexico - and then head north.

Even before AMLO was inaugurated, Trump was pressuring him to do more to support the US in its immigration fight. Under the "Remain in Mexico" deal - concluded in November 2018 by Trump's administration and AMLO's incoming government - Central American asylum seekers who reached the US would be returned to Mexico to await their hearing before an American official.

But the more than 15,000 asylum seekers who were returned to Mexico between January and May of this year, and Mexico's cancellation in January of its humanitarian visa program, were far from enough for Trump. By May, Trump was threatening to impose 5% tariffs on all imports from Mexico - to rise as high as 25% by October - if AMLO's government did not do much more. And, early last month, Mexico acquiesced to virtually all of Trump's demands.

Already, AMLO's administration has taken significant steps to satisfy Trump. Mexico deployed 6,000 National Guard troops to 11 "choke-points" near the border with Guatemala, in order to detain and eventually deport as many migrants as possible. It dispatched another 15,000 troops to the northern border, to deter those migrants who do make it that far from entering the US without proper documents.

AMLO's government also opened at least two additional points of entry - for a total of five - through which US authorities can return asylum seekers awaiting their hearing, and decided to admit many more "returned" migrants per day, from around 20 at each entry point to up to 200. And it has reportedly agreed that, if migration does not decrease significantly within 45 days, it will accept "safe third country" status, meaning that Central Americans in Mexico will be allowed to request asylum only in that country - not in the US.

Many observers in Mexico, including members of the ruling coalition, have criticized AMLO's actions, arguing that he would have been better off accepting the first 5% tariff hike, and even the second one. In time, they assert, intensifying opposition within the US would probably have forced Trump to back down. Mexico could even have helped this process along by imposing retaliatory tariffs on exports from select, electorally sensitive US states. And it could have appealed the US tariff decision at the World Trade Organization.

None of these actions would have been painless. But the costs would have been lower than those of the current approach, which, among other things, has dealt a powerful blow to human rights in Mexico.

Mexico's security forces do not know how to interrogate migrants or determine their legal status while respecting their basic rights. It can, after all, be very difficult to distinguish between locals and Central American migrants. And while major bus companies have agreed - again, at the behest of the Trump administration - to request identification from their passengers, Mexico lacks a national identity card, and its citizens are not legally obliged to carry any documentation. This puts the government in uncharted legal territory.

Moreover, Mexican security forces are not trained to manage migrant detention centers effectively. And, in fact, conditions at those centers are so poor that they invite comparisons with the internment camps in Vichy France that housed refugees from occupied Europe in the 1940s. This is morally indefensible, and it could have long-term consequences for Mexicans themselves, because Mexico is also a source country for migrants. Mexico can hardly denounce American deportations of undocumented Mexicans or condemn Trump's border wall while treating Central American migrants so poorly.

For now, however, Mexico's government is firmly ensnared in Trump's trap. If it is going to extricate itself, it will have to start fighting back now.

## OPINION

By Stephen Holmes

## Putin's Ambivalent Illiberalism

**P**ARIS - Russian President Vladimir Putin recently told the Financial Times that "the liberal idea has become obsolete," drawing a wave of earnest rebuttals. The provocation warrants attention, but not the type of attention it has received so far.

Admittedly, Putin's contention was less ridiculous than US President Donald Trump's own statement equating "liberalism" with "what is happening" in Los Angeles and San Francisco. But Putin also asserted that Russia is more democratic than the United Kingdom. Like his claim to have won the Russian presidency through free and fair elections, such quips are not meant to be taken seriously.

That includes Putin's mischievous aside that liberalism is wholly outdated. Indeed, his contention that the liberal West is now sharing the humiliating fate of the Soviet Union appears to reflect wishful thinking, or even a revenge fantasy.

Still, it is worth asking why Putin would bother to caricature "the liberal idea" as an archaic philosophy that encourages coddling immigrants who rape and murder and imposing multiple gender roles on children. "Multiculturalism," he says, is no longer "realistic," because it conflicts with "the interests of the indigenous population" in liberal-democratic societies.

What informs this eccentric perspective? The simplest answer is that Putin is recycling the talking points of the alt-right nativists who have been disrupting Western politics in recent years. This is not just an entertaining way to poke Westerners in the eye. As Putin knows well, the nativist promise of restoring a lost monoculture is a recipe for political weakness and even civic violence in both America and Western Europe.

Most of Putin's other responses to the Financial Times were unremarkable. His observation that globalization has not been kind to Western middle classes is hardly original. And it is no secret that liberalism's reputation has been tarnished by illiberal China's economic miracle, not to mention the 2008 financial crisis and the rise of out-of-control technology companies facilitating the dissemination of fake news. Nativist politicians like Trump have exploited liberalism's moment of weakness by tapping into the demographic anxieties of economically distressed populations, and by stoking animus toward "establishment elites."

But, unlike Trump, Putin knows that traditional liberalism cannot be reduced to "political correctness" and "open borders." He is fully aware of liberalism's broader legacy, which includes the abolition of torture; civilian control of the military; freedom of conscience and expression; an independent press to expose official corruption and incompetence; and the demand that government decision-making be based on facts and arguments that can be publicly contested.

Putin's deeper understanding of liberalism becomes obvious when he complains about its "hegemonic" ascendancy since the end of the Cold War. Like most post-Soviet leaders, he was irked by the humiliating idea that all non-Western countries should adopt Western liberalism and discard their own allegedly inferior traditions.

In the Financial Times interview, Putin expresses astonishment that the West would "want a region such as Libya to have the same democratic standards as Europe and the US." In his view, "liberal hegemony" means "democracy promotion," which is nothing but a euphemism for "regime change." Here, not in his gibes about liberalism's love affair with gender pluralism and immigrant criminality, one glimpses the gravamen of his case against the liberal idea. Putin defends dictators such as Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro from what he sees as Western encroachments because he is ultimately concerned about his own uncertain grip on power. He has long believed that the United States, before Trump, was using democracy-promotion as a cover for its plot to oust him from the Kremlin.

Far from a demonstration of masterful "trolling," however, Putin's remarks about liberalism actually betray a deep ambivalence about the current fragility of the "liberal idea." Though Trump has weakened Western alliances and eschewed democracy-promotion, as the Kremlin would have wished, he has also gone further, launching a project of full-scale democracy-desecration, both at home and abroad.

Paradoxically, the end of America's interest in the global spread of democracy and liberalism poses a serious threat to Putin's own position. Much of Putin's domestic legitimacy stems from the fact that he has boldly stood up to a supposedly arrogant West. But now that Trump has abandoned everything the West once stood for, the anti-America card has lost its political resonance. In fact, an openly Russophilic administration in the US may be one reason why Putin's domestic support has been declining so sharply.

Putin's fears in this regard are revealed by his curious pivot toward the end of the Financial Times interview, when he commutes liberalism's death sentence and admits that it actually deserves a degree of support. Though this volte-face utterly contradicts his claim that liberalism has "ceased to exist," it is in keeping with a leader who openly aspires to protect the international trading system from Trump's "impatience" and "rashness."

But Putin's unexpected nostalgia for the liberal world order is even more striking in his lamentation for the international arms-control regime. While still arguing that America's reckless commitment to "regime change" is the primary motivation for non-democratic states to pursue a nuclear deterrent, he now recognizes the equal and opposite danger of Trump's disengagement from all forms of multilateralism.

Should the US withdraw from its defense commitments in Europe or Asia, far more countries would feel the need to develop nuclear weapons to ensure their own security. In Trump's dizzyingly unpredictable and increasingly unruly post-liberal world, illiberal autocracies, too, run the risk of "ceasing to exist."



# Open Letter To Boakai, Brumskine, Cummings and Urey

By Martin K. N. Kollie

Youth Activist, martinkerkula1989@yahoo.com

A REPEAT

July 3, 2019

The Political Leaders  
Four (4) Collaborating Parties (UP, LP, ANC and ALP)  
Opposition Bloc  
Republic of Liberia, West Africa

**Dear Political Leaders:**

With optimism for a new era of an egalitarian Republic and in pressing pursuit of a fresh beginning which offers genuine hope for millions of peasants who remain very vulnerable to peril and despair, I bring you patriotic greetings during such a difficult time as this when our nation is fast descending into an abyss of economic paralysis, creeping dictatorship and mass looting of public resources.

The future seems scaring and cloudy under footballing President George M. Weah as a result of massive leadership bankruptcy and increasing hardship. Vision is lacking - no concrete agenda - no realistic strategy - and an unquenched greed to amass illicit wealth are new normal under this ruling CDC clique. The "Change for Hope" mantra is yet to offer any real hope firmly built upon those cherished democratic values of justice, equality, civil liberty and prosperity for all.

Such failed slogan especially under a domineering presidency is a reflection of a PROMISE BETRAYED. Liberians are left alone in a state of obscurity and beggary after 16 months of participating in a historic democratic transition. The CHOICE made in 2017 has proven futile so far. Such barren decision has made them even more vulnerable, miserable and hopeless.

Amidst these harsh realities virulently crushing Liberia and Liberians, there are two (2) fundamental questions to ponder over:

1. Do Liberians still have hope? If yes, where can they turn for relief/reprieve?
2. Can 2019 Montserrado Senatorial and Representative By-elections offer any real hope or change for Liberians especially ahead of 2020 and 2023?

Of course, all is not lost - there is still hope far beyond prevailing odds. The Republic can be rescued from this national tragedy or nightmare only if revered patriots begin to unite in words and deeds. This rescue mission MUST begin with these 2019 senatorial and representative elections in Montserrado County - The hotbed or powerhouse of politics in Liberia. 2019 is a defining moment. In fact, it is a litmus test for 2020 and 2023.

Beyond this end, I thought to pen this open letter to you as key opposition leaders in Liberia who command huge following and influence/affluence in our body politics. This is a form of caution and a call to action. The nation needs you most to rekindle a unifying spirit of solidarity during these challenging times especially in these impending 2019 senatorial and representative elections.

It is not enough to channel such deep sense of resilience, patriotism and urge for CHANGE through audio and video recordings. Though endorsed as senatorial and representative candidates by UP, LP, ANC and ALP, but it appears like candidate Abraham Darius Dillion and candidate Telia Urey are left alone to woo voters and canvass for opposition victory in vote-rich Montserrado, which in my opinion seems unpredictable and unfair.

Like Weah as president of Liberia and political leader of CDC is frantically campaigning almost everywhere for candidate PaulitaWie and candidate Abu Kamara, how I hope Boakai, Brumskine, Cummings and Urey as prominent figures of The Opposition could go all out to campaign for Dillon and Telia. This could seal THE DEAL and send a resounding caveat to President Weah and CDC ahead of 2020 and 2023. Lest you forget that vote-rich Montserrado holds the key to the presidency, and any elected seat won in Montserrado is a plus or political boost.

These elections are about Weah as President/CDC/NPP/LPDP and MDR on one hand versus UP, LP, ANC and ALP on another. These elections are not about Dillon and Telia. Mr. Weah is taking these elections very personal evident by his outburst against the opposition during his party's campaign rally on June 22, 2019. It was good to have endorsed Dillon and Telia but it would be far better to roll up your sleeves and begin to canvass for them in trenches and hamlets. A lot of your supporters who are eligible voters would be far more inspired to vote for Dillon and Telia just by seeing you (Boakai, Brumskine, Cummings



and Urey). This is why 'physical presence' counts more than audio and video recordings in a process such as this.

*If Weah along with collaborating parties wins (Worst-case Scenario):*

1. The opposition (UP, LP, ANC and ALP) would be rendered 'impotent and weak'
2. Weah would have his way and even break more laws and amass more wealth (domineering presidency)
3. Weah's claim of having exclusive ownership of Montserrado would be justified/proven
4. It would appear like Weah is doing well. This could validate his performance rating
5. It would place CDC in a better and stronger position for 2020 senatorial elections and 2023 presidential elections.

*If Opposition Collaborating Parties (UP, LP, ANC and ALP) claim victory:*

1. This will send a clarion message against misrule and bad governance (especially corruption, dictatorship, and increasing hardship) under ex-Soccer Star George Weah and CDC
2. It would render CDC as a 'frail and unpopular' ruling clique in vote-rich Montserrado after a period of just 16 months
3. Weah's popularity in his 'political stronghold' would be deflated/diminished. This would further disprove Weah's wild claim of having absolute control/ownership of Montserrado
4. It will strengthen opposition parties and solidarity forces to unite even more ahead of 2020 and 2023 elections in order to SAVE Liberia
5. The people's hope and aspiration for a new future would be reawakened through an alternative and opposition victory.

Boakai, Brumskine, Cummings and Urey, I admonish you as key opposition political leaders to consider "The Montserrado Factor" as an indispensable political capital you could leech and/or lane on for future elections. With just 5 more days to these upcoming by-elections, I encourage all of you to leave your comfort zones and move across Montserrado to canvass for your candidates (Dillon and Telia). Yet another opportunity has been made available for you to resist Weah's overly ambitious plan of consolidating excessive power ahead of 2023. You must prevent this moribund semblance of fascism and authoritarianism.

You have all it takes to WIN in 2023 as opposition collaborating parties (UP, LP, ANC and ALP). But such victory begins now in 2019 and beyond! Yes, you can win Weah and his Coalition of Desperate Crooks (CDC, NPP, LPDP and MDR). Let me dig out some NUMBERS quickly:

2017 Elections:

1. Weah and his Coalition:
  - a. CDC, NPP, and LPDP - 596,037 votes (38.4%)
  - b. MDR - 127,666 votes (8.2%)
  - c. Total - 723,703 votes (46.5%)
2. Opposition Collaborating Parties:
  - a. UP - 446,716 (28.8%)
  - b. LP - 149,495 (9.6%)
  - c. ANC - 112,067 (7.2%)
  - d. ALP - 24,246 (1.6%)
  - e. Total - 732,524 (47.2%)

So this means that the four (4) opposition collaborating parties stand a better chance to win in 2023 if they remain on this plinth of unhindered unity, honesty and loyalty. But victory in 2023 is largely dependent on 2020 and 2019 elections. This is why all four political leaders MUST consider these senatorial and representative by-elections very crucial. Getting fully involved with this process could even avert or discourage any form of electoral

fraud/malfeasance (November 2018 Sinoe County Senatorial By-election is a case to reference and a lesson learned).

very crucial. Getting fully involved with this process could even avert or discourage any form of electoral fraud/malfeasance (November 2018 Sinoe County Senatorial By-election is a case to reference and a lesson learned).

Out of two (2) senatorial seats in Montserrado, CDC is already occupying one. You must not allow CDC to win this other seat. Even the late Senator Geraldine Doe-Sheriff who later became a prominent political figure in the opposition bloc and vigorously campaigned against CDC in 2017 won't be happy if this happens. The Late Senator didn't campaign or canvass through audio and video recordings. She wore her boots and moved into the trenches. Amidst a declining economy coupled with high unemployment, inflation, corruption, rape and mysterious deaths, this could be an easy victory for opposition political parties. Such victory is only possible if your physical presence (full involvement both in words and deeds) is with Dillon and Telia. The people are looking up to you for guidance and direction.

Using White-collar approach (speaking to voters through audio and video recordings) in order to woo voters may yield less impact. Had these voters and stalwarts of your parties used similar approach in 2017, you wouldn't had accumulated thousands of votes. If they do in 2023 presidential election, your support-base would dwindle. The nation is in dire need of transformation and visionary leadership. Paulita and Abu are far from possessing such quality or trait. But they could be imposed through whatever means if you keep a distance from this crucial process.

The country is in a state of trance (subconscious state) and its image is being ruined. The democratic gains made so far are fast diminishing while corruption is being institutionalized under Mr. Weah and his cabal of kleptocrats. No foreign appointment or interest is greater than Liberia's interest right now. Acting too busy to campaign and abandoning this 2019 senatorial and representative elections could cause you a lot. So far, I have only seen ALP Political Leader Benoni Urey in mass rallies campaigning and directly interacting with voters. All of you must muster this courage to do same if an opposition victory is to be secured in 2019, 2020 and 2023. You cannot be too busy or overly tight with personal matters during these very critical times.

Remember, any form of defeat for Dillon and Telia is a defeat for you (Boakai, Brumskine, Cummings and Urey). And this could likely spill over or become a big blow in future elections. It now appears in some quarters that if it is not about you, it can't be about anyone, which I still do not want to believe. Therefore, I caution you to disprove this public notion and move into action with urgency for an opposition victory in these elections. Stand up and act now for our nation needs you more than ever before. You cannot spectate or play a laissez-faire role during these very critical times. Doing so would certainly make Weah overly powerful and ambitious to further ruin our Republic.

Out of love for Country, this is a caution and a call to action from a young patriot.

Yours in pursuit of a New Liberia,  
Martin K. N. Kollie  
Youth and Student Activist

Cc: Mr. Wilmot Paye, Chairman, Unity Party (UP)  
Sen. Steve Zargo, Chairman, Liberty Party (LP)  
Sen. Daniel Naatehn, Chairman, Alternational National Congress (ANC)  
Mr. J. S. Theodore Momo, Jr., Chairman, All Liberian Party (ALL)  
Candidate Abraham Darius Dillon and Candidate Telia Urey



**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**EU boosts Liberia's security data collection**

**-Donates specialized equipment**

By Winston W. Parley

The European Union (EU) has donated a specialized computer for Data Collection and Registration Center (DACORE) for use by Liberia's law enforcement agencies to digitize and share information in support of the West African Police Information System (WAPIS) program.

The handing over of the DACORE at the Liberia National Police (LNP) Headquarters on Friday, 5 July is done within the context of the regional security program in an effort to boost information sharing, and the European Union (EU) is funding the project.

The foreign partners say they will try as much as possible to extend the equipment to the borders because that's where every passenger is checked against the national and international databases.

The program has many layers including national, regional and international.

Deputy Police Inspector General for CID Affairs Col. Prince Mulbah says the donation of the DACORE for Liberia's entire security will enhance the effort of combating national and transnational crimes.

WAPIS County Officer Motlalepula Albert Motsoeneng says there will be a simple office called the Data Collection Center, disclosing that training will first be provided for law enforcement agents who will be selected by the various law enforcement agencies.

"And after training, the equipment will be deployed where these ... officials are currently working," Mr. Motsoeneng says.

He concludes that there will be IT equipment that will allow "us" to connect to these agencies in future.

Ambassador Babatunde Ajisomo, the Special Representative of the President of ECOWAS Commission to Liberia says this program will have a proper linkage not only with security agencies, but cites the close working relation of the media with security agencies in assisting with relevant information.

"We need to assist our security personnel you know, in providing them regular information," Amb. Ajisomo says, noting that security is everybody's business.

According to the ECOWAS Envoy, intelligence sharing, using the cyber space is very

cardinal to [dealing] with security challenges.

He emphasizes the porosity of the borders in the region as a major challenge, given the proximity to the Sahel where Mali and Burkina Fasso are [battling terrorist attacks].

Amb. Ajisomo urges that "we all need to pay attention to transnational crimes," suggesting that this fight cannot be carried out in the absence of information and equipping officers in the use of computers and understanding the cyber space.

He commends the EU and Interpol for being at the forefront of the program.

LNP Commissioner of Police for Crimes Services Division (CSD) Mr. Charles Blake expresses observation that the police in West Africa have a paper - based data [system] that gets damaged by disaster.

According to him, it is on the basis of this challenge that West African Police appealed to the EU to support a digital data so that the security sector in the region can be secure through sharing of information.

According to him, the program will be run on three layers from national, regional to international levels, adding that the equipment donated is

for all national law enforcement agencies.

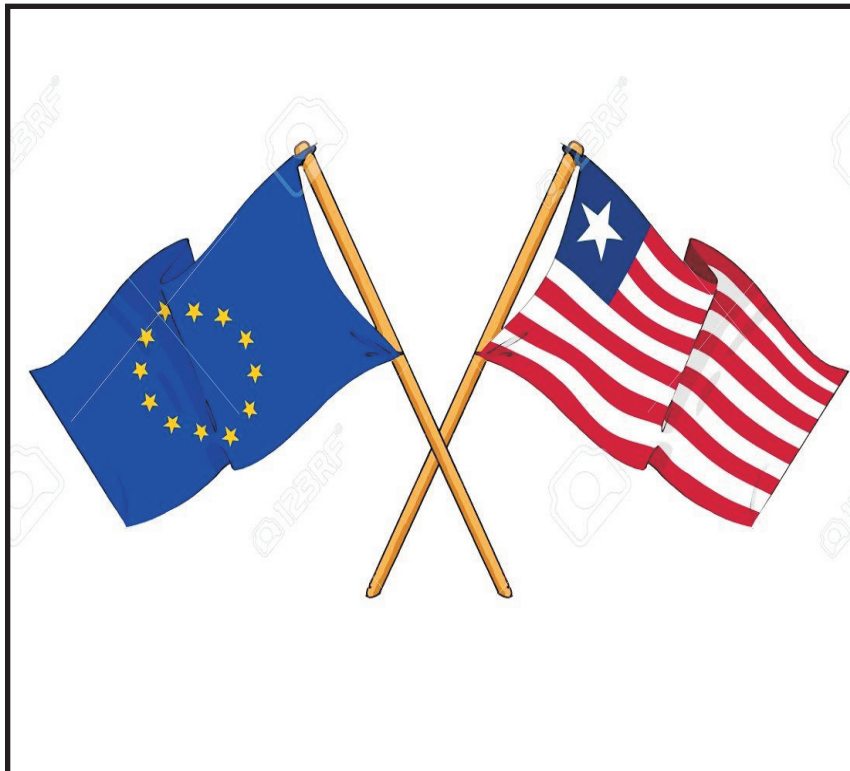
At the Data Center, he says papers will be scanned and placed into computers that can be shared just by the touch of the button.

EU Head of Cooperation Mr. Theodor Kaspers expresses happiness to see that the Government of Liberia and the WAPIS program signed a memorandum of understanding last year of adding Liberia to the program.

He also expresses the EU's happiness in helping to equip the Liberian police and other security agencies to make the digital connection through the region in fighting crimes across borders.

For his part, Mr. Dirk Allaerts, Director for Planning and Development at the Interpol General Secretariat notes that crime is a universal security threat, saying the aim of WAPIS' program is to respond to some of the security challenges faced by the West African countries.

Assistant Justice Minister for Public Safety Fredrick Noah thanked the EU, ECOWAS and Interpol for the gesture in support of the WAPIS program which endeavors to build partnership for change in developing countries.



**Youth representative wants indicted officials prosecuted**

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

A representative of the Mano River Union Youth Parliament Kusee Lepolu Armstrong has called on the government of Liberia through its Judiciary branch to prosecute those who were recently indicted from Bong

County.

"Let the government prosecute those who have been indicted. I think it will be a good start for everyone of us as citizens," he said recently.

Several former and current government officials from Bong County were recently indicted on multiple charges of corruption, ranging from theft

of property to fraud and criminal conspiracy by the Ministry of Justice.

Those listed in the indictment are former Bong County District #3 Representative Gerore Mulbah; former Representative Tokpah John Mulbah of District #1; Representative Edward Karfiah of District #5, Representative Josiah Marvin Cole of District #3 and Dr. John Flomo, former President of Bong County Technical College.

Others are former Bong County Superintendent Rennie Jackson, Project Specialist Thomas Cisco of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Kenneh Yao Awadjie, former Assistant Chief Architect, Project Engineer, Project Implementation Unit, Bong County and Liberia China United Investment Group, among others.

The Individuals and company were indicted on five counts of violation of Public Procurement Concession Commission Act (PPCC), theft

of property, fraud on the Internal Revenue of Liberia, criminal conspiracy and criminal facilitation.

Their charges are in relations to the construction of the Dolokellen Gboveh Community College, now Bong County Technical College (BCTC) of which alleged over US\$4 million is said to have been squandered.

Mr. Armstrong told correspondents in Bong County that if Liberia should be on the path of battling corruption, there is a need to prosecute those who have been indicted so as to serve as deterrence for would - be violators of the PPCC Act.

According to him, if the government of President George Manneh Weah should succeed, it needs not to take any corruption case lightly because it undermines every

administration.

Mr. Armstrong indicates that no one is above the law, suggesting that those who have been indicted must prove their innocence before the court.

He believes that his call for the prosecution of the past and present officials is not a witch-hunt, but to ensure a balanced justice system.

"Why you should have people in position strangulating the poor people? That's a total strangulation because if those officials are stealing monies that are intended for the College, that means that they are denying underprivileged children from going to school because they do not have finance to attend Cuttington University or other private Institution," he concludes. —*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



Read the NewDawn everyday  
&  
Advertise with us!



**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**Legislative officials subpoenaed -in Sable Mining trial**

By Winston W. Parley

Criminal Court “C” Judge Peter W. Gbeneweleh has ordered the reissuance of a writ of subpoena on Senate Secretary Naborlor Singbeh and the Chief Clerk at the House of Representatives Madam Mildred Sanyon to appear before the court Monday, 8 July at the trial of several top officials.

The Judge ordered the reissuance of the subpoena on the two top Legislative officials on Friday, 5 July following Court “C” Sheriff’s report indicating that the rest of the subpoena witnesses from the Capitol had sent in letter, but did not appear at the time.

Several other subpoenaed witnesses including Mr. Calton S. Miller, immediate past Public Procurement and Concession Commission (PPCC) Executive Director Mr. Dorbor Jallah, Mr. Joseph S. Neufville and Mr. Emmanuel O. Sherman appeared on Friday and were qualified by the court to give testimony.

Over claims of bribery,

former House Speaker J. Alex Tyler, Grand Cape Mount County Sen. Cllr. H. Varney G. Sherman, Bomi County Sen. Morris Saytumah, Eugene Shannon, Dr. Richard Tolbert, Mr. Willie Belleh and several others are standing trial at the Court.

The government here says British mining firm Sable Mining paid bribes totaling

US\$950,000 to lawmakers and other officials to change PPCC laws for a non-bidding process for iron ore deposits at the Wologisi Mountain in Lofa County.

The indictment indicates that nearly half of the alleged US\$950,000 was channeled through Sherman and Sherman law firm owned by co-defendant Cllr. Sherman, while the rest was allegedly brought here in expensive brief - case

by Mr. Andrew Grooves.

The government says bribe was offer for purpose of inserting Section 75 in the PPCC Act which provides for non - bidding process while the Act was pending passage at the Legislature during former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf’s regime.

The Senate Secretary and the Chief Clerk of the House are ordered to appear before the Court on Monday at 10AM.

However, the defendants’ first witness Cllr. Sherman testified during cross examination with state lawyer Cllr. Wesseh A. Wesseh on Friday that it appears that the government was anxious to get indictment “against us” and to spend money to get “us” tried by the media.

He insists that there was “no basis for us,” adding that the defendants did not do what they have been indicted for.

Sen. Sherman says he cannot say the money that was transfer to Sherman and

Sherman’s account at the International Bank by Sable Mining for its activities in Liberia.

However, the accused explains that whatever disbursement was made was for legitimate purposes, as stated on the spreadsheet which Global Witness had in its report.

The indictment against the defendants was drawn following a report by the Global Witness titled “The Deceiver” in 2016, alleging a bribery scandal that was intended to influence officials to change the PPCC law for the concession to favor Sable Mining. Government has nolle prosequi Sable Mining and Mr. Andrew Grooves, a move that leaves defendant Sherman to claim witch - hunt, on grounds that both the bribe giver and receiver are guilty and must be held.

He however denies claims of bribery, saying Section 75 was in the draft Act, but not inserted as claimed by the government.



**Klao Association donates to D. Tweh High School**

By Lewis S. Teh

Students of the D. Tweh Memorial High School in the borough of New Kru Town, Monrovia jubilate when they received 15 pieces of desktop computers from a U.S.-based Liberian group, National Klao Association (NKA).

Speaking to this paper during the official presentation of the computers Wednesday, July 3, 2019, on the school campus, a representative of the Association K. Advertus

Karpeh, says Klao is composed of Liberians from the Kru ethnic tribe residing in America who thought it wise to give back to their country especially, to their kinsmen in electoral district#16.

“For those of us in the National Klao Association in the Americas, we came from here before traveling, and when you are abroad, you think about the place where you have come from, so you can contribute to the welfare of the people”, he says.

Mr. Karpeh notes that the D.

Tweh Memorial High School is one of the higher institutions of learning in the district, saying, “We all grew up from here; it is against this that the National Klao Association on behalf of its Chairman, Dr. Lawrence Sekagepo and the executive committee of the Association thought it fit to contribute to the pursuit of the students.”

“Today, we donated 15 pieces of desktop refurbished computers that are loaded with Microsoft Office, and the objective of this organization is to help our people, to put together people of the Klao ethnic group of Liberia.”

Mr. Karpeh, who just returned from America, points out that Klao is an ethnic group of Kru people, who come from southeast Liberia, including Sinoe, Grand Kru, and part of Maryland County, respectively.

“We are trying our best to unite the entire Klao people in the United States and Canada to help our people that are living in Liberia.”

He says the Association has operated for 25 years and they just celebrated 27 years of existence, noting that its primary achievement is centered on lifting the welfare of their kinsmen from one stage to another.

“We are even planning a trip

**GET ACCESS TO THE**  
**The New Dawn**  
 TRULY INDEPENDENT  
 www.thenewdawnliberia.com

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



to the southeastern region to carry on some health initiative for our people, and help them understand basic health and hygiene, among others.”

He observes that authorities of the school are receptive of the items donated, but points to lack of electricity as a challenge for the institution, promising that the Association will work with the school authorities to restore electricity for operation of the computers.

When asked why only D. Tweh High School and not other schools, Mr. Karpeh explains the Association bears the name National Klao Association with root in New Kru Town, and their expectation is to help the district in area of education and health before reaching out to other schools in the country. “It is for this reason that we

thought it wise to start with D. Tweh School.”

The Principal of the D. Tweh Memorial High School, Edwin S. Nagbe, expresses delight for the donation and heartfelt sentiments to members and executive of the Association on behalf of the school authorities.

“We want to thank the National Klao Association for their efforts, time, and resources and to think about donating these times to D. Tweh School is something that these students want to see happening”, he says.

He assures that under his leadership as Principal of the school, items donated will be kept and used by the students themselves to enhance their learning ability and expand their knowledge on basic computer literacy. -Editing by Jonathan Browne



# Français

## Trois personnalités nommées par le Président rejetées par le Sénat

Le Comité sénatorial permanent sur les banques et les finances a rejeté trois personnes désignées par le président George Manneh Weah pour occuper certains postes à la Banque centrale du Libéria (CBL). C'est une première depuis la prise du pouvoir par la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC).

Le sénateur Marshall Dennis, sénateur du comté de Grand Gedeh, a déclaré jeudi 4 juillet que M. Richard A. Dolley, M. Timothy Thomas et M. James B. Dennis ne sont pas qualifiés pour siéger au conseil des gouverneurs de la CBL.

Leur comparution devant le Comité du Sénat a suivi leur récente nomination par le président Weah. Le Comité a en outre demandé à la plénière du Sénat de rejeter les personnes nommées par le président.

Le rapport du Comité indique que MM. Dolley et Dennis ont fait partie de



l'équipe de gestion de la CBL et même jusqu'au poste de sous-gouverneur.

Selon le comité, à en juger par le rapport d'une équipe d'enquête présidentielle, le système de contrôle interne mis en place par la CBL n'a pas été mis en place pour un long

terme.

Selon les observations du Comité, deux des candidats nommés n'ont aucune connaissance en ce qui concerne l'élaboration des politiques visant à atténuer les problèmes de contrôle interne au niveau de la base de crédit.

En outre, le rapport de la commission signé par son président Marshall Dennis et approuvé par la majorité de ses membres révèle que le

témoignage de M. Timothy Thomas à l'audience prouve qu'il n'a aucune idée des problèmes économiques actuels du pays.

Compte tenu des observations formulées par le Comité, il est parvenu à la conclusion qu'aucun des trois candidats nommés n'était convaincant sur le plan de la réactivité et de la robustesse pour prendre en charge la menace [insidieuse] de la crise économique à laquelle sont en proie le pays et ses citoyens ces derniers temps.

Par conséquent, le Comité recommande à la plénière du Sénat de rejeter à l'unanimité les trois candidats au conseil des gouverneurs de la CBL, car ils ne disposent pas tous de l'expérience, des connaissances institutionnelles et des compétences de gestion économique nécessaires pour ressusciter l'économie paralysée du Libéria.

## Deuxième report des élections partielles, la NEC cite des raisons techniques

La Commission électorale nationale (NEC) a reporté pour une durée indéterminée les élections sénatoriales et législatives du comté de Montserrado. C'est le deuxième report. La NEC évoque des « raisons techniques et opérationnelles ».

La décision annoncée jeudi soir 4 juillet a été prise à quatre jours à peine de la

date des deux élections partielles qui devraient avoir lieu le 8 juillet.

« La Commission affirme que le report est strictement basé sur des raisons techniques et opérationnelles. La NEC souligne également que le report est motivé par des considérations professionnelles », a annoncé la Commission.

Les élections sénatoriales et législatives partielles font suite

aux décès de la sénatrice Geraldine Doe - Sheriff des suites d'une longue maladie et du représentant du district 15, Adolph Lawrence, dans un accident de circulation sur la route de l'aéroport international Roberts (RIA).

La Commission avait présenté un budget de 2,5 millions de dollars US pour l'organisation des deux élections, mais il n'est pas certain que tout le montant

requis a été mis à disposition par le jeune régime du président George Manneh Weah, qui est à court de moyens financiers.

Le 18 juin, la NEC, annonçant le premier report des élections partielles, avait fait valoir que le gouvernement n'avait mis à disposition que 1,5 million de dollars US sur les 2,5 millions demandés. À quatre jours des scrutins, les kits préemballés n'étaient pas encore arrivés dans le pays, d'où l'impossibilité d'organiser des élections, furent-elles partielles, dans les délais prévus.

« La Commission électorale nationale (NEC) informe le public que les élections partielles du sénateur de Montserrado et du représentant du district 15 du même comté, prévues pour le 8 juillet 2019, ont été reportées à une date

ultérieure qui sera annoncée », a déclaré la Commission.

Néanmoins, la Commission informe le public que le lot complet de 1 046 100 bulletins de vote se trouve actuellement dans le pays.

Selon la NEC, les bulletins de vote, y compris les guides de vote tactiles, les formulaires et les relevés des comptes, sont arrivés ce week-end et ont été reçus par les autorités de la Commission ainsi que par la police nationale du Libéria (LNP) sous Protection maximale des forces de l'ordre.

Selon la NEC, pour l'élection sénatoriale partielle, 993 850 des bulletins de vote ont été imprimés livrés, tandis que 52 250 ont été imprimés pour l'élection législative partielle.

En outre, la Commission informe le public que la formation des agents électoraux est en cours dans divers endroits du comté de Montserrado.



Articles traduits

Par Valéry G. Guhéna

E-mail: [valeryghn10@yahoo.com](mailto:valeryghn10@yahoo.com)

Tel: 076 589 44 0881483394



# Français

## Une pétition contre l'insalubrité de la capitale Monroviapresentée au parlement

Certains citoyens ont demandé à la Chambre des représentants de convoquer le maire de Monrovia, Jefferson T. Kojee, et son équipe, afin qu'ils répondent aux questions concernant les ordures ménagères qui continuent d'engloutir les rues de la capitale.

Des montagnes d'ordures se dressent à Monrovia et dans ses environs. La City Corporation sous le commandement du jeune maire et président de la Ligue de la jeunesse de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) du parti au pouvoir, Kojee, semble dépassée.

Un groupe qui se fait appeler ConcernedFree

par la présence d'énormes montagnes de déchets dans les rues depuis deux ou trois mois.

Le CFCL indique que la responsabilité légale du maire de la ville de Monrovia et de toutes les autres personnes recevant un salaire aux frais des Libériens est de veiller à la propreté de la ville.

Mais le maire Kojee, selon le groupe, a récemment déclaré aux Libériens qu'il n'était pas un héros des décharges des ordures. Cette déclaration, pour le CCCL, est une gifle aux visages des Libériens et une insulte totale à l'humanité.

"Les taxes payées par ces commerçants servent à payer les membres du



Citizensfor Libéria (CFCL) qui a déposé la pétition devant la Chambre des représentants a déclaré vouloir que Kojee, ses techniciens et d'autres soient convoqués par le législateur pour qu'ils répondent aux questions concernant le débordement des ordures dans la capitale Monrovia.

Dans la pétition, le CFCL signale que de simples maladies telles que des maux de tête, le paludisme, des douleurs abdominales et d'autres maladies courantes tuent des citoyens dans le pays.

Selon le groupe, ces maladies sont causées par les piqûres de moustiques, le manque d'eau potable et l'air pollué. Il se dit troublé

gouvernement, y compris le maire de la ville de Monrovia et toutes les personnes associées au nettoyage de la ville, mais ils ont délibérément refusé d'exercer les emplois pour lesquels ils sont payés, "Se plaint le groupe.

Le CFCL ajoute que les déchets autour de Monrovia se sont transformés en de grandes montagnes et en vahissements progressivement toutes les communautés. « C'est une honte pour le pays quand des investisseurs et des invités d'autres pays et des personnalités prestigieuses se rendent au Libéria et constatent à quel point la ville est déplorable »,

## 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.

Articles traduits

Par Valéry G. Guhéna

E-mail: [valeryghn10@yahoo.com](mailto:valeryghn10@yahoo.com)

Tel: 076 589 44 0881483394



**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**Salvation Army Polytechnic holds awareness**

By Emmanuel Mondaye

The Salvation Army Polytechnic (T-SAP) under the leadership of Dr. Emmanuel King Urey holds a one-day public awareness in Sinkor, Monrovia to sensitize the general public about the institution's activities, including its 2019/2020 academic calendar.

Speaking to reporters following streets awareness parade backed by the Polytechnic's marching band, Dr. Urey explains the exercise was also intended to draw public attention to the locality of the Polytechnic situated in the Salvation Army Compound opposite the Monrovia City Hall.

Dr. Urey discloses that besides preaching the Gospel, the Army believes in education as the cornerstone to building a nation, noting that the Army has established primary and second secondary schools throughout



Liberia and those institutions have enabled thousands of students to graduate from high school.

He notes that some of the graduates are yet to enroll in higher institutions of learning and to fulfill its mission, the Army commenced the construction of a Vocational

and Technical School in 2004, which was officially opened in September 2008, adding that over the years, the school has offered training in electricity, electronics, plumbing, carpentry, masonry, cosmetology, computers, and garment designing.

Dr. King continues that in

2010, the school applied to the National Commission on Higher Education for accreditation to offer Associate Degree program and that after a thorough vetting by the Commission, the accreditation was granted in 2017, thereby allowing T-SAT to offer Diploma and Associate of Arts/Science Degrees (AA) in the areas of Building Construction, Electricity, Automotive Engineering, Electronics, Marketing, Procurement and Contract Management, Teacher Education, Theology and

Nursing as well as training in Technical and Vocational Education (TVET), respectively.

He says as part of efforts to building the human resource capacity of Liberia thru quality education along with strong discipline, the university with assistance from partners has selected one of its instructors to undergo a one-week intensive training in Solar Energy in the United States of America (UAS) focusing on how to teach Solar Energy.

He explains that the Polytechnic places zero tolerance on instructors receiving bribes from students, something, Dr. Urey discloses led to the university dismissing an instructor last semester for selling pamphlets to students in breach of administrative policy.

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church established in 1865 by William Booth in London, England. Its message is based on the Bible and the ministry is motivated by the love of God, preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ, while addressing human needs in His name without discrimination. The Church was established in Liberia in 1988.

**VLTP candidate runs empty campaign office**

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Vision for Liberia Transformation Party representative candidate for Montserrado County District #15 Erasmus D. Fahnbulleh, operates an empty campaign office in Logan Town, Bushrod Island.

Reporters who visited the campaign office of Mr. Fahnbulleh at the intersection of a Catholic Clinic, saw an empty office with his campaign postal placed on the wall of a building that lacks window curtains separating a primary school and the dilapidated office.

The main room being used by the VLTP candidate also contains pipes connected to a restroom of the primary

school without any floor mat, but a makeshift desk and plastic chairs.

The entrance leading to Mr. Fahnbulleh's campaign office is being used as a cook shop where people go to purchase cooked food thus, confusing people who went there to locate the office.

It was further observed that his main campaign office located in Caldwell Township is also being used for money exchange transaction and sale of cement, among others.

Reporters visiting the campaign office in Caldwell Township were given seats in another compartment of a store with cement dust on the floor and video projectors mounted on overhead, indicating that the premises is

also used as a video club.

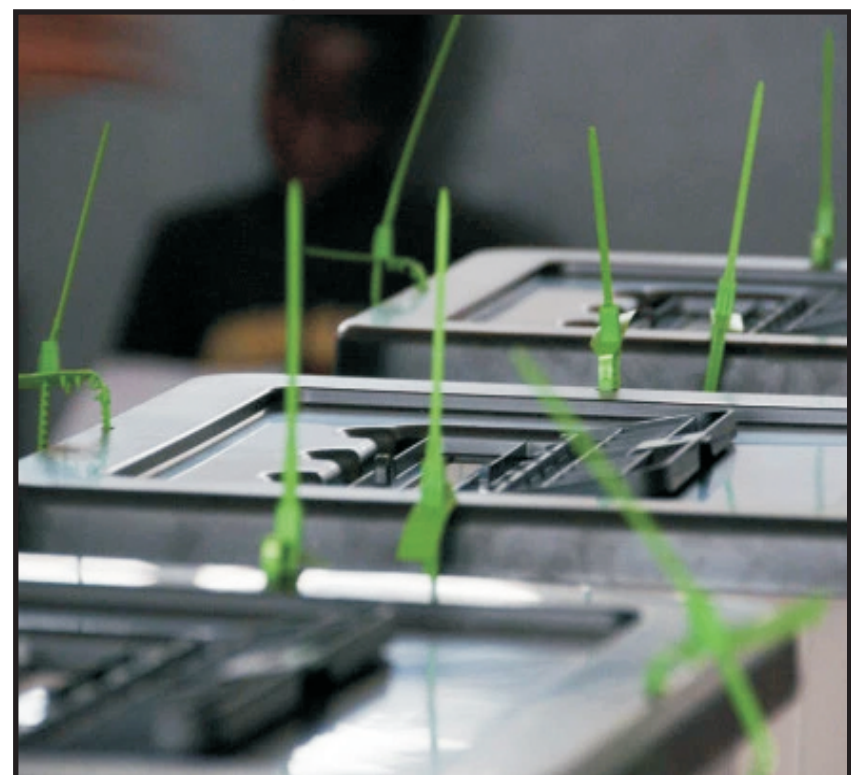
When Mr. Fahnbulleh was contacted on the matter, he requested reporters to meet with him so that he could address himself to the prevailing issue, but failed to live up to the appointment.

A second contact by reporters on 1 July while Mr. Fahnbulleh was attending the representative candidates' debate organized by the Liberia Media for Democratic Initiative (LMDI) held at the Caldwell Town Hall he promised to speak to the press, but again failed.

The National Elections Commission (NEC) requires candidates contesting for elected positions to have an office space that contains computers, electricity, furniture, and office staffers, among others which Mr. Fahnbulleh lacks in breach of guideline on candidate's participation in the electoral process.

Political pundits closely following activities of the Vision for Liberia Transformation Party's candidate express disappointment in the man that wants to represent the people of District #15.

They call on the National Elections Commission (NEC) to visit Mr. Fahnbulleh's offices to verify whether he has met standards required for individuals contesting the representative and senatorial by-elections. -Editing by Jonathan Browne



*Read the  
NewDawn everyday  
&  
Advertise with us!*

**CHANGE OF NAME**

PHILIP S. YATTOR filed a Petition through his legal counsel requesting this Honorable Court to order the change of her name to "PHILIP SWARAY".

During the hearing, the Petitioner testified that the change of his name, requesting this Honorable Court is intended to reflect his rulee family name and render him identity more explicit and absolute.

That the Petitioner having shown with justification and satisfaction that he was born on October 27, 1992 in Bong County, Republic of Liberia unto **Mr. Humphery Swaray** and **Mrs. Alice Swaray** and that the Change of name will substantially promote his interest in all of the understandings and help to establish just identify more firmly, and being satisfied that he has met all legal requirements for the Change of her Name in this Jurisdiction, it is therefore **DECREED** as follows:

That the PETITION having been heard be and same is hereby ordered granted and we now render that the name **PHILIP S. YATTOR** be changed to "**PHILIP SWARAY**" Beginning this **28th day of June A.D. 2019**.

**THIS DECREE** shall be registered in the office of the Registrar of **DEEDS** and other Official Documentation within (10) days from this date and also be published twice in any recognized Newspaper operating in the Republic of Liberia within twenty (20) days from this

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN OPEN COURT,  
THIS 08 DAY OF JUNE, A. D. 2019

COURT SEAL: *[Signature]*  
YAMIE QUIQUA GBESIA  
ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE PRESIDING  
SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, CIVIL LAW COURT

REGISTERED ACCORDING TO LAW IN VOL. 07-2019 PAGE(S) 00099850

REGISTRAR, NATIONAL ARCHIVES CENTER/MONT. CO.

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN LEGALLY REGISTERED AND FILED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES CENTER/MONT. CO. LIBERIA AT 7:55 AM (PM) ON 06/08/2019



# CDC plays blame games

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

As the economy situation in the country continues to deteriorate further, the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC), has continued to blame the former ruling party for the country's current woes nearly 19 months since it took over the helm of power here.

CDC Chairman Mulbah Morlu was on top of his game over the weekend telling opposition members here to shut up during a news conference, while defending the performance of President George Manneh Weah and his officials so far.

Morlu's claim is that the government is struggling to 'clean the mess' reportedly created by the former ruling Unity Party and her collaborators for the past 12 years.

He did not explain how, as the prices of basic commodities continue to skyrocket, while most companies are folding up and banks unable to honor credit requests due to the liquidity problems in the country.

His claims come on the



heels of an embarrassing US\$25 million mop-up money mixed up and LRD 16.5 billion (missing money) and a June 7 demonstration that shot down the country for a day.

But Mr. Morlu insisted that the root cause of the country's problem is the former ruling Unity Party and all the CDC is trying to do is to fix the mess.

He said it is shameful and a national embarrassment for

people who reportedly participated in the spoils of the country for the past 12 years during the regime of former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's administration to have become activists and critics overnight.

According to him, the CDC government inherited the economic instability that has engulfed the country over the years, adding; "it is totally

unacceptable for the president to be working tirelessly trying to fix what they (opposition) spoiled and at the same time creating a myth that the economy became messy under this current administration- is being irresponsible on their part".

He told his supporters and the media that President Weah is building a new Liberia where every Liberian will cherish and be a participant. He argued that this is the basis upon which it is expedient enough to give Weah a breathing space to serve his people.

"Those that are criticizing from the Unity Party are branch of criminals inducted already by the General Auditing Commission, while others are already facing the legal battle for the bad policies carried at the Central Bank of Liberia", adding that the opposition has no good intention for the country.

He furthered blamed the former ruling party saying, "the high exchange rate between the United States dollars to the Liberian dollars and the hike in prices of commodities are the results of the bad policies created by Unity Party government and her collaborating forces."

He urged his partisans not to engage in confrontational arguments with people who are blindly against the Coalition for Democratic Change government. "Stay away from places that might create tensions and perhaps ends up in fist fight. Nothing justifies

violence on the face of this earth. They will provoke you just to create unnecessary tensions here," he added.

He later announced that the planned closure of political campaign activities for the rescheduled by-elections here has been postponed to a later date which will be announced through the national executive committee of the party in days to come.

Responding to the recent statement of Mr. Alexander Cummings on the by-elections' postponement, Morlu said to the political leader of the Alternative National Congress, Mr. Cummings that government has no intention to cheat, instead the opposition community does.

Morlu said that the CDC has no history of cheating or elections' flaw instead, that's the plans of the opposition community to cheat.

He referred to Mr. Cummings as 'Diasporas based politician' who has no knowledge of Liberians' politics. He noted that Cummings and his ANC has never won any election from the presidency to the senatorial and representatives' elections since the establishment instead he just, 'bad mouth' people who the Liberian people trust and love.

He alleged that the four collaborating political parties have a vote buying agenda-they want to buy voters' cards in order to deny Liberians the rights to vote for candidates of their choice.-*Edited by Othello B. Garblah*

## Not enough!

By Othello B. Garblah

Former Deputy Finance and Development Planning Minister for Fiscal Affairs, Dr. James F. Kollie, Jr., says the delisting of his name by Solicitor General Cyrenus Cephus from the list of interested person is not enough.

Dr. Kollie who currently heads the Liberia Maritime Authority or LMA says a pronouncement by Cllr. Cephus, which appears to have been an adjustment of the list of interested person, which has seen is name omitted does not address any

of his concerns.

He insists that he is still seeking answers from Cllr. Cephus to explain how he got implicated in an EU\$13 million missing money, whether there was an audit or not.

On Wednesday June 19, Cllr. Cephus issued a list in reference to a General Auditing Commission or GAC Audit reports over the period July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2017 in which he mentioned Dr. Kollie as one of the persons of interest.

The listing was followed by an interview conducted by the Analyst newspaper at which time the papers quotes Cllr.

Cephus saying that the Justice Department has put together a team of professional criminal investigators and lawyers called the Assets Recovery Team or ART to recover monies that were stolen or unaccounted for under the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf regime as contained in several audits.

However, on Thursday July 4, 2019, Cllr. Cephus revealed a revised version of the list of persons of interest this time omitting Dr. Kollie's name.

In a chat with this paper Friday, Dr. Kollie said the newly confirmed Solicitor General did not answer the questions he raised in his June 19, 2019 letter.

"I asked for the basis upon which he palced my name. He hasn't said it was a mistake or there is an audit report or it was just based on news report. I still want to know."

It could be recalled that Dr. Kollie, in a Letter dated on the same June 19, 2019 requests that Cllr. Cephus provides him the particular audit report that name him in a missing US\$13 million.

"I present you greetings and wish to respectfully inquire about the basis upon which my name was mentioned on a list of 'persons of interest' issued by you on 19 June 2019, Dr. Kollie writes.

"Cllr. Cephas, because the list made reference to GAC Audit Reports for the period



Dr. James F. Kollie, Jr.



Solicitor General Cyrenus Cephus

Read the  
NewDawn everyday  
&  
Advertise with us!

July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2017, I really do want to know the following:

1. Is there actually any audit report by the GAC on \$13 million provided by the European Union?
2. Did that report, if it exists, ever mentioned my name?
3. Does that report have any responses from me in it?
4. Is the mentioned of me or anyone purely on the basis of unsubstantiated media and press reports?

Cllr. Cephas, I am constrained to ask these questions because to the best of my knowledge, no auditor have ever asked me any question about EU \$13 million

and so for your press statement to claim that there is a GAC Audit report is totally surprising and baffling.

And if there is no GAC Audit Report, Cllr. Cephas, I want you to imagine the irreparable damage that you have caused to our reputation. For example, Boima S. Kamara was not even working at the Ministry of Finance in 2013 (the period of the purported report) and so it would be impossible for him to have been involved in any audit at that time.

Honorable Solicitor General (designate), I am hoping that you will take these questions in good faith and do everything you can to respond so that the record can be set straight."



## US win thier 4th women's WC



The United States won the Women's World Cup for a record fourth time as they eventually overpowered the Netherlands in Lyon.

Megan Rapinoe's penalty and Rose Lavelle's fine run and finish gave the defending champions victory in the second half, after resilient first-half defending from the Dutch.

Veteran winger Rapinoe's calmly-slotted opener came from a spot-kick awarded after a video assistant referee (VAR) review, at the end of a tournament in which

the system has been a major talking point.

Barcelona defender Stefanie van der Gragt's high boot caught USA striker Alex Morgan and French referee Stephanie Frappart pointed to the spot after assessing replays, and the holders did not look back after taking the lead.

The European champions, reaching the final in only their second World Cup, kept the favourites at bay in the first half as former Arsenal goalkeeper Sari van Veenendaal produced four excellent saves.

But the USA, playing in their third consecutive final, continued their reign as the world's finest side as they added to their titles of 1991, 1999 and 2015.

Rapinoe's goal also meant she won the Golden Boot after finishing with six goals and three assists, while she also took the Golden Ball award for the tournament's best player.

Victory for the USA saw their English-born boss Jill Ellis, from Hampshire, become the first coach to lift the trophy twice.

Her side's second consecutive world title was a hard-fought one, but they have been the best side in a 24-team tournament that was fiercely contested, despite facing more serious trophy contenders than four years ago.

They laid down a daunting marker in their first match of the competition as they cruised to a 13-0 win over Thailand - the biggest-ever victory at the finals.

MTN MoMo



### The easy way to pay your University fees.

Pay your registration and all other fees wherever, whenever with Lonestar Cell MTN Mobile Money. Dial \*156# and follow the prompts

#Here4U

everywhere you go



## 'One of the all-time Afcon fairytales'

Africa Cup of Nations debutants Madagascar produced another upset to beat DR Congo 4-2 on penalties after a 2-2 draw and seal a quarter-final spot.

In a thriller, Madagascar took a surprise lead through Ibrahim Amada's superb 20-yard strike before Cedric Bakambu equalised with a header.

The Indian Ocean islanders restored their lead through Faneva Andriatsima's header



before Chancel Mbemba's 90th-minute equaliser forced extra-time.

Madagascar scored all their penalties.

In contrast, DR Congo missed two, with Everton winger Yannick Bolasie's attempt going over the bar to confirm Madagascar a quarter-final against Ghana or Tunisia in Cairo on Thursday.

Having beaten three-time winners Nigeria in the group stage as well as Burundi, Madagascar's fairytale run

continues after another impressive performance in Alexandria, Egypt.

They were 190th in Fifa's rankings five years ago but have now advanced further in this tournament than hosts Egypt and holders Cameroon, both of whom went out on Saturday.

Before their 90th-minute equaliser, DR Congo were denied a penalty in controversial circumstances when Britt Assombalonga appeared to be fouled by Thomas Fontaine.

## The NewDawn Press

2 colors Heidelberg printing machines



### We Offer The Following Printing Services:

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