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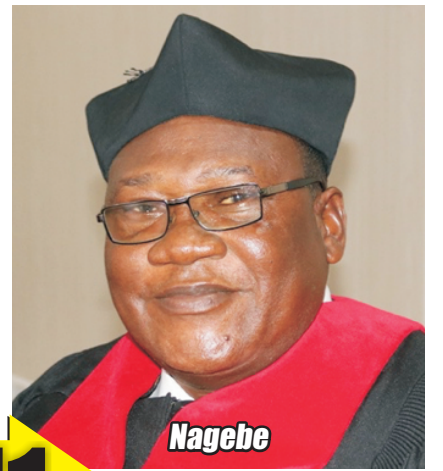
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Plot to exonerate defendants?



Sherman



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Gheneweleh

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Continental News

DR Congo's Bosco Ntaganda convicted of war crimes by ICC

A former Congolese rebel leader has been found guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Fighters loyal to Bosco Ntaganda carried out gruesome massacres of civilians, said judges at the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Ntaganda, nicknamed "Terminator", was convicted on 18 counts including murder, rape, sexual slavery and using child soldiers.

He becomes the first person convicted of sexual slavery by the ICC.

Warning: This story contains details some readers might find disturbing

Ntaganda, who will be sentenced at a later hearing, is the fourth person convicted by the ICC since its creation in 2002. He has 30 days to appeal against the convictions.

The 46-year-old former rebel has been involved in numerous armed conflicts in both Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Ntaganda surrendered at the US embassy in Rwanda in 2013.

Analysts said it was an act of self-preservation, motivated by the danger he was in after losing a power-struggle within his M23 rebel group. A three-judge bench found Ntaganda guilty on all 18 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the mineral-rich north-eastern region of Ituri between 2002 and

2003. Ntaganda was a "key leader" who gave orders to "target and kill civilians" judge Robert Fremr said in the ruling. Prosecutors had said Ntaganda was key in planning and running operations for the Union of Congolese Patriots (UCP) rebels and its military wing, the Patriotic Forces for the Liberation of Congo (FPLC).

The armed group conducted attacks against people perceived not to belong to the Hema ethnic group, the ICC found.

In one attack, fighters killed 49 captured people in a banana field behind a village using "sticks and batons as well as knives and machetes".

"Men, women and children and babies were found in the field. Some bodies were found naked, some had hands tied up, some had their heads crushed. Several bodies were disembowelled or otherwise mutilated," Judge Fremr said.

Violence in the region has killed more than 60,000 people in the region since 1999, as militias battle each other for control of scarce mineral resources, rights groups say. The judges ruled that Ntaganda had personally killed a Catholic priest, while the fighters he commanded ran rampage in the region. The crimes took place when Ntaganda served as the deputy chief of general staff of Thomas Lubanga - who was the leader of the UCP. He was the first person to be convicted by the ICC in 2012 and sentenced to 14 years.

All of those convicted so far by the ICC are from Africa. A fifth person, Jean-Pierre Bemba, the former vice-president of DR Congo, was initially found guilty of war crimes before being cleared on appeal last year.

The International Federation for Human Rights (known by its French acronym FIDH) called Monday's judgment a day of victory for Ntaganda's victims and a day of hope for others.

But it added in a statement: "While Ntaganda's conviction is a milestone... and a victory for all those who pursued justice for crimes committed in Ituri, several suspected criminals still

enjoy impunity." Forty-nine mutilated bodies strewn in a banana field. A pregnant woman killed while trying to shield herself from rape. Children under the age of 15 conscripted to fight - women and girls kept as sex slaves.

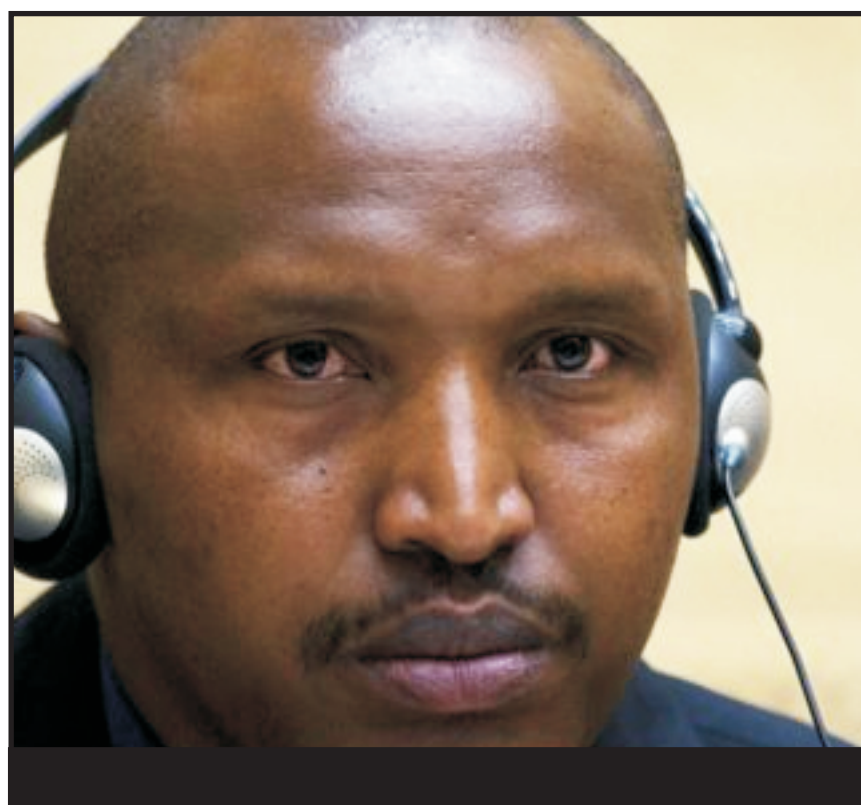
In court, judges highlighted the horror brought by Bosco Ntaganda's rebel forces before finding the 46-year-old guilty of all 18 charges.

More than 2,000 survivors were cleared to take part in this trial. Human rights groups said this judgment provided an important measure of justice. If the guilty verdict is upheld, the next question for the judges will be how long Ntaganda should spend behind bars, and what compensation, if any, should be awarded to the survivors, many of whom risked their lives to provide evidence in this trial, and now hope the court will offer tangible reparations to help them rebuild their lives. Ntaganda fought under the command of Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) leader, now Rwandan president, Paul Kagame to end the 1994 genocide against his ethnic group - the Tutsi.

After Rwanda's unrest spilled over into neighbouring DR Congo, he started to flip between fighting rebellions and serving in national armies - both Rwandan and Congolese.

In 2012, he became the founding member of the M23 rebel group after he defected with hundreds of soldiers from the Congolese national army.

His fighters later took over DR Congo's eastern city of Goma before agreeing to withdraw. At least 800,000 people reportedly fled their homes. The M23 rebel group was eventually defeated by Congolese government forces in 2013. BBC



Mnangagwa must apologise over Gukurahundi: MDC

THE MDC has thrown its weight behind traditional leaders who are calling upon President Emmerson Mnangagwa to apologise over the 1980s Gukurahundi massacres.

Last week, Mnangagwa met chiefs from Matabeleland and Midlands provinces whose areas were affected by Gukurahundi where an estimated 20 000 people were killed by the North Korean-trained 5th Brigade soldiers.

Thousands more were displaced during the disturbances.

The chiefs demanded that Mnangagwa, who was State Security minister during that period, apologise for massacres before a healing process can be conducted to give closure to the contentious issue. They also demanded that Mnangagwa should not lead the healing process because he was part of the offending party and called for an independent mediator to

convene the hearings. In an interview with Southern Eye, MDC spokesperson Daniel Molokeli and his deputy Luke Tamborinyoka said an apology will be the best foot forward for the President who has indicated he wants to tackle the thorny issue. "Mnangagwa continues to portray and sing the rhetoric of reforms. We have not seen the substance of his rhetoric - from law reform to Gukurahundi," Tamborinyoka told Southern Eye. "Gukurahundi, outside of an outright apology to the people of Zimbabwe in general and the people of Matabeleland and Midlands in particular, Mnangagwa is once again taking everyone up the garden path. An apology is free and it does not cost money, neither does it require a committee. All it needs is sincerity." Molokeli said an all-stakeholder approach that is not controlled by government would effectively deal with the Gukurahundi issue. "We need an all-stakeholder approach, a process that will not be partisan. It is important that Zimbabwe goes through a process of opening up a truth and reconciliation process, a process that would not be controlled by government. We need something bigger and broader

that is not controlled by the political forces at play," he said. On Mnangagwa's dialogue process, Molokeli said it is a futile attempt. "Whatever process the President has come up with, we are not sure of whether it is the right path, so it's not something that we support. So at the end of the day, we have reservations about this

process and it is up to ED (Mnangagwa) to prove himself that he really means business. At the moment, we will just wait and see," Molokeli said. Mnangagwa is on record saying he will only apologise for Gukurahundi if the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission says he must do so. AFP



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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 Kenneth Rogoff

The Case for a World Carbon Bank

To the dismay of many energy experts, the World Bank recently rather capriciously decided to stop funding virtually all new fossil-fuel plants. But phasing out readily available coal is a move that most major developing countries simply cannot afford without adequate incentives.

CAMBRIDGE - Although much derided by climate-change deniers, not least US President Donald Trump, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's Green New Deal hits the nail on the head with its urgent call for the United States to lead by example on global warming. But the sad truth is that, for all the needless waste produced by American's gluttonous culture, emerging Asia is by far the main driver of the world's growing carbon dioxide emissions. No amount of handwringing will solve the problem. The way to do that is to establish the right incentives for countries such as China, India, Vietnam, Indonesia, and Bangladesh.

It is hard to see how to do this within the framework of existing multilateral aid institutions, which have limited expertise on climate issues and are pulled in different directions by their various constituencies. For example, to the dismay of many energy experts, the World Bank recently rather capriciously decided to stop funding virtually all new fossil-fuel plants, including natural gas. But replacing dirty coal plants with relatively clean natural gas is how the US has managed to reduce emissions growth dramatically over the past decade (despite Trump's best efforts), and is a centerpiece of the famous "Princeton wedges" pragmatic options for minimizing climate risk. One cannot let the perfect become the enemy of good in the transition to a carbon-neutral future.

It is high time to create a new, focused agency, a World Carbon Bank, that provides a vehicle for advanced economies to coordinate aid and technical transfer, and that is not simultaneously trying to solve every other development problem. Yes, I fully understand that the current US administration is reluctant to fund even existing international institutions. But the West cannot retreat from a world of intertwined climate responsibilities.

According to the International Energy Agency - one of the few honest brokers in the global climate-change debate and a model on which a new World Carbon Bank research department could build - annual CO2 emissions in Asia are now double that of the America's, and triple that of Europe. In advanced economies, where the average age of coal plants is 42 years, many are reaching the natural end of their lifespan, and it is not a great burden to phase them out. But in Asia, where one new coal plant a week is being built, the average age is only 11 years, and most will be running for decades to come.

Coal accounts for over 60% of electricity generation in rapidly growing China and India. Even though both countries are investing heavily in renewables such as solar and wind power, their energy needs are

simply growing too fast to cast aside widely available coal.

How can the US arrogantly tell India to cut back on CO2 emissions that are only one-tenth those of the US? For that matter, how can the US persuade Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro's government to cut back on Amazon deforestation (rainforests are nature's carbon sink) and development without providing some concrete incentives?

There are many options for trying to reduce carbon emissions. Most economists (including me) favors a global carbon tax, though some argue that the more politically digestible cap-and-trade formula can be virtually as effective. But this is pie in the sky for developing-country governments desperate to meet their people's basic energy needs. In Africa, only 43% of people have access to electricity, versus 87% worldwide.

Ignorant presidents aside, most serious researchers see the risk of catastrophic climate change as perhaps the greatest existential threat facing the world in the twenty-first century. The effects are already with us, whether record heat on the US West Coast and in Europe, epic flooding in Iowa, or the impact of climate risks on the price of home insurance, which is rising beyond the reach of many people. And today's refugee problem is nothing compared to what the world faces as equatorial regions become too hot and too arid to sustain agriculture, and as the number of climate migrants explodes to perhaps a billion or more by the end of the century.

The US military is readying itself for the threat. Back in 2013, the chief of the US Pacific forces, admiral Samuel J. Locklear, listed long-term climate change as the biggest national-security threat. Given grave doubts about whether existing measures, such as the 2015 Paris climate agreement, are likely to do more than slightly slow down global warming, pragmatists are right to see preparing for the worst as a grim necessity.

Advanced economies need to put their own environmental house in order. But it will not be nearly enough if developing Asia, and perhaps someday developing Africa, are not also placed on a different development track. A new World Carbon Bank is almost surely a necessary piece of any comprehensive solution, even given the miraculous technological developments everyone is hoping for.

How much it will cost depends on assumptions and ambitions, but one can easily imagine a trillion dollars over ten years. Crazy? Maybe not, compared to the alternatives. Even a Green New Deal is better than a Green No Deal.

O-PED

By Daniel Gros

Europe's 5G Wake-Up Call

BRUSSELS - How times change. Not so long ago, the next big thing in telecommunications was 4G mobile networks, which promised massive data transfers and cheap voice calls. Now comes 5G, which will potentially spur all sorts of new digital innovations, thanks to its greater speed (200 times faster than 4G), faster data transfers from wireless broadband networks, and, most important, the ability to connect cyber-physical objects in the context of the Internet of things. Moreover, 5G is expected to enable the much more rapid reaction times required for driverless cars, advanced factory automation, smart cities, e-health, and many other applications.

But there is another key difference. Whereas the battle over 4G was essentially commercial, focusing on job creation and profits, the ongoing 5G debate is about geopolitics, technological leadership, and national security. Here, Europe must develop a much stronger common approach to the new 5G technology to make itself less vulnerable to security risks.

Most of the current 5G controversy centers on whether US and European mobile operators should buy equipment from the Chinese telecoms giant Huawei. The US government previously banned the firm from its telecoms market because of espionage concerns (although it has yet to produce evidence of this publicly), and strongly urged its European allies to do the same.

Both the US and European positions toward Huawei seem to be at odds with their commercial interests. By banning the Chinese company, US President Donald Trump is favoring existing European (and South Korean) equipment suppliers, even as he complains about America's trade deficit with Europe. (More recently, Trump has indicated a possible softening of his stance toward Huawei.)

Although European governments have differing views, most do not want to exclude Huawei. Each national government regards lower equipment prices for its national telecoms operator as more important than supporting European champions in 5G technology (such as Nokia and Ericsson).

In any case, US and European security concerns should extend well beyond Huawei and the Chinese government. The new 5G networks present a unique security challenge, because their main functions depend on software, not hardware. This makes 5G much faster than legacy wireless networks, but also leaves it vulnerable to potentially malicious attacks.

Today's information-technology systems are highly complex: current smartphone chips have more than eight billion transistors, and operating systems have more than 50 million lines of code. Moreover, many of these systems contain components supplied by hardware and software vendors from around the world. In practice, this creates multiple possible entry points for malicious attacks and data leaks, using "backdoors" that can be exploited to gain control of a device. And if backdoors cannot be detected and monitored, then entire 5G networks are potentially vulnerable, too.

The key national-security risk, then, is that a vendor for all or part of a 5G network (or its national government) could vacuum up all the traffic passing through, or even disrupt the operation of the entire network with a digital kill switch. Extensive security reviews of Huawei equipment have failed to uncover any such backdoors. That is not surprising: Huawei (or any other company) would be out of business if it were caught doing this even once. But it is also logically impossible to prove the absence of malicious code.

Although Europe has its own suppliers of 5G equipment and could simply shut Chinese vendors like Huawei out of the market, such a move is unnecessary. In many European countries, Huawei provides just one part of the mobile network. Moreover, having multiple vendors provides some protection against a kill-switch risk to the entire system.

Diversity also constitutes a liability, because each European Union member state performs its own, often quite different, security check on Huawei equipment, with many of them having only limited resources and experience to do so. The security of the future 5G networks could be much better ensured if an EU agency carried out a common check on all equipment suppliers.

More generally, Europe's potential 5G vulnerability stems mainly from the desire of each member state to keep its own mobile network under national control. For example, the allocation of 5G frequencies has been conducted entirely at the national level, according to widely different rules and conditions. This of course makes the emergence of "European champions" in the telecoms industry less likely.

In addition, the defense of (national) networks against cyberattacks is also managed at the national level. The EU Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA), which still has fewer than 200 staff even after a recent budget increase, plays only a weak coordinating role.

Yet telecommunications networks within the EU are highly integrated across national borders. Future cyberattacks may well target more than one member state, and a blackout in one country would severely affect others. Europe thus urgently needs a powerful, integrated cybersecurity agency. Over the longer term, the entire regulatory framework for telecommunications networks, including spectrum auctions, should be centralized at the EU level. This would finally create the "single digital market" that has so far eluded Europe.

European leaders would be wrong to regard a Chinese supplier of 5G network equipment as the biggest threat to the continent's cybersecurity and to its ability to develop telecoms champions. Europe's real vulnerabilities are its still-fragmented telecoms market and its lack of a common cyber-defense system. The looming introduction of 5G should be a wake-up call to policymakers across the continent. One can only hope they heed it.

JUDICIAL BRANCH
SUPREM COURT OF LIBERIA

OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE
MONROVIA, LIBERIA



Invitation for Bids for Air Ticket

DATE: July 9, 2019
IFB NO. JUD/SBA/NCB/003/2019/2020

- 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 Air Ticket. Therefore, the Judiciary wishes to solicit sealed bids from reputable agencies dealing in the provision of services relating to Air Ticket. 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 9, 2019 from 10:00AM to 3:00PM daily. The final date of submission is August 13, @ 1:00 pm.

Package: Air Ticket.

LOTS #:	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	BID SECURITY
Lot-1a	Air Ticket	Assorted	US \$660.00

- 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 Air Ticket 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 Air Ticket.

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 Space and Accommodation at all time.
 - 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
 - Due diligent exercise will be done after the opening of bid documents.
- 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 duplicate copies all in one envelope and sealed.
 - IFB NO. JUD/SBA/NCB/003/2019/2020 - CONFIDENTIAL BID for the provision of Air Ticket; 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 13, 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 Wednesday August 7, 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.

- Sealed bids for Air Ticket will be opened in the presence of all bidders or their representatives on August 13, 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: Director of Procurement

Approved: Court Administrator

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living conditions for Liberians.

According to him the vision of the president is being led under the leadership of Hon. Tweah, who is mandated by the president to focus on the indicators of the National Development plan of the PAPD; a development plan aligned with the SDGs and the agenda 2063.

"In the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) we have targets and indicators that every line ministries and agencies are responsible to produce those data National development plan" Mr. Kolubah added.

The Assistant Minister believes, that at the end of the validation, tools that are used to collect data at various ministries and agencies will aligned with the agenda of the PAPD over the next five years. Moreover, the data collection tools will clearly guide all relevant agencies on how information is gathered and use. Finally the national key indicators of the PAPD were also validated by all key MACs responsible to report on each of NKIs.

LIBERIANS DEBATE

With Sally Gaye

Liberians share their views on the postponement of the Montserrado County by-elections for the second time by the National Elections Commission, and what implication they think it sends for the country's young democracy under President Weah. The NEC had earlier postponed the by-elections from 02 July to 08 July, but last week cited "technical and professional considerations" for the second deferral, much to the disappointment of opposition parties and candidates here.



Kollie Kolubah

"When will there be free, fair and transparent election in Liberia? Only in Liberia you see these kinds of disorganized behaviors just to create avenue to cheat. God is watching you all and you shall confess one day. God bless Liberia. Did the National Elections Commission not take contingency into account when [it] was setting the date?"

Who pays for the inconveniences this postponement has caused the candidates? Let's try and do something good for once and put away all these noise."



Theoline Bondo

"My dear, why will Liberia and our leaders keep making us shame? Why would something like pre-packed kits be the cause for by-elections to be postponed? We have printing presses in Liberia owned by Liberians, but everybody is looking for ways to eat when they get position. We need to get up and stop making little things to look big for us as Liberians."

Decontee Tweh

"What's wrong with the elections people? Two times postponement for the by-elections. From July 2&8, [we] are now gone to another unknown data. We Liberians are our own [problem] because we are making other countries rich with our country's money and we're crying for money. These works that are printing out there can be done here, which could uplift Liberian-owned businesses. But we run to others, carrying millions for works that can be done here.



We hope the guys at the NEC will do the right thing despite the continuous postponement of these by-elections."

Bobby Snowe

"For me, there are too many problems this government is going thru now, so for the peace of the country, let them try and work on the problem before July 26. The postponement needs to be explained in detail because those men who want power at all cost will begin to make noise. I'm sure they [NEC] take contingency into account when setting the date but if not, this is a big inconvenience for the candidates by the postponement."



Gov't spending entities conclude PAPD Indicators and Data Collection Validation Workshop

A four-days Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development Indicators and Data collection Tools validation workshop climaxed Friday, July 5, 2019, in Buchanan City Grand Bassa County.

The validation workshop was organized by the Department of Budget and Development Planning with support from the United Nations International Children's Education Funds (UNICEF).

The four-days event brought stakeholders together including spending entities from Ministries and

1 and 2 focussing on reviewing and updates of various working tools and template developed by the Department of budget and Development planning to be used during the five years implementation period of PAPD. Day three and four was about working session which led to the validation of the proposed national key indicators of the Pro-Poor agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD).

Making remarks at the ceremony, the Assistant Minister for Development Planning, Benedict Kolubah said the work shop will help improve the



agencies, Directors and Sr. staffs of MFDP who discussed on how to enhance reporting on SDGs and the Agenda 2063.

The validation process was held under the Theme: Strengthening data collection platform for PAPD monitoring and Evaluation to enhance reporting on SDGs and the Agenda 2063 Implementation Readiness, Monitoring and Evaluation Strengthening that is in line with the 'manual' and will serve as a guide to convene working pending entities intern of project reporting actors within the Ministry.

The week-long event witnessed day

planning, implementation and monitoring processes of the national development plan, while at the same time reduce Government, NGO and development partnerstax processing time.

" this is a validation that brings about increase sense of ownership on us and allow us to focus on the job we have to do" says Mr. Kolubah.

The PAPD is being roll-out by the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning. Its national development plan was launched in October 2018, thus seeking to create better

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Defendant cites contradictions -in Sable Mining case

By Winston W. Parley

The second defense witness in the Sable Mining case Mr. E.C.B. Jones has told the hearing at criminal Court "C" in his testimony that "there are several instances, contradictions and misstatements of facts" in the allegations against the accused.

The former Deputy Lands and Mines Minister is on trial along with former House Speaker J. Alex Tyler, Grand Cape Mount County Sen. Cllr. H. Varney G. Sherman, Bomi County Sen. Morris Saytumah, Dr. Richard Tolbert and Mr. Willie Belleh and others following the indictment here which was prompted by a Global Witness report in 2016 titled the Deceivers.

Global Witness and the Liberian government accuse the indictees of receiving alleged bribes totaling US\$950,000 offered by British mining firm Sable Mining to change Liberia's Public Procurement and Concession Commission (PPCC) law to give the company undue

advantage over mineral deposits at the Wologisi Mountain in Lofa.

But Mr. Jones, a mathematician and engineer terms the accusations as "false, illogical and virtually impossible" for anybody to have planned and intended to change the PPCC Law to give Sable Mining undue advantage.

He explains that one thing

he learns in logic is that "no one can hold you responsible for doing what is impossible to do."

Responding to claim that he received \$5,000 to provide technical advice for the changing of the law, Mr. Jones says it became his official duty to provide technical advice to both local and international experts when government decided to amend the PPCC Act of 2005 to harmonize it with

the Mineral Mining Law of 2000.

He recalls that when former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf took over in 2006, there was this PPCC Act that required competitive bidding for all mineral licenses without differentiating between Class "C" Licenses intended for artisanal/ small skill miners who did not understanding bidding.

He tells the Court that the law actually froze the operations of the Ministry of Lands and Mines and threatened the subsistence of hundreds of thousands of Liberians situated all over the country, most of whom had just put down their guns had gone to the mines to make their living.

He stresses that government could not stop the miners in bush from mining, and yet it could not make money and issue licenses.

As such, he testifies that the government at the time was compelled to take affirmative action to harmonize the conflict between the PPCC Act of 2005 and the Mineral Mining Law of 2000.

Defendant Jones indicates that the government appealed to international partners to hire international consultants to work on the harmonization of the law.

Between 2007 and 2009, he recalls that a Ghanaian expert Mr. Free Tsikata was in charge of coordinating the harmonization of the two laws - the PPCC Act and the Mineral Mining Law of 2000.

He says due to the urgency of the matter, it was decided that the PPCC should issue an interim regulation allowing Lands and Mines to issue exploration licenses without going through competitive bidding process.

By 2007, defendant Jones

testifies that the interim regulation #002 was promulgated under the signature of the late Kieve Jugbah, stating that it was not signed by then Lands and Mines Minister Eugene Shannon.

He narrates that the principle in that Regulation #002 is the same principle that is enshrined in section 75 of the Amended and Restated PPCC Act called the "First Come, First Assessed" or "First In, First Assessed."

Mr. Jones explains that this first come first assessed doesn't say the first comer will get the [rights over the mineral], instead he says it means the first comer will be assessed while the other people will stay in the queue.

According to Mr. Jones, Ghanaian expert Tsikata wrote a report in 2009, suggesting that the procedure that was being used in the interim regulation #002 was conformant to international best practice in the mineral industry, but underscored that it had problem.

According to him, Mr. Tsikata suggested that to legislate the regulation, it should be lifted and put in the PPCC Act that was prepared as a basis of experts and government technicians who have the practical and grass root knowledge on how these laws work in Liberia.

He notes that by 2009, all the technicians and consultants had agreed that the draft was in a state that it could be submitted to the president for her approval and for onward submission to the Legislature for enactment.

He argues that the law was not changed by the legislators or the defendants.

He has begun facing cross examination with the prosecution, which continues today, Tuesday, 9 July. Cllr. Wesseh A. Wesseh and Cllr. Jerry Garlawolo are the state lawyers in the case.



UN peace ambassador cautions protest organizers

By Lewis S. Teh

The United Nations Eminent Peace Ambassador to Liberia Prophet Sammy David is calling on organizers of the June 7 Protest to engage government through peaceful dialogue instead of protest.

Speaking recently at his Church in Paynesville, Montserrado County, the UN Envoy and founder of God's Family Church International reminds the Council of

Patriots (COP) which organized the protest that was held here on June 7 that peaceful citizens paid for the peace that Liberia enjoys today.

He stresses that today's peace is a hard earned one, urging protesters to engage in peaceful dialogues to maintain it.

"Our peace is a hard earned one, a peace that was earned through tears and blood for fourteen unbroken years. Ours is a peace that cost us the lives

of over two hundred and fifty thousand innocent lives on a premise of warfare," he says.

But following his message, one of the key planners of the protest and talk show host Mr. Henry Costa reiterated on Monday morning, 8 July that the COP will announce its new protest date on Wednesday this week.

Costa warns that the protest once commenced, will extend to the Independence Day on July 26 to demand response from President George Manneh Weah and his government in relation to protesters' demand for government to address the economic hardship in the country.

Meanwhile, Prophet David told journalists here that he wrote a communication to the COP recently, commending it for "a peaceful protest in Monrovia without incident."

He further indicates that the COP's singular act of leading a non-violent protest in the capitol of Africa's oldest country is highly laudable and speaks to the organizers' assurances to his office when he implored the COP to be peaceful on the morning of June 7.

The Liberian prelate who is also the Country Director of the International Association of World Peace Advocates (IAWPA) notes that he held talks with executives of the June 7 protesters on the day of their protest, encouraging them to engage into a non-violent protest that will benefit the country and its people.

Prophet David urges the COP should remember that Liberia is a country that many Africans look up to when it comes to democracy and how it affects the livelihood of those governed under democratic leaderships.

"This peace we enjoy led to thousands of our fellow citizens fleeing to distant lands as refugees, many still in those

distant lands doing menial jobs just to make ends meet for they and their loved ones, even those at home they have to cater to," he observes.

"I call to order your responsibility as peace loving Liberians to resolve your personal differences and move on in one accord," he continues.

Underscoring dialogue as the best way to achieve long term results in a democratic society, Prophet David urges the COP not to let any chance to have a peaceful dialogue slip out of hand for any reason.

He laments that the world is leaving "us" behind in developmental initiatives and technological advancements.



MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Heads roll at LNP

-following illegal shootings and killing

By Winston W. Parley

Eleven officers of the Liberia National Police (LNP) are facing various administrative measures ranging from dismissals to suspensions and disrobing for their roles in the illegal shootings of live bullets at protesters on 24 June, killing one victim and wounding several others in Kingsville, Montserrado County.

Officers Morris M. Dahn, Emmanuel S. Melikamue, Thompson W. Pobleh, and Josephus M. Lewis have been disrobed to face criminal investigation in relation to the fatal shooting incident; while Police Support Unit (PSU) Team Leader Insp. Vincent C. Abban has been dismissed from the LNP.

Additionally senior officers Walter B. Wray II, Godfrey K. Kollie and Wadell Kwabo have suspended

Sinoe County on 4 July.

The PSD is ordered to also investigate Chief Inspector Humphrey Kahn for illegally discharging his firearm on June 25, 2019, in the St. Michael, New Georgia, Gardnersville while attempting to arrest a stolen motorbike suspect.

Additionally Chief Inspector Peecho F. Worjloh faces investigation for illegally discharging his firearm on June 30, 2019 in the Budget Bureau Community, Capitol Hill, Monrovia.

Deputy Police Inspector General for Administration Col. Sadatu Reeves told the media Monday, 8 July that officers Morris M. Dahn, Emmanuel S. Melikamue, Thompson W. Pobleh and Josephus M. Lewis have been disrobed for discharging their firearms illegally which killed one person and injured three others.

The incident occurred when

Additionally, the Col. Reeves narrates that PSU Officer Morris Dahn and Officer Gbornima Barmabia also sustained injuries in the leg and head respectively and were initially treated at C. H. Rennie Hospital in Margibi County before being referred to the John F. Kennedy Medical Center.

"All efforts to dialogue and negotiate with the rioters to have the road blocks removed by responding officers and other prominent citizens including Hon. Lester Binda, Superintendent of the Careysburg Statutory District, and Hon. James Porkpah, Assistant Minister for Administration at the Ministry of Health proved futile," Col. Reeves explains.

She says the Careysburg police were unable to contain the situation, thus, causing C/Supt. Johnson to report the escalation to authority through the appropriate chain of command.

Subsequently, Col Reeves says PSU officers headed by Insp. Vincent C. Abban took charge of the incident, but the rioters started throwing stones according to some bystanders.

The Deputy Police Chief says it was at this time that there was shooting by police officers.

She reveals that a total of six LNP Officers were in possession of firearms, citing Chief Superintendent Philip O. Johnson, Inspector Morris M. Dahn, Sgt. Emmanuel S. Melikamue, Patrolman Thompson Pobleh, Patrolman Ernest M. Kurah and Patrolman Josephus M. Lewis.

According to Col. Reeves, as the result of the escalation of the violence, the Team Leader Insp. Abban who also served as the driver for the team, got in the assigned vehicle, avoided supervision of his officers and drove away from the concentrated area without prior notice to his officers.

She says Officer Abban stated that he relinquished his power of supervision to the deputy team leader Morris M. Dahn.

"Thus, the team was left unsupervised which led to an unauthorized discharge of firearms. This action on the part of the Team Leader contravened LNP Duty Manual Chapter 2.1.6.12 ..." she explains.

Madam Reeves informs the public that the justification provided by these four officers that they had to discharge live bullets in the air, claiming that their lives were in danger is a complete contradiction of LNP policies and international

River Gee to receive students from America

By Bridgett Milton

As part of efforts to enhance human resource development in River Gee County, 11 students from the Williams College in Massachusetts, America are expected here early next year to work with health and educational stakeholders under a student exchange and internship program.

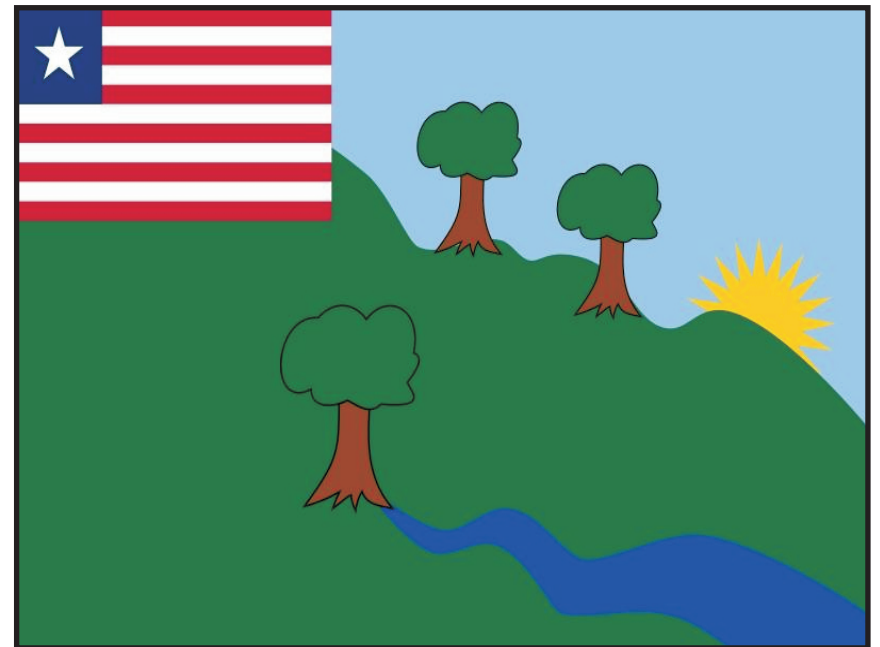
Speaking in an exclusive interview, River Gee Representative Francis Dopoh says the students' trip to Liberia was part of negotiations held by citizens of River Gee County residing in the United States of America

collectively work together for the development of the county.

The Lawmaker, who also chairs the River Gee County Legislative Caucus, further explains he also met with other stakeholders in the United States, relative to attracting investment and humanitarian opportunities to the county.

He notes that during discussions held with members of the River Gee association, he explained the importance of reaching out to the county to explore and impact the people through development programs, among other things.

He says the association saw the need to invest in education,



during the 17th convention of the "Association of River Gee Citizens in the USA."

Dopoh, who just returns from the United States, explains that during his visit to that country he met with several splinter groups of River Gee citizens across the Americas in an effort to unite them under one umbrella, disclosing that they resolved to

health and agriculture, as well as infrastructure and tourism sectors in the county.

Dopoh reveals that at the convention, members of the association also agreed to raise funds for the southeast region by hosting a Palm Butter Festival in October for U.S.-based southeasterners whose native dish is Palm Butter.



and referred for leadership training after serving their suspensions.

Further, police authorities say the head of the LNP Women and Children Protection Section (WACPS) assigned at Mount Barclay, Annie S. Wilson will be discharged from the service of the LNP after she and one Philip Peters have been charged for allegedly flogging and injuring 10-year-old Rose Samyo on 30 June.

In other related incidents of alleged illegal shootings by police officers, the police authorities have subjected three of their senior officers to investigation before the LNP Professional Standard Division (PSD).

Officer Joseph L. Abdullah aces probe for allegedly shooting and killing victim Mohammed Kamara in the Fish Town Community of

the officers were responding to a protest that saw angry residents set roadblocks at Kingsville # 7 on the Monrovia to Kakata Highway on 24 June, demanding authorities' action into the mysterious deaths of little Thomas Kollie, aged 10 and little Elijah Porluma, aged 9.

The aggrieved residents said their protest was triggered due to the alleged delay in the police investigation regarding the mysterious deaths of the two children.

Following police investigation into the shooting incident, Col. Reeves says victims SaahSaah, 18, sustained injury on his left foot; Dave Mombo, 18, sustained injury on his left leg tibia; and Abraham Tomay, 17, died from injury sustained on his head.

died from injury sustained on his head.

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standards on the use of firearms by law enforcement officers.

complete contradiction of LNP policies and international standards on the use of firearms by law enforcement officers.

Meanwhile, police have investigated, charged and

forwarded to court two suspects, Samuel Sayou and P. Mulbah Yanbakulo

"circumstantially with murder" in relation to the deaths of the two kids that sparked the Kingsville bloody protest last month.

Français

Crise économique : Le pouvoir accuse son prédécesseur

A lors que la situation économique du pays continue de se détériorer, la coalition au pouvoir, la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC), ne cesse de pointer du doigt l'ancien régime, après avoir passé près de 19 mois au pouvoir.

Le président national de la CDC, Mulbah Morlu, animant un point de presse le week-end dernier, a invité les opposants à la fermer, tout en défendant le mandat du président George Manneh Weah depuis son accession au pouvoir en 2018. Morlu a indiqué que le gouvernement est en train de "nettoyer les dégâts" qui, selon lui, auraient été créés par l'ancien parti au pouvoir et ses collaborateurs au cours de ses 12 années de pouvoir.

Il n'a pas expliqué pourquoi alors les prix des denrées alimentaires et des produits de première nécessité continuent de monter en flèche, alors que

la plupart des entreprises ferment et que les banques ne sont plus en mesure de faire des prêts en raison des problèmes de manque de liquidités dans le pays.

Il accuse l'ancien parti au pouvoir d'être à la base des problèmes du pays. « Il est

honteux que les gens qui ont participé aux pillages du pays au cours des 12 dernières années sous le régime de Mme Ellen Johnson Sirleaf fassent passer pour des défenseurs des droits des citoyens et critiquent le régime actuel tous les jours ».



Selon lui, le gouvernement CDC a hérité de l'instabilité économique qui a submergé le pays au fil des années, ajoutant : « Il est totalement inacceptable qu'ils continuent d'accuser le régime actuel d'être incompetent pendant que le président travaille sans relâche pour réparer ce qu'ils ont gâché. Cela est totalement irresponsable de leur part ».

A en croire le président du parti au pouvoir, le président Weah est en train de construire un nouveau Libéria dont chaque Libérien sera fier. Il appelle donc l'opposition à donner un peu de répit au Chef de l'Etat pour qu'il serve son peuple.

« Ceux qui critiquent le Parti au pouvoir sont une bande de criminels qui ont déjà été épinglés par la Commission générale des audits, tandis que d'autres sont toujours confrontés à des batailles judiciaires pour mauvaise gestion quand ils étaient à la Banque centrale du Libéria », a dit Morlu, ajoutant que l'opposition n'a pas de bonnes intentions pour le pays.

Il a ensuite accusé l'ancien parti au pouvoir d'être responsable de la hausse du taux de change entre le dollar américain et le dollar libérien et des prix des produits de base qui, selon lui, sont la conséquence de la mauvaise politique mise en place par le gouvernement du Parti de l'unité (ancien parti au pouvoir). Il a exhorté les militants de la coalition au pouvoir à ne pas céder à la provocation des militants de

l'opposition et à ne pas s'engager dans des discussions avec les gens « qui s'opposent à veu glément au gouvernement de la Coalition pour un changement démocratique ». « Éloignez-vous des lieux qui pourraient créer des tensions et qui pourraient se terminer en bagarre. Rien ne justifie la violence sur cette terre. Ils vont vous provoquer juste pour créer des tensions inutiles ici », a-t-il averti.

Il a ensuite annoncé la suspension des activités politiques pour les élections partielles qui ont été reportées à une date ultérieure.

Répondant au chef de file de l'opposition, M. Alexander Cummings, selon lequel le report des élections partielles est une tactique du pouvoir pour truquer le scrutin, M. Morlu a déclaré que le gouvernement n'a nullement pas l'intention de tricher, c'est plutôt l'opposition qui a l'intention de tricher.

Selon lui, la CDC n'a jamais triché aux élections, c'est plutôt l'opposition qui veut tricher. Il a qualifié M. Cumming de « politicien basé dans la diaspora », qui n'a aucune connaissance de la politique libérienne, ajoutant que Cumming et son ANC n'ont remporté aucune élection, de la présidence aux législatives, depuis la création du parti.

Il accuse également l'alliance des quatre partis politiques de l'opposition de ne compter que sur « l'achat des cartes d'électeur des Libériens » afin de les empêcher de voter pour les candidats de leur choix.

Mali : Boubou Cissé annonce des renforts à Mopti

Le Premier ministre malien Boubou Cissé a annoncé ce samedi 6 juillet le quatrième jour de sa visite dans le centre du Mali. Après avoir présidé à Sévaré une distribution de céréales pour faire face à l'insécurité alimentaire, il s'est rendu ce vendredi dans les localités de Bankass et de Koro. Il a annoncé le déploiement de près de 3 600 militaires

supplémentaires sur le terrain pour assurer la sécurité des populations. Il a évoqué aussi sa décision d'impliquer tous les leaders communautaires pour apaiser les tensions entre les populations.

Arrivé par route dans la localité de Koro, le Premier ministre malien a été accueilli par des milliers de personnes. Il commence à s'habituer aux bains de foule. Au cours d'une rencontre avec les

populations, les problèmes sécuritaires ont dominé les débats. Et pour apporter des solutions, Boubou Cissé a annoncé un nouveau déploiement de militaires dans la région du centre du Mali.

« Je vais déployer nos forces de défense et de sécurité sur le terrain pour un maillage beaucoup plus important, a déclaré le chef du gouvernement. Pratiquement 3 600 hommes vont monter. Sur les 7 derniers jours, déjà 1 500 sont montés et ce sera complété avec 2 000 autres hommes qui vont arriver dans les prochains jours et les semaines à venir. »

Autre temps fort de la rencontre entre le Premier ministre et la population, c'est la prise de parole des leaders des communautés, notamment dogons et peuls. Certains avaient été un moment mis sur la touche. Pourtant, ils restent influents et peuvent contribuer à la recherche de la paix.

Boubou Cissé, lui, veut rassembler tout le monde. Une démarche approuvée par



Articles traduits

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plusieurs élus de la région centre, à l'instar du député Bocari Sagara : « Il est sur la bonne voie : dialoguer avec les vrais acteurs, pas sur la façade mais en bas. »

"Il est nécessaire et indispensable que les acteurs de s c o m m u n a u t é s concernées par les tensions

c o m m u n a u t a i r e s se rencontrent dans un cadre de dialogue pour identifier et chercher des solutions aux problèmes qui font l'objet de manipulation par les ennemis de la paix"

De nouvelles rencontres inter et intra-communautaires sont prévues afin d'apaiser la situation.

Français

Justice : Dr Kollie demande des explications au procureur de la république

L'ancien vice-ministre des Finances et de la Planification du développement chargé des Affaires fiscales, M. James F. Kollie, ne trouve pas suffisant le simple retrait de son nom de la liste des suspects de détournements des derniers publics dressée par le procureur général de la République, Me Cyrenus Cephus.

Le Dr Kollie, actuel directeur général de l'Autorité maritime du Libéria (LMA), a fait observer que Me Cephus a publié une liste de suspects sur laquelle ne figure plus son nom contrairement à une autre liste publiée précédemment. La nouvelle liste semble être un ajustement de l'ancienne. Le procureur de la République aurait supprimé son nom sans répondre à un nombre de questions qu'il lui avait posées.

Il veut que Me Cephus donne des explications quant à savoir comment son nom figurait sur la liste des suspects prétendument impliqués dans un détournement de 13 millions d'euros. Se base-t-il sur un rapport d'audit ou non ?

Le mercredi 19 juin, Me Cephus avait publié une liste, tout en faisant référence à des rapports d'audits menés par la Commission générale d'audits (GAC). Les audits porteraient sur la période allant du 1er juillet 2012 au 30 juin 2017. Le Dr Kollie avait été cité comme étant l'une des personnes d'intérêt.

Me Cephus avait ensuite accordé une interview exclusive au journal Analyst. Au cours de cette interview, il avait fait savoir que le ministère de la Justice avait mis sur pied une équipe d'enquêteurs professionnels appelée "Assets Recovery Team" (ART) pour récupérer les biens mal acquis sous le régime de l'ancienne Présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

Mais, le jeudi 4 juillet 2019, Me Cephus a publié une version révisée de la liste des personnes d'intérêt sur laquelle ne figure plus le nom du Dr Kollie.

Au cours d'un entretien avec ce journal vendredi, le Dr Kollie a déclaré que le procureur général nouvellement confirmé

n'apas répondu aux questions qu'il lui avait posées dans sa lettre du 19 juin 2019.

« J'ai demandé sur quelle base il a introduit mon nom sur la liste des suspects. Il ne m'a pas répondu, ni dit qu'il s'agissait d'une erreur ou qu'il se serait appuyé soit sur un rapport d'audit ou sur des récits de la presse.

On se souvient que le Dr. Kollie, dans une lettre datée du 19 juin 2019, avait demandé à Me Cephus de mettre à sa disposition le rapport d'audit qui le mettait en cause dans une affaire de 13 millions d'euros.

« Je vous présente mes salutations et souhaite respectueusement que vous m'informiez sur les motifs qui ont permis que mon nom figure sur une liste de " personnes d'intérêt " que vous avez publiée le 19 juin 2019 », a écrit le Dr Kollie.

« Me Cephus, parce que la liste faisait référence à des rapports d'audit de la GAC portant sur la période allant du 1er juillet 2012 au 30 juin 2017, je souhaite réellement connaître les éléments suivants :

1. Existe-t-il un rapport d'audit de la GAC sur les 13 millions d'euros fournis par l'Union européenne ?

2. Ce rapport, s'il existe, a-t-il mentionné mon nom ?

3. Ce rapport contient-il des réponses de ma part ?

4. La mention de mon nom ou des autres est-elle purement basée sur des médias et des informations de presse non fondées ?

Me Cephus, je suis contraint de poser ces questions car, à ma connaissance, aucun auditeur ne m'a jamais posé de question sur le montant de 13 millions d'euros. Par conséquent, votre déclaration à la presse affirmant qu'il existe un rapport d'audit de la GAC est totalement surprenante et déconcertante.

Et s'il n'y a pas de rapport d'audit de la GAC, Me Cephus, je veux que vous imaginiez les dommages irréparables que vous avez causés à notre réputation. Par exemple, Boima S. Kamara ne travaillait même pas au ministère des Finances en 2013 (période du prétendu rapport) et il lui serait donc impossible de participer à un audit à cette époque.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Kenneth Rogoff

Pour une Banque mondiale du carbone

CAMBRIDGE - Tourné en dérision par les climatosceptiques, et notamment par le président américain Donald Trump, le Green New Deal défendu par Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez vise pourtant très juste, en appelant d'urgence les États-Unis à montrer l'exemple face au réchauffement climatique. Triste réalité néanmoins, malgré l'immense volume de déchets évitables produits par l'insatiable culture américaine, ce sont les pays émergents d'Asie qui constituent de loin la principale source mondiale d'émissions de dioxyde de carbone. Les cris de désespoir ne résoudront pas le problème. La solution réside dans la mise en place d'incitatifs judicieux pour des pays tels que la Chine, l'Inde, le Vietnam, l'Indonésie et le Bangladesh.

Difficile d'entrevoir comment cette démarche pourrait être mise en œuvre dans le cadre des institutions d'aide multilatérales existantes, dont l'expertise se révèle limitée sur les questions climatiques, et qui se trouvent tiraillées dans plusieurs directions par leurs différents appuis. Au grand désarroi de nombreux experts de l'énergie, la Banque mondiale a par exemple récemment décidé capricieusement de cesser de financer quasiment toutes les nouvelles usines à combustibles fossiles, y compris au gaz naturel. Or, c'est en remplaçant les usines à charbon polluantes par un gaz naturel relativement propre que les États-Unis sont parvenus ces dix dernières années à limiter significativement l'augmentation de leurs émissions (contre tous les efforts de Trump), et ce remplacement constitue l'élément central de la fameuse stratégie pragmatique des Princeton wedges pour l'atténuation du risque climatique. Le mieux ne doit pas devenir l'ennemi du bien dans la transition vers un avenir de neutralité carbone.

Il est grand temps de mettre en place une nouvelle agence dédiée, une Banque mondiale du carbone, un véhicule permettant aux économies développées de coordonner les aides et transferts technologiques, qui ne soit pas simultanément chargé de résoudre toutes les autres problématiques de développement. J'ai pleinement conscience que l'actuelle administration américaine se refuse à financer les institutions internationales, même existantes. Mais l'Occident ne peut se retirer d'un monde aux responsabilités climatiques entremêlées.

D'après l'Agence internationale de l'énergie - l'un des rares acteurs honnêtes dans le débat mondial sur le changement climatique, et modèle sur lequel pourrait être créé le département de recherche d'une nouvelle Banque mondiale du carbone - les émissions annuelles de CO2 en Asie représentent aujourd'hui le double des émissions américaines, et le triple des émissions européennes. Au sein des économies développées, l'âge moyen d'existence des usines au charbon s'élève à 42 ans. Nombre d'entre elles s'approchent naturellement de la fin de leur durée de vie, et leur disparition progressive ne constitue pas véritablement une charge. En Asie, en revanche, une nouvelle usine à charbon est construite chaque semaine, pour un âge moyen d'environ 11 ans seulement, et la plupart de ces installations sont vouées à fonctionner pour plusieurs décennies à venir.

Le charbon représente plus de 60% de la production d'électricité dans une Chine et une Inde à la croissance rapide. Bien que toutes deux investissent massivement dans les énergies renouvelables telles que le solaire et l'éolien, leurs besoins énergétiques augmentent tout simplement trop rapidement pour qu'il soit envisageable de renoncer à un charbon disponible en grande

quantité.

Comment l'Amérique pourrait-elle avec arrogance demander à l'Inde de réduire ses émissions de CO2, qui ne représentent qu'un dixième de celles des États-Unis ? Comment l'Amérique pourrait-elle d'ailleurs convaincre le gouvernement du président brésilien Jair Bolsonaro de limiter la déforestation de l'Amazonie (les forêts tropicales constituant des puits de carbone naturels) et le développement du pays sans lui proposer des mécanismes incitatifs concrets ?

De nombreuses options existent dans la lutte pour la réduction des émissions de carbone. La plupart des économistes (et moi-même) privilégient une taxe carbone mondiale, bien que certains fassent valoir qu'un système de plafonnement, politiquement plus réalisable, pourrait se révéler quasiment aussi efficace. Impossible toutefois à imaginer pour des gouvernements de pays en voie de développement contraints de satisfaire aux besoins énergétiques essentiels de leur population. En Afrique, seuls 43 % des individus ont accès à l'électricité, contre 87 % à l'échelle mondiale.

Présidents ignorants mis à part, la plupart des chercheurs sérieux considèrent le risque d'un changement climatique catastrophique comme sans doute la plus grande menace existentielle pour le monde au XXIe siècle. Nous en constatons d'ores et déjà les effets, qu'il s'agisse des vagues de chaleur record sur la côte ouest des États-Unis et en Europe, des graves inondations dans l'Iowa, ou de l'impact des risques climatiques sur les assurances habitation, dont le prix augmente au-delà des moyens du plus grand nombre. Par ailleurs, l'actuelle problématique des réfugiés n'est rien en comparaison avec ce que le monde pourrait connaître à l'heure où les régions équatoriales deviennent trop chaudes et trop arides pour que l'agriculture y demeure possible, et où le nombre de migrants climatiques risque d'exploser jusqu'à atteindre un milliard d'individus voire plus d'ici la fin du siècle.

L'armée américaine se prépare d'ailleurs à cette menace. En 2013, le chef des forces américaines dans le Pacifique, l'amiral Samuel J. Locklear, désignait déjà le changement climatique à long terme comme la plus sérieuse menace pour la sécurité nationale. Compte tenu de sérieux doutes sur la question de savoir si les mesures existantes, telles que l'accord climatique de Paris 2015, aboutiront à autre chose qu'un très léger ralentissement du réchauffement climatique, les pragmatiques ont raison de se préparer au pire, qui leur semble malheureusement inévitable.

Les économies développées doivent remettre de l'ordre chez elles sur le plan environnemental. Mais cette démarche ne suffira pas si les pays en voie de développement d'Asie, et peut-être un jour d'Afrique, ne sont pas placés sur une trajectoire de développement différente. Une nouvelle Banque mondiale du carbone apparaît nécessairement comme un élément essentiel à toute solution globale, en dépit des avancées technologiques miraculeuses dont chacun espère tant.

Les coûts de cette démarche dépendront des hypothèses et ambitions. On peut toutefois raisonnablement parler de plusieurs milliers de milliards de dollars sur dix ans. Un chiffre délirant ? Pas tant que cela, si l'on songe aux alternatives. Un Green New Deal vaudra toujours mieux qu'un Green No Deal.

ARTICLE ARTICLE

Russia-Africa Conference Discusses Education and Culture

By Kester Kenn Klomegah*

Russian and African parliamentarians, academic researchers and experts, during their in-depth conference discussions, have called for an increase in the number of government scholarships and grants for the training of specialists for Africa as a significant part of developing and building trust as well as mutual understanding in the current Russian-African relations.

During the conference on Russia-Africa, organized within the framework of International Development on Parliamentarism forum, the Chairman of the State Duma, Viacheslav Volodin, was convinced that cultural, educational and humanitarian cooperation could be equally important areas needed to be developed and intensified in the current Russian-African relations.

Volodin further suggested to continue discussing the issues of harmonizing legislation in the scientific and educational spheres, and reminded that hundreds of thousands of African students studied in the Soviet Union and Russia, and now 17 thousand African students, majority of them on private contracts, were studying in the Russian Federation.

"Taken into account that the Pan-African University, which brings together leading universities in Africa, has been created, new opportunities are opening up for cooperation with large Russian universities. Educational exchange can become multilateral," the Chairman of the State Duma said. "It is necessary to provide legislative support for Russian language learning programs, including the training of Russian teachers from African countries."

Volodin reiterated that "strengthening all aspects of relations with African countries, including humanitarian and trade and economic cooperation, was now the priority for Russia. The development of inter-parliamentary relations should intensify cooperation between Russia and African countries."

In addition, Deputy Chairwoman of the State Duma, Olga Timofeeva, told the audience that the African representation is, perhaps, an unprecedented large scale. It proves that ties between Russia and Africa are entering a new phase and there will be frequent interaction in the field of education, health care, demography and culture as integral part of future bilateral cooperation.

According to Timofeeva, Russian parliamentarians have noted that delegations of African countries often include people speaking Russian, who studied in Russia. In Soviet times, a large number of African students received education and took with them some aspects of Russian culture to the continent. Even now, parliamentarians from different countries have been grateful for the Soviet education, a large number of highly qualified specialists, including doctors and teachers.

"Today, about 20,000 African students are studying here but there can and should be much more. These ties need to be renewed. Both Africa and Russia are interested in this aspect of cooperation," she said.

In Africa, there are currently seven Russian Centers of Science and Culture: in Egypt, Zambia, Morocco, Congo, Tanzania, Tunisia, and Ethiopia. Russia is ready to expand the network of its centers and humanitarian ties in general, she further informed.

Olga Timofeeva added "that interaction in the field of medicine is promising. Due to the lack of medical infrastructure and specialists, the African continent has become a major source of outbound medical tourism. Africans are interested in developing their own health care system."

There are still many questions such as: what are the development reserves, what should be paid special attention to? What are the obstacles, and how to



overcome them? Possibilities of parliamentary diplomacy could help as a mechanism to build such humanitarian ties. All these issues need some pragmatic or practical answers by parliamentarians.

Director of the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Professor Irina Abramova, spoke about the role of science in the development of cooperation between Russia and Africa. She noted that "without a technological breakthrough in ecology, health and education, we are not able to break our relations free from the deadlock and solve the problems that both the Russian people and the people of Africa are facing."

She also emphasized the role of education and academic science and training specialists for Africa. Undoubtedly, Abramova believes that by training specialists, Russia contributes to future of Russian citizens and the people of Africa.

Some, however, observes that Russia triumphantly returns to Africa. "After several years of decreasing intensity (of connections), Russia is triumphantly returning to the African continent. And let its return be active because our Russian friends have a whole series of proposals within the framework of economic cooperation," said President of the National Assembly of Djibouti Mohamed Ali Houmed.

There are also proposals in the field of education, infrastructure development, tourism, and many other areas. He believes that Russia should continue to promote its initiatives in the field of education with African countries.

The Speaker of the Senate from the Republic of Kenya, Kenneth Lusaka, stressed: "Our interaction and cooperation in the area of culture, science and art is necessary to guarantee future generations life in peace; that makes the role of parliamentarians extremely important here."

Kenneth Lusaka thanked Russia for strong support in the educational sphere and for scholarships for students who have the opportunity to study in Russia. "We still need Russia's support in the development of new technologies and education sphere," he concluded.

Zambia hopes that the conference on Russia - Africa will help Russia to develop multifaceted relations with the entire African continent. The Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Zambia, Patrick Matibini, praised efforts in developing inter-parliamentary relations, and noted that relations are still "very influential and really promising." Matibini discussed, at length, the intensification of bilateral cooperation in areas of education, medicine, technology and agriculture.

On her part, Chairwoman of the National Council of Namibia, Margaret Mensah-Williams, highlighted the previous educational assistance from Russia, stressed the impact of the huge number of doctors and other specialists in their country who studied during the Soviet

time and now in the Russian Federation.

These worthy efforts have always translated further into greater development, she said, and appealed to Russian authorities to maintain that appreciable level of socio-cultural and humanitarian assistance to African countries.

The President of the National Assembly of Mali, Issaka Sidibé, emphasized that Africa should address challenges related to migration, education and the environment. "We, the parliamentarians, should work for the benefit of the nationals. Cooperation should be enhanced to eliminate inequality," he said.

He added that the conference decisions "are very progressive steps forward but what's remains to be done is Russia needs roll out concrete proposals and these have to be pursued in a systematic manner and with seriousness and demonstrate consistent commitment."

"It's important to frequently interact and exchange ideas and get to know of other people's different experiences," according to Issaka Sidibé. "This helps to broaden knowledge, offers the chance to learn about necessary first hand practical lessons for accelerating positive changes. We look forward with hope for a brighter relationship, and most importantly refined approach to relations that will bring, through education, a closer friendship with Africans."

Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Jacob Mudenda, said: "participation in the conference is another opportunity to discuss many issues, compare positions, develop solutions and give impetus to further cooperation, but it is important to turn words into concrete actions."

He argued that it was distinctively evident from the large number of African delegations that had been invited, so far, to Moscow over the past few years, marked a new chapter to re-activate relations with Africa. But, Russia's influence might not take roots anytime soon if the conference declarations are not vigorously and promptly implemented.

Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has praised the legislators' role in promoting the entire complex of Russian-African cooperation and welcomed steps towards intensifying contacts between the Russian Federal Assembly and African parliaments.

There were 38 African delegations, 25 at the level of speakers and 10 at the level of deputy speakers, about 300 parliamentarians in total, and another 50 experts attended the parliamentary conference. The Russia-Africa parliamentary conference took place as landmark event in Russian-African relations. On October 24 this year, the Russia-Africa summit, first announced by Russian President Vladimir Putin during the 10th BRICS summit, will take place in Sochi. *Kester Kenn Klomegah writes frequently about Russia-Africa and the BRICS.

Plot to exonerate defendants?

By Othello B. Garblah

Information reaching this paper indicates that there is an ongoing serious lobby to put certain witnesses on the stance in the Sable Mining bribery scandal case that would vindicate defendant Varney Sherman and others.

The news follows the visit of Associate Justice Joseph Nagbe at the criminal court on Friday where three of his former colleagues, defendant Senators Varney Sherman, Morris Saytuma and former House Speaker Alex Tyler have begun testifying in the trial.

Senator Sherman and others are standing trial in an alleged bribery scandal in which several former and present government officials received US\$950,000 in bribe money to change a local mining law here in favor of a Sable Mining, a British firm, at least according to a Global Witness report which forms the basis of the trial.

On Friday Justice Nagbe visited the court, something which compelled the trial Judge Peter Gbeneweleh to halt the trial for nearly 25



minutes as they both proceeded in his chambers.

Upon his return from the Judge's Chamber, Justice Nagbe waved to the defendants with a smile as he exited the courtroom.

There are reports that the IT specialist who authenticated the emails sent from defendant Sherman's computer is also expected to testify, why Senate Secretary Nanborlor Singbeh has been subpoenaed to testify before the court, but it's not clear

from which documents he's going to testify.

The case has gained international attention with some foreign embassies near Monrovia seconding representatives at the trial as there are unconfirmed speculations of efforts to exonerate the defendants. The speculation gained momentum over the weekend following Associate Justice Nagbe's visit.

On Thursday July 4, former lead prosecutor in the case, now Rep. Fonati Koffa held a

press conference in which he clarified some of the allegations made in defendant Sherman's testimony.

"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 argued 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 denied. 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.

PYJ stirs up Nimba

By Thomas Domah/Nimba

The head for chiefs and elders in Nimba County Chief Peter G. Barluon, presents key to the county to Senator Prince Yormie Johnson, dubbed here as the "godfather" of Nimba, but the decision is being resisted by chiefs and elders there.

Chief Barluon is said to have taken the decision without consultation with fellow chiefs.

Over 20 chiefs and elders from across all 17 administrative districts of Nimba subsequently converged at the Evangelical Free Church of West Africa [EFCWA] in Ganta over the weekend to address complaint levied against Senator PYJ by two

lawmakers from the county.

PYJ is also political leader of the Movement for Democracy and Reconstruction (MDR) which collaborates with President George Manneh Weah's ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC).

He recently accused District#8 Lawmaker Larry P. Younquoi and District#5 Representative Samuel G. Kogar of transporting more than 30 ex-generals to turn the recent June 07 peaceful protest in Monrovia bloody, and blame it on the Government of Liberia.

The allegation came when the two representatives were out of the country, attending a conference in America.

Upon their return to the country, they wrote chiefs and elders, including women

groups in Nimba to intervene in the matter, calling on Senator Johnson to substantiate his claim against them.

However, when Sen. PYJ was called up at the mediatory gathering over the weekend in Ganta to prove his claim, he instead, diverted his attention to his ongoing college project in the county and telling fellow Nimba lawmakers that he (PYJ) is the gateway to President George Manneh Weah, including members of the cabinet, so they should channel their concerns thru him.

The New Dawn gathers that after PYJ spoke, chiefs and elders called for a closed door meeting in which the controversial senator allegedly apologized to Representatives Younquoi and Kogar but he was mandated by the mediation committee to stand in the gathering and openly apologize, which he agreed to.

However, upon return to the gathering Chief Peter G. Barluon instead changed the decision, giving the county key to Senator Johnson plus 200 Liberian dollars, calling on him to take over all mountains in Nimba and engage President Weah to provide employments in his government for Nimbaians.

With second highest registered voters in Liberia, the county overwhelmingly voted for Mr. Weah's Coalition for Democratic Change during

the runoff presidential elections on December 26, 2017 against the former ruling Unity Party.

The decision by the head chief immediately caused stir among chiefs and elders attending the meeting, including the lawmakers

accused by PYJ.

District#8 Representative Larry Younquoi vows to engage the international court or Senator Johnson himself to provide more information on his allegation. -Editing by Jonathan Browne



5 teams vote against US \$7M budget at LFA congress

By Sally Gaye



Five teams of the Liberia Football Association (LFA) have voted against the budget at the extraordinary congress over the weekend in Monrovia.

The US\$7million budget is for the artificial turfs installed at the SKD practice pitch, Tusa field in

Gardnersville and Doris Williams sport ground in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County.

The five teams that voted against the budget are female teams Senior Professionals, World Girls and Blanco FC and male teams Nimba United FC, Nimba FC, while NimbaKwado abstained from the process.

Delegates at the extraordinary congress overwhelmingly passed a budget of closed to US\$7 million at the Samuel Kanyon Doe (SKD) sports complex in Paynesville on 6 July.

27 persons voted for the budget to be passed following a motion by the president of the Liberia Football Coaches Association (LIFOCA) Baron Carr, which was seconded by the secretary-general of the Liberia National Old-timers Association (LONA) KofaKonwro.

According to the Football house, a 25-year memorandum of understanding signed between the LFA and Liberian government for the development of the SKD practice pitch is valued at approximately US\$700,000.

The technical center, which was approved by Fifa in September 2013, will finally be completed.

An amount of US\$10,000 was projected from rental fees for the Antoinette Tubman Stadium (ATS).

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FIFA boss and Macron booed at World Cup final ceremony

The crowd at the women's World Cup final booed FIFA chief Gianni Infantino and French president Emmanuel Macron as United States fans demanded equal pay for the players after their team claimed a fourth global title by beating the Netherlands 2-0 on Sunday.

Macron and Infantino, the head of soccer's world governing body, were turned on by the supporters as they



approached the ceremony podium -- a sharp contrast with the hero-like reception given to player of the match Megan Rapinoe by the 57,900 crowd.

Despite a recent rebound, Macron's popularity was last at 38 percent in an Ifop poll, up 15 points since a low in December at the peak of the anti-government yellow-vest crisis.

U.S. captain Rapinoe, the leading voice for equal pay in a sport where the men are far better paid than the women,

scored the opening goal with a VAR-awarded penalty in the 61st minute at the sold-out Groupama Stadium.

Rose Lavelle rounded off the victory eight minutes later as the Americans added to their 1991, 1999 and 2015 world titles.

After the game Rapinoe told reporters: "I think everyone is ready for this conversation and move to the next step."

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