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In Sable Mining trial:

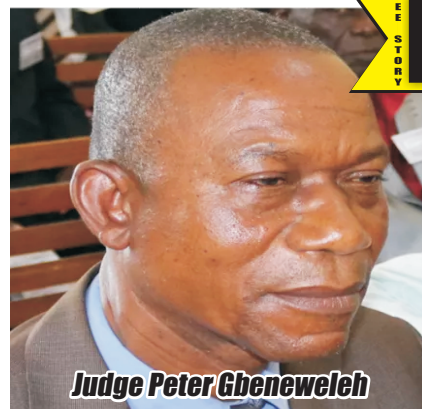
New Dawn boss held for contempt



Asso. Justice Joseph Nagbe



Cllr. Musa Dean



Judge Peter Gbeneweleh



Senators Varney Sherman

P11

-Following report on Assoc. Justice Nagbe's visit



P11

I did not read entire draft law

-House Chief Clerk testifies in Sable Mining case

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Continental News

French missiles found on rogue general's base

France has denied breaching a UN arms embargo after four of its anti-tank missiles were found on a base loyal to a rogue Libyan general.

The country's defence ministry says the "unusable" US-made Javelin missiles were never intended to be passed to any group, and were due to be destroyed. However, they were discovered in a camp south of the capital Tripoli, used by forces loyal to General Khalifa Haftar.

Gen Haftar's forces are currently fighting for control of the city. The battle for Tripoli - home of the internationally recognised government - began when Gen Haftar's forces launched an attack in April, with hundreds killed in the months since. The four missiles were discovered in June when forces loyal to the UN-backed government overran the camp, prompting an investigation in Washington.

France admitted the weapons - which can be used

against tanks and other vehicles - belonged to them in a statement on Wednesday.

"These weapons were for the protection of forces undertaking intelligence and counter-terror missions," the defence ministry statement said. It added the missiles were "damaged and unusable" and

"being temporarily stocked at a depot ahead of their destruction".

France has always denied arming Gen Haftar's forces, but has offered diplomatic support.

Why is there war in Libya?

Libya has been torn by violence and division since

long-time ruler Muammar Gaddafi was deposed and killed in 2011. No authority has full control over Libya and the country is extremely unstable, torn between several political and military factions, the two most important of which are the UN-backed Government of National Accord (GNA), led by Prime Minister Fayeza Mustafa al-Sarraj, and Gen Haftar's Libyan National Army (LNA), based in the eastern cities of Benghazi and Tobruk.

The general has been active in Libyan politics for more than four decades and was one of Gaddafi's close allies until a dispute in the late 1980s forced him to live in exile in the US. Who is backing who?

Both the LNA and GNA have international backers.

Gen Haftar's LNA has long had the support of Egypt and the UAE, but now also counts Russia and Saudi Arabia among his backers. At one point - when it looked like he would take Tripoli with ease - US President Donald Trump called and offered his

congratulations. However, this relationship seems to have cooled in the months since.

Meanwhile, the GNA has its own supporters, including Turkey and Qatar.

Most Western nations back the unity government. Since the offensive on Tripoli, the UN, the US and the EU have all called for an immediate halt to the fighting and for talks.

France has technically taken a mediation role in the conflict. However, there are suspicions they back Gen Haftar. President Emmanuel Macron was the first Western leader to invite him to Europe for peace talks, and France launched air strikes in support of Gen Haftar's forces in February. They targeted Chadian opposition forces fighting against the LNA in the south.

Analysts suggest France's backing for Gen Haftar is related to fighting militants who threaten the wider region, potentially further boosted by an interest in oil. BBC



The missiles were found by soldiers of the UN-backed government

Malawi activists 'call arrests a government ploy'

The two Malawian rights activists detained over alleged fraud have denied the charges, a friend of theirs has told reporter Peter Jegwa.

The activists, Gift Trapence and MacDonald Sembereka, have been key figures behind nationwide protests demanding the resignation of the head of election management body, Jane Ansa. National police

spokesman, James Kadadzera, says the two are suspected to have received money from UNAids to organise a workshop, but that the workshop did not take place.

The two say their arrest is a ploy by government to silence them.

Mr Trapence and Rev Sembereka are key leaders of the Human Rights Defenders Coalition which has been organising demonstrations

demanding electoral justice.

They believe the Malawi Electoral Commission mismanaged last May's polls and want its head, Jane Ansa to step down or be fired.

They were due to hold a press conference on Wednesday to announce next course of action in view of Ms Ansa still being in the job after the latest round of protests last Friday. BBC

Mandera doctors call off strike

Doctors in Mandera have called off their strike after six days of agony in county hospitals in the far flung county.

Dr Ibrahim Maalim, the North Eastern Chapter Secretary of Kenya Medical Practitioners, Pharmacists and Dentist Union (KMPDU) Wednesday confirmed the new development, stating that a new agreement had been reached.

"We called off the strike last evening (Tuesday) after striking an agreement with the Mandera County government. We are all back on duty now," he said. The KMPDU boss said the county leadership has agreed to meet all their demands starting the end of this month.

"We signed a return to work formula in which the county government agreed to promote doctors starting the end of this month. They have [also] committed to ensure our security," he said.

According to Dr Maalim, Governor Ali Roba's administration agreed to

release doctors for postgraduate studies but only on merit and need.

He said the county promised to deal with issues of remunerations and other allowances after consulting the Salaries and Remuneration Commission.

Doctors in Mandera issued a strike notice on June 19, 2019 and proceeded to strike on July 4. County Chief Officer for Health Hassan Mohamed confirmed the signing of a return to work formula with the doctors.

"We have agreed with doctors to form a collective bargaining agreement implementation committee that is in place and we shall be promoting all doctors who are due from the end of this month," he said.

Mr Hassan confirmed that the county government has agreed to allow doctors, only on merit and need, to proceed on study leave.

"We shall only release our doctors to go for studies based on need, merit and prevailing human resource training policies," he said. AFP



EDITORIAL

CBL's 'Economic Forum' misses the point

EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR NATHANIEL R. Patray, III of the Central Bank of Liberia didn't mince his words when he took over the helm of authority at the Central Bank last year, telling Liberians that he would set aside standards or bent the rules of the Bank to satisfy President George Manneh Weah. He did just that at the expense of the country's monetary policy, sending the exchange rate sky-rocketing with corresponding rise in prices.

NOW EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR Patray launches an Economic Forum at the Central Bank of Liberia with a public dialogue on the theme, "Taking Stock of the Central Bank of Liberia's Monetary Policy Regime and Operations over the Last Eighteen Years (2000 - 2018)."

WHY DOES THE Executive Governor want to take us back 18 years when the current dismal state of the economy, particularly the monetary system under his watch was never experienced in those periods even during the Liberian Civil War.

NO, NO, THE rate did not shoot up to over 200 Liberian dollars to One United States Dollars during the entire civil war and even after restoration of democratic governance not until when President Weah came to the Presidency. Instead, if Patray and the rest of the CBL authorities meant well, the public dialogue should focus on how the economy can be fixed.

LIBERIANS ARE YEARNING for solutions to salvage the bad state of the economy, not to take us to the past. We want to go forward with a healthy economy. The onus is on Governor Patray to tell Liberians how the US\$25 million was reportedly infused in the economy without any impact on our monetary system.

AT ONE POINT, the CBL under Governor Patray could not disburse money to commercial banks to serve the public, restricting customers to fixed withdrawals though they had more money in their accounts.

THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR also Co-chaired the Technical Economic Management Team (TEMT) with Finance Minister Samuel Tweah in the controversial US\$25 million mop-up of excess liquidity in the economy which outcome is still questionable in terms of transparency and accountability despite an audit by the General Auditing Commission.

PRESIDENT WEAH HAS resolved to honorably retire Patray with full benefits for contributing to messing up the economy by selfishly satisfying his (President Weah's) personal interest rather than the country at large. He will be rewarded with all benefits as a retiring Executive Governor for helping to crippling the economy.

THEREFORE, WE VIEW the launch of the so-called Economic Forum by Governor Patray as a clever attempt to divert public attention from the current degenerating state of the economy, because he lacks any workable strategy to advance.

BEING SO INEPT, as he has demonstrated at the CBL, Patray should just keep quiet and wait for his elaborate retirement package from President Weah, who he satisfied during his entire period as Executive Governor of the Central Bank rather than taking us to the past that was far better than now.

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

COMMENTARY

By Elizabeth Drew

Could the Democrats Blow It?

A major dilemma of the Democratic nomination contest is that it is a test of two important attributes: which candidate can beat Trump, and which is offering the most appealing platform to primary voters. These are not the same thing.

WASHINGTON, DC - The unprecedentedly large number of candidates - 25 at last count - for the Democratic nomination to take on US President Donald Trump in 2020 has led to an awkward opening to the contest. The number of contenders will drop as the qualifications for participating in party debates tighten (especially in September) and some run out of money. Some know they have no real chance at winning, but hope that becoming better known might land them a cabinet post, more lucrative book deals, or larger speaking fees.

Most experienced political observers have assumed that the Democrats can defeat Trump unless they swing too far to the left, turning off those who had supported Barack Obama and then Trump, including the blue-collar workers and suburbanites who decided the 2016 election. There were various moments in both debates when one could envision Trump smiling. And now many Democrats are depressed.

The problem for the Democrats, especially in this election cycle, is that voters in primary contests (in both parties) tend to be more extreme than the parties as a whole. The Democrats' recent swing to the left began with the 2016 challenge by Bernie Sanders - who calls himself a "democratic socialist" and isn't a Democratic Party member - to Hillary Clinton's presumed nomination. Sanders, with his appeal as an insurgent and his unrealistic promises (as well as Clinton's weaknesses) nearly undid her nomination. Young people in particular found him an exciting anti-establishment figure.

Senator Elizabeth Warren was rising in the polls even before the debates. But her vast policy agenda represents a leap forward in government intervention in the economy and other domestic arrangements; adds up to trillions of dollars, without a clear explanation of how to pay for it; and is unlikely to be approved by Congress (even if the Democrats recapture control of the Senate). None of this has caught up with her, but as she becomes one of the top two or three candidates (drawing some support from Sanders), these vulnerabilities are likely to be exposed.

Kamala Harris, born of professional parents from Jamaica and India, is more cautious than Warren and in some cases her positions - for example, on whether private health insurance should be abolished - have been contradictory. She built her reputation on having been a prosecutor and attorney general in California, and has won national attention by using her prosecutorial skill in hearings, though not always fairly. As a California prosecutor she was partly progressive, but also demanded harsh sentences and reportedly kept some innocent people locked up.

In the second of the first pair of Democratic debates, Harris stole the show by attacking former vice president Joe Biden, at that point the frontrunner. Dredging up a controversy from the 1970s, Harris pointed out that the former senator from Delaware had opposed federally mandated busing in order to achieve greater racial integration of schools. A Gallup poll in the early 1970s found that only 4% of whites and 9% of African-Americans supported the highly controversial program.

Harris, who pointed out that as a child she participated in a busing program (albeit a voluntary one in Berkeley, California), combined that attack with a declaration of personal hurt from Biden's recent unartful nostalgic recollection of working with two arch-segregationists in the Senate to get

some bills passed decades ago. (Both occupied powerful Senate positions and pro-civil rights Democrats working with them wasn't uncommon, though Biden could have chosen less noxious examples to make his point.)

Harris sought to cut into Biden's strong African-American support, which has been aided by his eight years as vice president to Barack Obama. Biden was unprepared for the attack and stumbled in his reply. He emphasized his strong pro-civil rights record, and a couple of weeks later he apologized for appearing to condone the two segregationist senators. And it turned out that Harris's current position on busing isn't much different from Biden's. But her attack was enough to catapult her nearly to the top of the polls. The press attention afterward to Harris's long-planned attack on Biden - confrontations and zingers (though obviously rehearsed) make for good TV - is an example of what's wrong with these "debates" as a vehicle for choosing a candidate.

Sanders's considerable recent decline in opinion polls - coming in behind Harris and Warren in some polls, as well as behind Biden - can be attributed to the fact that his act is no longer fresh. He's still long on promises and short on details, and he's still grumpy and a yeller. But, mainly, Sanders is no longer the lone insurgent challenging the quintessentially establishment figure.

Biden, however, has the greatest problems. Before the first debates, he hovered some 20 points above his rivals. Though this may have been due largely to his greater name recognition and his evident closeness with Obama (who is remaining studiously neutral), he has come across as dwelling in nostalgia. He seems not to recognize how much US politics has changed in terms of hyper-partisanship since he was in the Senate, before the Republican Party turned to the right and became openly obstructionist.

Moreover, Biden was never a great campaigner for the presidency, failing twice. He'll be 77 in November (three years older than Trump) and would turn 80 in his first term - making him the oldest US president ever.

Two or three others remain plausible Democratic candidates. Right now, some of the charm might be wearing off Pete Buttigieg, the preternaturally wise 37-year-old mayor of South Bend, Indiana, a gay man who volunteered to serve in Afghanistan.

"Mayor Pete" had an excellent spring, and he remains a darling of many Democratic donors. But just before the debate, he had to confront an issue vexing officials in towns and cities across the country: a white policeman in South Bend had recently shot and killed an unarmed black man. In the debate, the issue seemed to weigh him down. And he's in trouble if he can't attract African-American support, a problem he's had ever since, as a new mayor, he fired South Bend's first black police chief.

By the conclusion of the first pair of debates, many of the Democratic candidates had backed controversial leftist proposals such as Medicare for All, which could spell the end of private health insurance and raise taxes; decriminalizing undocumented immigration; covering undocumented immigrants in government health-care plans; and school busing.

A major dilemma of the Democratic nomination contest is that it is a test of two important attributes: which candidate can beat Trump, and which is offering the most appealing platform to primary voters. These are not the same thing.



By Jim O'Neill

Does the G20 Still Matter?

LONDON - When the G20 leaders held their first summit in late 2008, many welcomed what looked like a diverse, highly representative new forum for crafting common solutions to global problems. The group acquitted itself well in responding to the global financial crisis, and, for a while, its emergence as a forum for international policy coordination seemed like one of the only silver linings of that mess.

I was certainly among those applauding the G20's initial achievements. Since 2001, when I identified the rise of the BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, India, and China) as a key feature of the twenty-first-century world economy, I had been calling for a major overhaul of global-governance structures. As I argued at the time, the continued dominance of the G7 (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States) was increasingly out of step with the complex world of the early 2000s. To this day, the G7's exclusion of China is a glaring omission, made worse by the presence of so many European countries, most of which share a currency and abide by the same fiscal- and monetary-policy rules.

Unfortunately, following the G20's summit in Osaka, Japan, last month, I cannot help but wonder whether that gathering, too, has lost its purpose. Indeed, the only relevant development to come from the summit was an agreement on the sidelines between US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping, who brokered yet another "truce" in their countries' trade war.

Part of the problem, of course, is that global governance in general has been marginalized, now that the US has abdicated its role as the custodian of the international order. But there are also issues with the G20 itself. On one hand, the group looks like an appropriate vehicle for facilitating global dialogue. Its membership represents around 85% of global GDP and comprises most of the leading emerging economies, including those that have not adopted Western-style liberal democracy. With the exception of Nigeria, Africa's largest economy and most populous country, the countries that one would expect to have a seat at the table do. And in the future, one could imagine Vietnam and a few others joining them.

On the other hand, while the G20 has been very good at issuing grandiose communiqués to acknowledge the existence of global challenges, it has proven utterly incapable of advancing any solutions to them. To be sure, one could argue that it isn't realistic to expect a bunch of bureaucrats to fix everything that is broken in the world. If anything, it is the duty of activists, entrepreneurs, and other creative thinkers to pressure and persuade political leaders on the need for change. And yet, when it comes to problems that can be addressed only cooperatively at the global level, there is no alternative to bodies like the G20. Even if political leaders have adopted all the right ideas, they still need a forum for turning those ideas into coordinated policies.

To my mind, there are two barriers standing in the G20's way. First, though it is representative, it is also far too large. As I have argued since 2001, what the world really needs is a more representative G7, comprising the US, Japan, the European Union, and the BRIC countries. This new grouping would reside within the G20 and represent three-quarters of global GDP. While Canada and a post-Brexit UK would lose some of their current influence, they would have no less of it than similarly situated countries such as Australia. At any rate, they need not worry: there is no reason to expect a diplomatic overhaul of this scale anytime soon.

The G20's second deficiency is that it (as well as the G7) lacks an objective framework through which to set goals and measure progress toward them. Since the group's initial success a decade ago, its agenda has been fluid, with each host country adding something new to the mix at every annual gathering. In the case of the Osaka summit, the Japanese government introduced the goal of universal health care.

No one doubts that universal health care is a worthy cause. But nor has the G20 actually done anything to help individual member states expand the provision of health care. Worse, the time spent paying lip service to this new objective could have been used to discuss outstanding issues such as antimicrobial resistance, which was added to the G20 agenda in 2016. The language about AMR in the latest communiqué was notably similar to that of previous summits, which suggests that little progress has been made.

Meanwhile, the market for new antibiotics is deteriorating rapidly. Without a concerted international response, drug-resistant superbugs could take ten million lives per year by 2050, resulting in a cumulative loss of around \$100 trillion in global output. What the world needs now is action, not empty words.

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
Invitation for Bids for **Vehicle Repairs.**

DATE: July 11, 2019

IFB NO. JUD/NCB/002/2019/20

- 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 **Vehicle Repairs**. Therefore, the Judiciary wishes to solicit sealed bids from reputable agencies dealing in the provision of services relating to Vehicle Repairs Maintenance & services. This invitation for bids follows the special procurement notice for this project which appears in two local dailies.
- The Judiciary now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the provision of the services described below. The items will be divided into lots. Bidders are allowed to bid for more than one lot. Bid submission begins on July 11, 2019 from 10:00 AM to 4:00PM daily. **The final date of submission is August 13, 2019.**
Packages: Vehicle Repairs and Maintenance Services

Bid Security

JUD/NCB/002/2019/2020	Lot-1	Mercedes	1unit	US \$150.00
JUD/NCB/002/2019/2020	Lot-2	Repairs of Ford	9 units	US\$ 400.00
JUD/NCB/002/2019/2020	Lot-3	Repairs of Nissan	18 units	US\$ 600.00
JUD/NCB/002/2019/2020	Lot-4	Repairs of Hyundai	6 units	US\$210.00
JUD/NCB/002/2019/2020	Lot-5	Repairs of Toyota	40 units	US \$1,100.00

- 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, 2011. Bidding is opened to all eligible and qualified bidders' source as defined in the guidelines.
- A complete set of bidding documents for the specified Vehicle Repairs and maintenance services, may be obtained by qualified and eligible bidders from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice: (a) Through Inquiry from the Director of Procurement; and, (b) Upon payment of a non-refundable fee of US\$ 50 for each set of bid documents for the aforementioned services for Vehicle Repairs. Bidders are required to submit a 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 (LRA);
 - Certificate of Incorporation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs);
 - Financial Records of Performance for the past two (2) years with indication of at least two previous or current clients, with their Addresses and Telephone Numbers; (e) Availability of spare parts at all times; and, (e) Demonstrated ability to pre-finance. Additional details are provided in the bidding documents.

(e) All Supplier should have high standard spare parts to meet the demand of the Judiciary.
 (f) Suppliers should have the capacity of repairing vehicles within the Judiciary fleet.
 (g) Availability of spare parts.
 (h) Should be capable of having specific tow truck.
 (i) Contact duration will be taking into consideration as per our Bidding process.
 (j) All Suppliers should have professional mechanic that are license within their employed.
- Interested and eligible bidders may obtain additional information on the bidding process from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice Main Building, fifth floor Room # 501 or 505 Monrovia, Liberia; and from Monday – Friday during the hours of 9:00 A.M. thru 3:00 P. M.
- All Submissions must be signed and sealed in an envelope with one original and two duplicates copies all in one envelope and sealed:
 - IFB NO. JUD/NCB/002/2019/2020 – (Lot 1 to lot 5) - **CONFIDENTIAL BID** for the provision of **Vehicle Repairs maintenance Services** to the Judiciary for Fiscal Year 2019 – 2020; and shall be addressed to: DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT, TEMPLE OF JUSTICE MAIN BUILDING, FIFTH FLOOR RM. # 501 MONROVIA, LIBERIA
- All Submissions must be delivered to the Procurement Unit on or before **August 13, 2019 @ 11:00 A. M.** However, **no ELECTRONIC BIDS** will be accepted and late bids will be rejected.
- A pre-bid opening meeting will be held on Friday, **August 9, 2019 @ 12: 00 PM** in the office of the Director of Procurement in Room #501, to answer questions relevant to the bidding process for Vehicle Repairs and maintenance services, Seven (7) days after which, all further clarification requests would remain unanswered to.
- Sealed bids will be opened in the presence of all bidders or their representatives on Tuesday, **August 13, 2019** as follows: (a) Vehicle Repairs and maintenance services for Lot 1 @ 11:00 am Lot 2 @ 11:30 am, Lot 3 @ 12:00 am, Lot 4 @ 12:30 am Lot 5 @ 1:30 Pm,.. All potential bidders are asked to please take note of the time herein stated. Bids shall be valid for a period of sixty (60) 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

House summons LEC, Mines and Energy

By Bridgett Milton

The House of Representatives summons the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) alone with the Ministry of Mines and Energy to appear before full plenary next Tuesday to account for moneys received from the Government of Liberia and to explain why the electricity program in the country is very poor and slow.

Montserrado County District#7 Representative Solomon C. George, in a communication to House Speaker Bhofal Chambers, writes that after many months of observing and discussing with the Management Team of the Liberia Electricity Corporation, it has come to his understanding that the LEC Management Team headed by Pascal Buckley is yet to provide requisite service to its customers.

Rep. George notes that it can be proven that there are many communities in central Monrovia and it envious which are connected to the LEC grid that are being grossly disrespected by the way they are being served.

He continues that members of the Management Team are living in Monrovia for these years and their homes are not connected to the LEC grid.

He specifically reveals that government had spent a total of US\$11.9 million on upgrading a generator at the Corporation for the

past three years, yet this generator is not being used.

The CDC lawmaker says there are many issues that can't be explained while investigation is ongoing about the actual work the Management Team is doing on behalf of the Liberian people.

"It can be recalled that a little over a month ago, the Government of Liberia gave the Management Team the amount of US\$6million, which we as the people's deputies must know how that money was spent", he asserts.



"It is in this light, that we request for the Management Team to appear before the plenary of the House and inform the Liberian people how their money is being spent and why the Electricity program in our country by the LEC is so very poor and slow", the communication concludes. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Liberia recommits to WTO provisions

The Minister of Commerce and Industry, Professor Wilson K. Tarpeh, says Liberia remains committed to upholding the provisions of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Minister Tarpeh says Liberia is in the process of ratifying the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), which will set forth a series of measures for expeditiously moving goods across borders through best practices from around the world.

He adds that the CDC-led Government, under the leadership of President George Manneh Weah, will ensure that WTO instruments aimed at boosting effective trade in Liberia are promoted to the letter.

A Commerce Ministry release quotes the Minister as noting that as a manifestation of Liberia's commitment to effective and value added trade; constructive steps have been taken by government.

He outlines some of the actions as reforming the importing regime by reducing the time needed for import, in line with efforts to reduce their final cost to the consumer.

He also discloses that Government is working to build a special economic zone,

that specifically serves as incubator for exporting firms and model of what Liberia could look like with developed infrastructure, lower energy cost and faster administrative processes.

Professor Tarpeh however calls for knowledge sharing across West Africa on best

practices in order to avoid repeating mistakes and leading from successful policies.

He also spoke about extensive negotiations and talks with trading regime stakeholders to identify other bottlenecks that impede trade flows in the country.

At the gathering, Professor Tarpeh also discusses challenges faced over the past three years since Liberia's admittance into the WTO.

"I can only speak to the progress made over the past 18 months since President George Weah's election and subsequent inauguration in January 2018 and since I took office at the ministry of Commerce and industry." He says.

According to him, Liberia

needs technical support to devise many policies and appropriate funding to implement them, noting that program of assistance to Trade Support Institutions in Liberia (PASTIL) has been of great assistance.

The Commerce boss was speaking recently in Geneva, Switzerland, during the 2nd Forum on WTO Accessions: Technical Assistance and Capacity Building for Economic Transformation and Sustainable Peace Building.

The forum, organized by the WTO Secretariat from Wednesday, July 3-5, 2019, also coincided with Liberia's Third Year of accession to the World Trade Organization. *-Press Release*



Commerce and Industry Minister Wilson Tarpeh

Sethi Brothers constructs giant steel plant

Sethi Brothers, Incorporated, a foreign business here constructs a steel plant from local scrap materials in Chicken Soup Factory Community, Gardnersville, Montserrado County's District#12, describe as the largest steel plant in West Africa.

Sethi Brothers which also owns a chain of building material stores in Montserrado and other parts of the country began construction of the steel plant based on request of the Government of Liberia under former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to boost the

industrial sector of Liberia.

As a major investment project, the US\$22 million plant is provides employment opportunities for over 1,000 Liberians, including residents of District #12.

The General Services Manager of the plant, Siafa Morgan explains Tuesday, 09 July during a tour of the factory that, though not fully operational, the entity has in its employ hundreds of Liberians in various departments of the manufacturing activities and is expected to employ thousands more Liberians when operations reach full capacity.

The factory has several

facilities such as first aid treatment and canteen, amongst others for employees.

One of the magnificent features observed during a recent tour of the plant is a smokeless giant size power plant which generates power for the factory, using HFO fuel thus, making it environmentally friendly.

During the tour, the President of the National Civil Society Network of Liberia, Mr. Amos B. S. Kanneh lauds Mr. Paul Sethi, CEO of Sethi Brothers Incorporated for the huge investment, urging him not to give credence to misinformation and garbage spewed by less busy and small-minded individuals, who are afraid of competition.

Kanneh further calls on Sethi to remain focused on his business expansion policy which is creating jobs in many parts of Liberia in response to President George Weah's call for the private sector to diversify in line with his government's Pro-poor Agenda.

Many Liberians continue to hail the construction of the plant which is intended for mass production of steel rod which will reduce the price of the commodity on the local market and boost the country's economy.

The plant also boosts Liberia's industrial image by the production of high-quality

Mayors Kojee, Taylor to appear before House

By Bridgett Milton

Monrovia and Paynesville City Mayors Jefferson Kojee Pam Belcher Taylor are expected to appear before the House's committees on Health and Mines and Energy to address the untidiness of the two cities.

The two city mayors are expected to provide a way forward as to how the House can help in mitigating these rising health threats.

They were invited by the House following a communication written by Montserrado County District #4 Rep. Rustonlyn Suacoco Dennis, informing plenary of the situation.

According to Rep. Dennis, the increasing disorder of health hazard in these two cities poses a serious threat to the good health of the people

and as such there should be a remedy to the emerging health threat.

Dennis says the Paynesville city dump site which is located in Whein town is filled with dirt, thereby creating unsaved environment for the public.

To avoid health hazard, she suggests that it would be appropriate for all dump sites in Montserrado County to be relocated.

In recent weeks, there has been public criticism about the handling of solid waste in the capital, Monrovia and Paynesville.

The MCC indicated a few days ago that it had stepped up its game by introducing 'isolated' sites for waste disposal, to safeguard public health in central city and other populous environs. *-Edited by Winston W. Parley*



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steel products such as squared pipes, steel round pipes, reinforcement steel bars and angle steels and services to meet the demand on the Liberian market and the sub-region.

As a commitment to its corporate social responsibilities to residents of the host community, Sethi has constructed a 1.4km concrete road at the cost of US\$1.8 million – commencing from the main Somalia Drive

corridor to the company's facilities, safe drinking water and first-class public toilet facilities, amongst others.

The National Civil Society Network of Liberia is meanwhile calling on the government to ensure that scrap materials are reserved for the company in order to afford it adequate raw materials to enhance production and boost the economy.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

CBL launches new series of Economic Forum

The Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) launches an Economic Forum Thursday, 11 July to begin a public dialogue on topical domestic and global economic issues. A release from the Bank says the event will be the first

issues affecting the Liberian economy.

The CBL Executive Governor, Nathaniel R. Patray, III will formally launch the Forum and give the keynote message.

According to the release,

Director for Statistics in the Research, Policy and Planning Department (RPPD) will serve as the keynote speaker. His presentation will be followed by a panel discussion in which Messrs. Mussah A. Kamara, ArmasoBawn and Jefferson S. N. Kambo, directors of the Research, Policy and Planning; Financial Markets; and Regulations and Supervision departments, respectively will serve as panelists.

In addition to creating awareness and public understanding about CBL's monetary policy, regulatory and functions, it is hoped that this new series of public dialogue will garner public feedback on the Bank's policies as well as the general economic policies of the government.

As the economy is currently undergoing a period of stress and downturn, it is important that CBL engages the public on the financial and macroeconomic policy decisions it is embarking upon to create transparency and better public understanding of its operations.

The event is expected to bring together representatives of the financial sector, the business community, policymakers, and other key players, including the academia, within the Liberian society.

the theme of the maiden CBL Economic Forum is: "Taking Stock of the Central Bank of Liberia's Monetary Policy Regime and Operations over the Last Eighteen Years (2000 - 2018)".

Mr. P. MahKruah, Assistant



in a series of bi-monthly economic forums that will create public awareness among key CBL stakeholders on the economic policies of the government, including monetary and financial policies of the Bank, and

Senator brands colleague as mere IT boy

By Ethel A Tweh

Sethi Brothers constructs giant steel plant

Sethi Brothers, Incorporated, a foreign business here constructs a steel plant from local scrap materials in Chicken Soup Factory Community, Gardnersville, Montserrado County's District#12, describe as the largest steel plant in WestAfrica.

Sethi Brothers which also owns a chain of building material stores in Montserrado and other parts of the country began construction of the steel plant based on request of the Government of Liberia under former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to boost the industrial sector of Liberia.

As a major investment project, the US\$22 million plant is provides employment opportunities for over 1,000 Liberians, including residents of District #12.

The General Services Manager of the plant, Siafa Morgan explains Tuesday, 09 July during a tour of the factory that, though not fully operational, the entity has in its employ hundreds of Liberians in various departments of the manufacturing activities and is expected to employ thousands more Liberians when operations reach full capacity.

The factory has several facilities such as first aid treatment and canteen, amongst others for employees.

One of the magnificent features observed during a recent tour of the plant is a smokeless giant size power plant which generates power for the factory, using HFO fuel thus, making it environmentally friendly.

During the tour, the President of the National Civil Society Network of Liberia, Mr.

Amos B. S. Kanneh lauds Mr. Paul Sethi, CEO of Sethi Brothers Incorporated for the huge investment, urging him not to give credence to misinformation and garbage spewed by less busy and small-minded individuals, who are afraid of competition.

Kanneh further calls on Sethi to remain focused on his business expansion policy which is creating jobs in many parts of Liberia in response to President George Weah's call for the private sector to diversify in line with his government's Pro-poor Agenda.

Many Liberians continue to hail the construction of the plant which is intended for mass production of steel rod which will reduce the price of the commodity on the local market and boost the country's economy.

The plant also boosts Liberia's industrial image by the production of high-quality steel products such as squared pipes, steel round pipes, reinforcement steel bars and angle steels and services to meet the demand on the Liberian market and the sub-region.

As a commitment to its corporate social responsibilities to residents of the host community, Sethi has constructed a 1.4km concrete road at the cost of US\$1.8 million – commencing from the main Somalia Drive corridor to the company's facilities, safe drinking water and first-class public toilet facilities, amongst others.

The National Civil Society Network of Liberia is meanwhile calling on the government to ensure that scrap materials are reserved for the company in order to afford it adequate raw materials to enhance production and boost the economy.

Church leaders discuss HIV/AIDS

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Dozens of Church leaders and faith actors from various denominations in Liberia are brainstorming in a three-day HIV/AIDS Consultative Dialogue ongoing at the headquarters of the Liberia Council of Churches (LCL) on 11th Street in Monrovia.

The dialogue seeks to discuss the most possible ways in which church leaders and faith actors could work with their respective congregations and members to highlight the danger associated with the HIV virus.

There are indications that Liberia lacks clear statistics on the number of church leaders and workers, who may be living with or affected by the deadly HIV/AIDS disease and what role the church could play in helping affected leaders and workers go through counseling.

The consultation further seeks to discuss ways through which affected individuals may be cared for in a more positive and responsible



LCC President, Bishop Kortu Brown

manner to avoid stigmatizing, while strengthening their faith in God and His love for mankind.

Liberia Council of Churches (LCL) President Bishop Kortu Brown, who officially opens the forum, welcomes both male and female church leaders in attendance, encouraging them to be frank

and open in their three-day deliberation and make concrete recommendations that would assist the church of God to provide further leadership and guidance to congregations about the HIV/AIDS disease.

Bishop Brown stresses that church leaders and faith actors are responsible to seek

wellbeing of their congregations especially, persons affected or maybe living with the HIV/AIDS disease through prayers and assistance.

Participants through their churches' representatives would make digital presentations, advancing means and ways in which the church could fight the deadly virus among various congregations.

Some HIV/AIDS specialists here say it is difficult to know if a member of a congregation or a church leader has the virus because they might be shame to disclose their status to avoid

stigmatization.

A church leader attending the consultation, who prefers to remain anonymous, notes that he was shocked to know that a member of his congregation whom he has been supervising for over five years, was discovered to be living with the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Therefore, he calls on church leaders and faith actors to frankly discuss the issue and come up with strategies how the church could protect those who may be affected by the deadly disease, while taking them thru counseling. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

Français

Tyler nie avoir reçu un pot-de-vin de 75 000 USD

L'ancien président de la Chambre des Représentants, Jenekai Alex Tyler, nie les allégations selon lesquelles il aurait reçu 75 000 US \$ en pot-de-vin pour voter une loi sur les concessions en faveur de la société britannique Sable Mining sous le régime de l'ancienne Présidente Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf.

M. Tyler, qui, à l'instar du codéfendeur Varney G. Sherman, a rompu son alliance politique avec Mme Sirleaf vers la fin de son second mandat, doit faire face à un procès pour sabotage économique, ainsi que plusieurs hauts responsables pour un prétendu pot-de-vin de 950 000 USD reçu pour changer la Loi de 2005 sur la Passation des marchés publics et des concessions (PPCC).

En tant que troisième témoin pour les accusés, M. Tyler a qualifié les accusations portées contre lui « d'allégations infondées, insensées, et dépourvue de toute vérité ». Il va plus loin en

qualifiant l'allégation de « mensonge flagrant et calculé », car il n'a reçu aucune somme du défendeur Me Sherman ou de toute autre personne pour l'adoption d'une loi.

« Affirmer ou alléguer que j'ai demandé à 250 000 dollars USD pour faire adopter la loi à

travers le Sénat m'amène à dire que ceux qui font ces allégations ne savent pas comment fonctionne l'Assemblée nationale. Je n'ai jamais présidé le Sénat », affirme-t-il.

Le témoin a lu la dernière partie d'une communication

qui, selon lui, lui avait été adressée en tant que président de la Chambre des Représentants par l'ancienne présidente Sirleaf, dans laquelle il a déclaré avoir relaté l'historique de la modification et de la reformulation de la loi de 2005 sur la PPCC.

Selon lui, Mme Sirleaf a écrit que : « La loi reformulée adûment été approuvée par les professionnels nationaux, les partenaires internationaux du Libéria et est conforme aux meilleures pratiques internationales. L'instrument en question permet de renforcer la valeur de la transparence du code dans le processus d'appel d'offres et de concession afin de garantir l'optimisation des ressources dans les marchés publics et la valeur économique des droits de concession. L'instrument harmonise les procédures d'appel d'offres avec les procédures d'octroi de concessions et d'octroi de licences dans le secteur minier et dans d'autres législations sectorielles (foresterie, agriculture et hydrocarbures). Il rationalise les seuils établis dans la loi de 2005, les supprimant de la loi et les plaçant dans des règlements, car ils peuvent être modifiés périodiquement. Il renforce le processus de plainte en vertu de la loi en définissant et en articulant clairement les fonctions du processus de traitement des plaintes, des appels et de la révision (CARP) et du traitement et de

l'examen des plaintes. Monsieur le Président, je pense que cette loi révisée est préférable pour le Libéria et dans l'intérêt de notre pays et de notre peuple. Je vous recommande de la soumettre à l'honorable parlement pour qu'elle soit adoptée ».

Selon M. Tyler, les articles 75 du projet de loi et de la loi promulguées sont identiques. Ils sont intitulés « Application du champ d'application et principes généraux ». Rien n'a été modifié.

« ... Donc, si un article 75 avait été modifié dans la loi, je serais le premier à le savoir car, à ce moment-là, je ne le savais pas encore, les débats avaient lieu devant l'officier président », a-t-il fait savoir.

« En résumé, le projet de loi portant modification et reformulation de la loi de 2005 sur les marchés publics et les concessions, approuvé et adopté le 16 septembre 2010 et publié le 18 septembre 2010, n'a pas changé, ainsi que la version promulguée », ajoute Tyler.

L'affaire Sable Mining est née d'un rapport de l'ONG Global Witness selon lequel un montant de 950 000 dollars américains aurait été distribué illégalement à plusieurs responsables gouvernementaux sous le régime de la présidente Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf afin de modifier une loi sur l'exploitation minière en faveur de Sable Mining, une société minière britannique.

Le parquet cite spécifiquement l'article 75 de la loi qui, selon lui, vise à faciliter l'attribution de l'accord de concession sur le mont Wologisi, où Sable Mining avait un intérêt dans les gisements de minerai de fer.



RCA : débuts timides pour l'application de l'accord de paix, la méfiance persiste

La mise en application de l'accord de paix signé il y a plus de cinq mois entre le gouvernement centrafricain et 14 groupes armés, qui contrôlent toujours 80% du territoire, commence à se concrétiser timidement sur le terrain.

Après la démobilisation d'une centaine de combattants il y a quelques

jours, le groupe armé UPC du général Ali Darassa a remis ce mardi 9 juillet aux autorités centrafricaines les bâtiments de la gendarmerie de Ngakobo, à une soixantaine de kilomètres de Bambari, qu'ils occupaient depuis des années. Le tout, au cours d'une cérémonie en grande pompe, en présence notamment des représentants de la Minusca

et de l'Union africaine

Cette restitution se veut un symbole de la volonté de l'UPC de mettre en application l'accord de paix de Khartoum, assure son porte-parole Ali Moussa. Mais ce groupe armé devrait en rester là pour le moment. « Nous avons fait un premier pas et nous attendons que les autres fassent la même chose avant d'aller plus loin », prévient-il. Une méfiance partagée par toutes les parties signataires.

D'abord entre les groupes armés : chacun a peur de se retrouver en position de faiblesse si jamais il accepte de désarmer ses combattants, ou de renoncer à ses barrières avant les autres. Méfiance aussi envers le gouvernement centrafricain, sommé de mettre d'abord en place les Unités spéciales mixtes de sécurité qui vont contribuer à la sécurisation du pays. Elles doivent être composées pour 60% de combattants issus des groupes armés, pour 40% de combattants issus des FACA.



Articles traduits

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« C'est la condition pour qu'on puisse aller au désarmement total et au démantèlement des barrières en toute confiance », prévient le porte-parole de l'UPC. Une position commune à tous les groupes armés.

Le pouvoir centrafricain, qui estime de son côté avoir rempli sa part du contrat en

mettant en place le gouvernement élargi aux groupes armés, exige qu'ils se prêtent d'abord au désarmement avant la mise en place des USMS, comme prévu par l'accord de paix. « Il n'y aura pas de véritables avancées tant que ces divergences d'interprétation persistent », explique un diplomate basé en RCA.

Français

L'audience budgétaire risque d'accuser un retard énorme

Le projet de budget national de l'année fiscale 2019/20 pourrait ne pas faire de sitôt l'objet de débats au parlement en vue d'une adoption, à en croire les rumeurs qui circulent dans les couloirs du siège du parlement, The Capitol Building. Selon nos informations, les législateurs seraient opposés à une réduction de leurs indemnités et salaires.

Ce quotidien a appris de sources internes que le pouvoir exécutif est en discussion étroite avec le président de la Chambre des représentants Bhofal Chambers en vue d'une harmonisation des salaires comme c'est le cas dans tous les départements et agences du pouvoir exécutif. Mais certains législateurs seraient farouchement opposés à une réduction quelconque de leurs salaires et de leurs allocations, sous le prétexte que cela n'aura aucun impact sur cette conjoncture économique morose.

Comité parlementaire des voies, des moyens et des finances et du budget n'ont pas encore commencé à examiner le budget. Il se peut que cela ne se fasse de sitôt.

Contacté mardi, le comité du budget s'est inscrit en faux. Son président Thomas Fallah, représentant de la circonscription électorale n° 5 du comté de Montserrado, a fait croire qu'il n'a aucune idée de l'origine des informations, ajoutant que son comité est en train de mettre en place des mécanismes pour relancer l'audience budgétaire.

Les membres de l'Assemblée législative libérienne comptent parmi les cadres de l'Etat les mieux payés depuis l'administration de l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Madame Sirleaf avait accusé les législateurs d'augmenter leurs salaires, leurs indemnités et leurs avantages à leur guise. Elle, en tant que présidente, n'avait d'autre choix que d'entériner leur proposition.



L'exécutif propose que les indemnités mensuelles des membres du parlement soient ramenées de 8 000 USD à 6 000 USD pour les représentants et de 10 000 USD à 7 000 USD pour les sénateurs, tout en promettant de régler leurs arriérés de salaire de quatre mois.

Depuis quatre mois, aucun membre de la 54^{ème} législature libérienne n'a touché de salaire en raison de la crise économique à laquelle est confronté le pays.

L'administration George Manneh Weah a promis de régler les obligations financières des législateurs vis-à-vis des banques commerciales, mais les législateurs soutiennent que cet arrangement n'est pas dans l'intérêt de leurs diverses circonscriptions électorales, car beaucoup d'entre eux sont engagés dans des initiatives communautaires avec leurs revenus mensuels.

Compte tenu du bras de fer qui oppose l'exécutif au législatif, les membres du

Le 30 juin, après 57 jours de retard, le président George Weah, par l'intermédiaire du ministre des Finances et de la Planification du développement (MFDP), a soumis à la Chambre des représentants le projet de budget national 2019/2020 d'un montant de 532 906 966 USD.

Le ministre des Finances, Samuel D. Tweah, et son sous-ministre du Budget, Tanneh Brunson, ont présenté le vendredi 28 juin 2019 le budget de l'exercice 2019-2020 au président de la Chambre des représentants, Bhofal Chambers, conformément à l'article 34, paragraphe i) de la Constitution de 1986.

Selon le résumé analytique des dépenses budgétaires, les salaires des employés s'élèvent à 296 992 913 USD, ce qui représente bien plus de 55% du budget total, soit environ 30 millions USD de moins que le budget précédent pour 2018/2019, où les salaires étaient de 322 672 329 USD.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Elizabeth Drew

Les Démocrates vont-ils ruiner leurs chances ?

WASHINGTON, DC - Sans précédent, le nombre élevé (25 aux dernières nouvelles) de candidats à l'investiture démocrate face au président américain Donald Trump en 2020 conduit à un début de bataille déroutant. Le nombre de candidats diminuera à mesure que les qualifications pour une participation aux débats du parti se resserreront (notamment à partir de septembre), et que certains commenceront à manquer de financements. Plusieurs candidats savent qu'ils ont très peu de chances de l'emporter, mais espèrent se faire davantage connaître pour peut-être décrocher un poste au prochain gouvernement, une signature plus lucrative chez un éditeur, ou une rémunération plus élevée lors de leurs futures conférences.

La plupart des observateurs politiques d'expérience estiment que les Démocrates peuvent battre Trump, à moins qu'ils ne s'orientent trop loin à gauche, risquant alors de déplaire à ceux qui ont soutenu Barack Obama puis Trump, notamment les cols bleus et les habitants des banlieues, qui ont tranché l'élection de 2016. À plusieurs reprises lors des deux débats, on pouvait imaginer Trump esquissant un sourire. De nombreux Démocrates déchantent à présent.

Le problème pour les Démocrates, notamment dans cette phase électorale, c'est que les électeurs au stade des primaires (dans les deux partis) tendent à se montrer plus extrêmes que les partis dans leur ensemble. Le récent virage à gauche pris par les Démocrates a débuté en 2016, lorsque Bernie Sanders - qui se définit lui-même comme un « socialiste démocrate », et qui n'est pas membre du parti - est venu défier la nomination alors présumée d'Hillary Clinton. Séduisant par son insoumission, ses promesses irréalistes (et les points faibles d'Hillary elle-même), Sanders était presque parvenu à causer la perte de la candidature. Les jeunes avaient en particulier vu en lui un formidable personnage antisystème.

La sénatrice Elizabeth Warren grimait dans les sondages avant même la tenue des débats. Pour autant, son vaste programme politique franchit véritablement un cap en termes d'intervention de l'État dans l'économie et les systèmes nationaux ; il représente plusieurs milliers de milliards de dollars, sans explication claire quant au financement ; et il sera très difficilement approuvable par le Congrès (même si les Démocrates reprennent le contrôle du Sénat). Rien de tout cela ne lui a été opposé jusqu'à présent, mais à mesure qu'elle se démarquera parmi les deux ou trois meilleurs candidats (avec le soutien de Sanders), ces vulnérabilités deviendront certainement plus visibles.

Kamala Harris, née d'un père jamaïcain professeur et d'une mère indienne chercheuse, se montre plus prudente que Warren, et certaines de ses positions - par exemple sur la suppression des assurances santé privée - se révèlent contradictoires. Elle s'est bâtie une réputation en tant que procureur et procureur générale de Californie, puis a suscité l'attention de l'opinion en démontrant ses compétences de magistrate du parquet lors de différentes audiences, pas toujours de manière très juste. Au poste de procureur en Californie, elle s'est parfois montrée progressiste, mais a également requis de lourdes peines, et paraît-il maintenu en détention plusieurs innocents.

Lors de la deuxième partie des premiers débats démocrates, Harris s'est distinguée à l'écran en s'attaquant à l'ancien vice-président Joe Biden, alors favori. Détournant une controverse qui remonte aux années 1970, Harris a condamné le fait que l'ancien sénateur du Delaware se soit autrefois opposé à une politique fédérale de transport scolaire (le « busing ») destinée à favoriser l'intégration raciale dans les écoles. Un sondage Gallup du début des années 1970 révèle toutefois que seuls 4% des Blancs et 9% des Afro-américains soutenaient à l'époque ce programme très discuté.

Expliquant qu'elle avait elle-même bénéficié d'un programme de busing pendant son enfance (un programme volontaire appliqué à Berkeley, en

Californie), Harris a accompagné cette attaque d'une condamnation personnelle des récents propos nostalgiques maladroits formulés par Biden concernant son travail aux côtés de deux sénateurs ouvertement ségrégationnistes pour faire passer plusieurs projets de lois, il y a de cela plusieurs décennies (tous deux occupaient de hautes fonctions au Sénat, et il n'était pas inhabituel que les Démocrates favorables aux droits civiques travaillent avec eux, même si Biden aurait pu choisir des exemples moins fâcheux pour exprimer sa pensée).

Harris a cherché à priver Biden de sa solide base afro-américaine, à laquelle ont contribué ses huit années d'exercice en tant que vice-président de Barack Obama. Biden n'a pas vu venir l'attaque, qu'il s'est difficilement efforcé de contrer, en rappelant ses accomplissements passés pour les droits civiques, puis une quinzaine de jours plus tard en présentant ses excuses pour avoir semblé approuver deux sénateurs ségrégationnistes. Il se trouve en fin de compte que l'actuelle position de Harris sur le busing n'est pas très différente de celle de Biden. L'attaque a toutefois suffi à la propulser jusqu'aux sommets des sondages. La couverture médiatique qui a suivi, autour de l'assaut prévu de longue date par Harris sur Biden - confrontations et révélations (clairement répétées à l'avance) favorisant l'audimat - en dit beaucoup sur ce qui ne tourne pas rond dans ces « débats » censés permettre aux électeurs de faire leur choix.

La récente chute très significative de Sanders dans les sondages - le candidat se positionnant derrière Harris et Warren selon certaines consultations, ainsi que derrière Biden - peut s'expliquer par un manque de nouveauté dans sa démarche. Ses promesses restent nombreuses, les détails très brefs, et Sanders demeure ce candidat râleur, grinçant. Mais pour l'essentiel, Sanders n'est plus cet insoumis distinct des autres, celui qui se démarquait comme l'opposé du candidat obéissant au système.

C'est toutefois Biden qui rencontre le plus de difficultés. Avant les premiers débats, il s'élevait environ 20 points au-dessus de ses concurrents, sans doute principalement en raison de son niveau de notoriété, et de sa proximité évidente avec Obama (qui veille à rester neutre). Seulement voilà, Biden a commencé à donner l'impression de s'attarder sur une certaine nostalgie. Il ne semble pas réaliser combien la politique américaine a changé en termes d'esprit de parti depuis ses années au Sénat, époque antérieure au virage à droite du Parti républicain, qui est devenu ouvertement obstructionniste.

Par ailleurs, Biden n'a jamais été un très bon acteur de campagne pour la présidentielle, échouant à deux reprises. Il aura 77 ans au mois de novembre (trois ans de plus que Trump), et fêterait ses 80 pendant son premier mandat s'il était élu - ce qui ferait de lui le président américain le plus âgé de toute l'histoire.

Deux ou trois autres candidats démocrates restent crédibles. À l'heure actuelle, le charme semble s'estomper du côté de Pete Buttigieg, le très réfléchi maire de 37 ans de South Bend, dans l'Indiana, homosexuel qui s'est volontairement engagé comme soldat en Afghanistan.

Au moment de conclure les premiers débats, nombre des candidats démocrates s'étaient dits favorables à des propositions de gauche controversées, telles que le Medicare pour tous, potentiellement synonyme de fin de l'assurance santé privée et de hausse des impôts, la dépénalisation de l'immigration clandestine, la couverture des immigrants sans papier dans le cadre de régimes publics de santé, ainsi que le fameux school busing.

La course à l'investiture démocrate est une mise à l'épreuve autour de deux qualités indispensables : quel candidat pourra battre Trump, et lequel proposera le programme le plus attrayant pour les électeurs des primaires. Et c'est bien cela le dilemme, car l'un n'a rien à voir avec l'autre.

FEATURE

FEATURE

Analysis of China 70 Years of Remarkable Achievement in Human History

By: Prof. Josephus Moses Gray

Assistant Professor of International Relations

The People's Republic of China's transformation from a poor and backward nation into a modernized and prosperous one is proven to be an amazing achievement in human history of tackling poverty and providing a valuable experience for other nations. China not only is an important driving force of global economic growth but also makes a significant contribution to global order in promoting interconnectivity between countries and regions. China has accomplished what took developed countries hundreds of years to accomplish and become an upper-middle income country from a low-income one. China has overcome the great divergence of development among different countries formed after the first industrial revolution and made a miraculous economic catch-up from behind.

As the People's Republic of China marks the 70th anniversary of the start of the historic carnival activities, it is significant to reflect back from the 1940s to present to take an in-depth look at the forces that shaped that great and rewarding transformation of China. This article which contains several parts will be released to the public in series due to the limitation of space in the local newspapers. However, the first part of this instructive article examines China 70th years of remarkable transformations and growth, how the state surpassed other industrial nations and become the world second economic power. It also looks into the new era of China's win-win diplomacy that former president Deng Xiaoping's ushered in to allow China to focus on economic development, and examines President Xi Jinping's developmental strategies especially the belt and road initiative. It concludes that with the country modus operandi and how China becomes the second economic power in the world.

Also the article briefly looks at the famous Sun-Tzu style propounded that China needed to initiate to conquer the world using its little dragons that have occupied mature markets, beginning with thousands of small Chinese businesses and companies in Africa's five regions, Middle East, and South America that pave the way to the biggest ones, and most importantly, encouraged by the "Go Out Policy" launched in 1999. In order to answer to these questions, Assistant Professor of the University of Liberia Graduate Program of International Studies, Professor Josephus Moses Gray, provides an in-depth analysis of China's incredible transformation and growth, keeping the focus on the nation's strategies and modus operandi.

The People's Republic of China was founded in 1949, in the past 70 years, under the leadership of the Central Government, China made much headway in socio-economic development. In 1949, most than a half-century ago, the birth of new China opened up a new chapter in world politics, as far as international relations is concerned.

On October 1, 1949, the People's Republic of China was formally established, with its national capital in Beijing. "The Chinese people have stood up, declared as the former Chairman of the Communist Party, Mao Zedong announced the creation of the modern Chinese state, a global economic power in human history.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China and is vital reflect on how the Chinese work hard to build a moderately prosperous society in all respects, and that profound changes have taken place over the past seven decades as China has become the second-largest economy in the world. China remarkable jump has been made from an impoverished society which only depended on sufficient food and clothing to a flourishing society in the world. The state now plays a better role in the international arena due to its improved socio-economic situation.

In the past, China was listed among the poorest nations on earth, and the state was blemished by the failure of the Great Leap Forward and the political disorders during the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. The country integration into the global



economy was trifling, its industry was ineffective. Nowadays, China has become the world's second economic power in decade or two, to the bewilderment of many economists and political scientists, and thanks mainly to four dynamics factors.

As the Chinese people celebrate their seven decades of reforms and opening up characterized by growth and socio-economic development, others underdeveloped nations need to see China's great transformation as a wake-up call to transform their economics and political policies by initiating their own development path different from the outdated philosophy of hegemony, and always stick to peaceful development. China has successfully expanded beyond its border ushering a new era of industrialization, and record-breaking socio-economic development. The state is also credited for its successful strategic approach towards the establishment of diplomatic ties and cooperation with hundreds of sovereign states, governments, and people across the globe.

Major Reform Steps by China

According to Jinglian Wu (2007), the major Reform Steps in China 1978-2017 are captured under different eras and summarized: In 1979 "Open door" policy initiated, foreign trade and investment reforms begin; law on Joint Venture Companies passed, in 1980 the state established a policy of eating from Separate Kitchens" reforms in intergovernmental fiscal relations, while in 1999 government reforms consolidate industry-related ministries and institutes and 1978 the former president Deng Xiaoping's speech at the Central Party Work Conference "Emancipate the Mind, Seek Truth from Facts and Unite as One in Looking to the Future". Deng Xiaoping's push for 'reform and opening up' launched China's rise from the wreckage of the Cultural Revolution to the world second-biggest economy.

Other periods include 1993 decision of the third plenum of the 14th party congress to establish a "socialist market economy" paving way for fiscal, financial, SOE reforms, 2001 launching of the 10th five year plan emphasizes efficiency, structural change, industrial upgrading, 2013 12th Five Year Plan launched, emphasizing rebalancing and avoiding middle income trap and 16 point program introduced to fight inflation, the 2016 13th Five Year Plan Launched emphasizing innovation and productivity as drivers of growth and the 2017 19th Party Congress defines "New Era" and China's new long term goals for Modernization

One of the most outstanding aspects of China's efficacious strategies is, without a doubt, the invention of practical policy regarding the approach to trade. Er-Rafia (2018) explained that the number of China's largest companies in the world has been growing steadily and Incontestably, Chinese companies invade their domestic market from the outset with economies of scale, since the Chinese market itself is gigantic, something that a Western company cannot afford to do at home from the beginning. A Chinese company that is emerging nationally is already a strong company having won a victory over its competitors.

According to Er-Rafia, the Chinese company's presence

in the local market disturbs international competition and attracts Western companies that propose commercial agreements. Given the massive size of the untapped Chinese market, these companies compete easily (to a certain extent) in the global market.

The successful China reform goes with a painful decision and hard work especially instituting several actions that focused on policy implementation and enforcement since any law that lacks enforcement action is considered a dead law. Reforms in China developed gradually, starting in rural areas with the household responsibility system and township and village enterprises. Nowadays, China has become the world's second economic power in decade or two, to the bewilderment of many economists and political scientists, and thanks mainly to four dynamics factors.

For others, the credit first goes to former President Deng Xiaoping's opening-up-to-the-world policies and the 1979 Equity Joint Venture Law, together the state has allowed foreign capital and Western companies to enter China, transforming the domestic economic landscape entirely from one that was outmoded and old-fashioned to one that is dynamic and contemporary.

The second dynamic can be attributed to the State Strategy instituted over a period of time and importantly outlined in the various five-year plans. According to several publications, this strategy has led to the gradual flourishing of the Chinese economy and that of some industries targeted by the State in the five-year plans. Steps to open the economy to foreign trade and investment only started to play a significant role in the 1990s. The financial sector and State-Owned Enterprises (SOE) reform were also gradual, gaining momentum only in the mid-1990s.

The country's motto was "Crossing the river by feeling the stones," denoting partial reforms in an experimental manner, often starting in a few regions, and expanding them upon proven success. Other publications, under different authors, disclosed that another strategy was a means to find solutions suitable to China, experimentation, and gradualism was a means to circumvent political resistance against reforms.

Accordingly, many in the Communist Party retained a deep suspicion of the market, while gradual experimental reform was also pragmatic. While Experimental reforms confined to specific regions and sectors, allowed the central government to gather information on the impacts of such reforms.

The third factor is China's most precious treasure, its hard-working labor force which is estimated to be 800 million, has allowed China to become the world's factory in the past three decades. A broader strategy emerged only in 1993, with the Decisions of the 3rd Plenum of the 14th Central Committee. Decentralization or regionalization of state authority became a powerful tool in China's reformed, the various provinces and local governments received increasing authority over investment approvals, fiscal resources, and policies. Zhong Sheng (2018) disclosed that the provinces, municipalities and even counties were allowed, even encouraged, to experiment with reforms.

Another key area of China's remarkable transformation is the fiscal system and the political organizations that are grounded within the Communist Party were key in aligning regional government incentives. The benefits of reforms were distributed broadly across the population and governments, creating strong incentives to pursue growth and promote a market economy.

In practicality of the reforms, the authorities were also able to mature and test the managerial processes and harmonizing policies needed to implement the reforms. In this case, success meant the experiment was geared for expansion to other regions and sectors across the country. While successful experiments became official policy and were quickly adopted throughout the country, and by decentralizing, authorities turned the country into a laboratory for reforms.

Another area of success by the Chinese was the strategy of approaching reforms with the tested policy one step at a time, and initial with those most likely to deliver results, allowing the administration to built up its reputation for practical delivery. There is a saying that every successful reform helped the next, gradually China to build up its "reform" capital, which turn out to be a success story of the international system.

TO BE CONT'D

New Dawn boss held for contempt

The publisher and Managing Editor of the New Dawn newspaper, Mr. Othello B. Garblah has been slapped with a contempt charge by Judge Peter Gbeneweleh of the Criminal Court "C" a day following a report that Associate Justice Joseph Nagbe visited the court during the ongoing Sable Mining bribery trial.

The contempt charge relates to a story published in the Tuesday July 9, edition of the New Dawn in which the paper raised concerns over the ongoing trial in a story titled "Plot to exonerate defendants?"

The concerns follow speculations which emerged after Associate Justice Nagbe's visit drew some form of murmuring in the court.

On Friday Associate 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 returned from the Judge's Chamber, Justice Nagbe waved to the defendants with a smile as he exited the court room.

In the writ of summons issued Wednesday, July 10, 2019, Mr. Garblah was asked to appear and show cause why he

should not be held in contempt for the publication which also had to do with Associate Justice Nagbe's visit at the court during the trial that involves three of his former legislative colleagues-Senators Varney Sherman, Morris Saytuma, and former House Speaker Alex Tyler.

Report of Associate Justice

Nagbe's visit at the court was reported in several other media, but it appears the court wants to set an example with the New Dawn-Garblah.

The contempt charge comes at a time when the current team heading the country's Justice Department were all part of the defendants' counsel team during the regime of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

Court records show that Cllr. Musa Dean of the Dean & Associates law firm, now Justice Minister, Cllr. Cyrenus Cephus of Cyma & Associates, now Solicitor General and Cllr. Edward K. Matins, of Cyma & Associate, now Montserrado County Attorney are still reflected on the documents as defense counsels without a

letter to show their withdrawal.

According to Mr. Garblah this raises serious conflict of interest and wonder why the current Justice Department did not maintain the Presidential Taskforce with different prosecutors rather than the same group handling the case. Similar conflict of interest issues were raised during the regime of president Sirleaf which led to the establishment of the Presidential Taskforce.

Cllr. Betty Lamin then Solicitor General had worked for the Sherman and Sherman Law firm and Cllr. Varney Sherman being her former boss could have prosecuted him. She same with Cllr. Fredrick Cheru, former Justice Minister who also on the basis of conflict of interest recused himself from the case.

Speaking on the contempt charge, Mr. Garblah said the concerns raised in the story did not in anyway attempt to impugn the Judiciary but rather to flag some of the public concerns regarding the trial as it relates to the prosecution.

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.

I did not read entire draft law

By Winston W. Parley

The Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives Madam Mildred N. Sayon says she could not have read the entire draft law of the Amendment and Restatement Public Procurement and Concession Commission (PPCC) Act given the time she received it and the time of plenary session.

Assistant Justice Minister Cllr. Wesseh A. Wesseh unsuccessfully sought to establish from witness Sayon Wednesday, 10 July if it was possible for the Section 75 that she saw in the enacted law to have been in the draft law, after she indicated that she did not read the entire draft law.

She tells the Court that given the time interval of

receiving the instrument and the time of plenary session, "I could not have read the entire draft law."

Madam Sayon and the Secretary of the Senate Mr. Naborlor Singbeh have been subpoenaed to testify in the ongoing trial of several top Liberian officials - past and present for allegedly receiving bribes totaling US\$950,000 to insert Section 75 in the draft PPCC Act.

Her appearance was intended to honor the court's order to come and confirm certain documents including the 2010 Draft PPCC Act; a letter addressed to former House Speaker Jenekai Alex Tyler by former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf dated 5 August 2010, among others.

As custodian of the House also responsible to oversee

clerical works and carry out mandates of the House, Madam Sayon testifies in direct examination with defense lawyers that she recalls coming across the enacted 2010 PPCC Act as well as the drafted 2010 PPCC Act.

She also testifies in cross examination conducted by state lawyer Cllr. Wesseh A. Wesseh on Wednesday, 10 July that she received the instrument and ex-President Sirleaf's letter to ex-Speaker Tyler.

According to the subpoenaed witness, the instrument was placed on the agenda of the House of Representatives and on the same day, it was read and referred to the committee that had authority over it, but she could not have read the entire draft law.

Additionally witness Sayon, responding to the Court's questions told Judge Peter W. Gbeneweleh that she had the original copy of the communication of former President Sirleaf by which the Amendment and Restatement Act of 2005 was submitted to the House through former Speaker Tyler.

She additionally says she had the draft amendment and restatement of the PPCC Act that was submitted, as well as the final copy of the Amendment and Restatement of the PPCC Act of 2005 approved on September 16, 2010 and printed the same year.

Several top Liberian officials are on trial before the Criminal Court "C" for their



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alleged roles in an alleged bribe scandal claimed by U.K. - based watchdog group Global Witness that details how Sable Mining allegedly paid bribes to change PPCC laws in favor of the company.

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 PPCC law to give the company undue advantage over mineral deposits at the Wologisi Mountain in Lofa.

Based on Global Witness' report titled "The Deceivers," the government here has indicted some of its officials and past officials for economic sabotage and other crimes, though the accused have denied all charges.

Former House Speaker J. Alex Tyler, Grand Cape Mount County Sen. Cllr. H. Varney G. Sherman, Bomi County Sen. Morris Saytumah, Dr. Richard Tolbert, Mr. Willie Belleh, Mr. E.C.B. Jones and others are standing trial based on the allegations.

Nigeria score last-minute winner to reach semi-finals



William Troost-Ekong scored a dramatic late winner to send Nigeria into the Africa Cup of Nations semi-final at the expense of South Africa.

Samuel Chukwueze hit the opener as he controlled Alex Iwobi's cross, before scoring at the second attempt.

Bongani Zungu equalised with a header initially ruled out for offside before VAR replays showed a free-kick hit a Nigerian player on the way to him.

But Udinese's Troost-Ekong

bundled home from close range late on to win it.

His finish was into an empty net after goalkeeper Ronwen Williams totally missed Moses Simon's corner.

Nigeria face Ivory Coast or Algeria in Sunday's second semi-final (20:00 BST).

The Super Eagles were deserved winners and led through Villarreal youngster Chukwueze's first goal for his country. They should have been ahead by more when Williams pushed Peter Etebo's free-kick onto the bar.

Zungu's goal was the first in

the Africa Cup of Nations given by the VAR, which has just been introduced for the quarter-finals. It looked offside initially but Percy Tau's free-kick hit Nigeria's Odion Ighalo on the way on to Amiens midfielder Zungu's head.

The game looked set for extra time before Williams flapped at a cross to leave Troost-Ekong with a simple finish.

Senegal, who beat Benin 1-0 earlier on Wednesday, play either Madagascar or Tunisia in the other semi-final.

All three goals were quite scrappy. The first one for Chukwueze took a deflection.

Then South Africa's equaliser thanks to the VAR decision, which was a bit of history here. Everyone in the stadium thought it was offside - that was what the linesman flagged for - but the replay proved VAR was useful, correct and worth doing because it proved the ball had come off Ighalo and not Thulani Hlatshwayo, and so it stood.

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Striker Divock Origi has signed a new long-term contract with Liverpool

The Belgium international, 24, signed from Lille in 2014 on a five-year deal, only to spend two seasons out on loan.

But he returned to have a big impact with the Reds last term, scoring twice against Barcelona in the Champions League semi-finals before sealing the 2-0 win over Tottenham in the final.

"The feeling was always that I wanted to stay," said Origi. "There is something



special going on here."

Divock Origi: Liverpool's new cult hero secures Champions League glory

The Reds paid £10m to sign Origi after he impressed at the 2014 World Cup and he remained on loan at Lille for 2014-15.

Over the following two seasons he scored 21 goals for Liverpool in all competitions but struggled to overcome an ankle injury and was loaned out to German side Wolfsburg for 2017-18.

Origi had to wait until

December to make his first Premier League appearance of 2018-19, coming off the bench to score a late winner in the Merseyside derby, before a memorable end to the season.

"It's a story really only football can write," said Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp. "It didn't really work out at Wolfsburg and, coming back, he was thinking about leaving."

"But he grew and grew and grew, in training sessions you could see it, and he scored unbelievably important goals.

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